

# King Charles school field and why it's worth saving

## Where are we now, and what happens next?

At a Falmouth Town Council Planning Committee meeting on 28 June, a King Charles parent and a local resident outlined their objections to the plan. Several other objections had also been sent via email.

The Committee expressed its surprise that parents and residents had not been consulted by this late stage. It also recommended that the views of the Conservation Area Officer and the Tree Officer be sought before the plans were taken any further.

**But this does not mean that the plan will be shelved.** Nor does the fact that funds may not currently be available mean that the plan will not be put into effect later on, if the application is approved in principle.

**To protect the field for our children and for the future, it's vital that people who value this green space make their views known.**

Please send an email **by 5 July** to the Cornwall Council Planning Department, [planning.central1@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:planning.central1@cornwall.gov.uk), quoting application number **PA02/0512/10/G**, or write to them at: Planning Department, Cornwall Council, Circuit House, Pydar Street, Truro, TR1 1GT



If you have kids at King Charles, or live nearby and see the children enjoying their free time on the school field, you'll know how much it means for them to be able to run and play on this little oasis of green space.

So you may have been surprised to find out about plans to **tarmac over the bulk of the field and cut down four oak trees** along its border in order to create a so-called 'MUGA' (multi-use games area).

You may also have been shocked at the way these plans came to light, and by the fact that **parents and local residents had not been consulted** about this major change to the school environment.

This leaflet has been produced by a group of concerned parents. We believe that the field is an exceptionally valuable feature of the school for this and future generations of children.

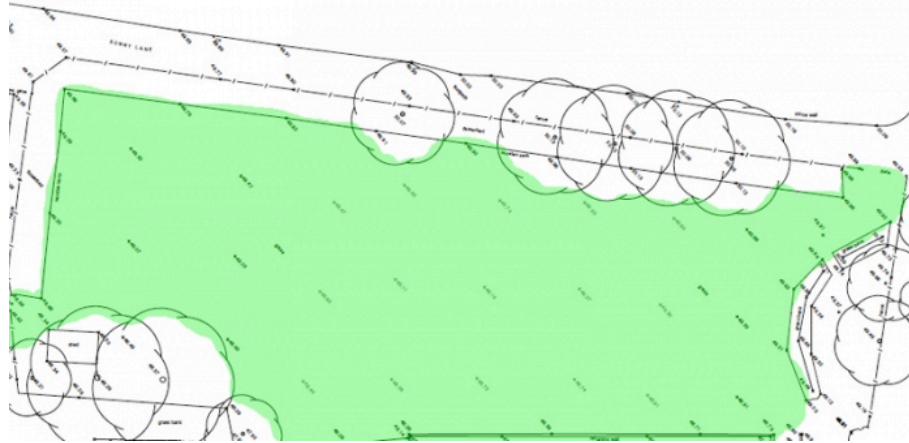
**If you agree that the field should not be destroyed in this way, we hope you'll join us in making your views known to the school and to Cornwall Council – before it's too late.**

Don't let King Charles school field go the same way as so many of the green spaces that children used to enjoy.

## Once it's gone, it's gone.

To enable parents to share views and get updates on the school field, we've set up a blog at:  
<http://kcschoolparents.wordpress.com>  
email us at: [kcschoolparents@virginmedia.com](mailto:kcschoolparents@virginmedia.com)

## The school field – before and after:



## The existing grass field.



## The proposed 'development' showing the tarmac-surfaced MUGA.

This drawing, which forms part of the planning application, shows the oak trees along the top of the field unchanged. But it's clear from the rest of the application that they would in fact be felled. They could not be replaced with new trees, as their roots might damage the tarmac surface of the MUGA.

## Why is play in a green, natural environment so vital for children's well-being?

Recent research indicates that:

- Children who play regularly in natural environments show more advanced motor fitness, including coordination, balance and agility, and are sick less often.
- Children with symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are better able to concentrate after contact with nature.
- When children play in natural environments, their play is more diverse, with imaginative and creative play that fosters language and collaborative skills.
- Children in contact with nature score higher on tests of concentration and self-discipline.
- Nature buffers the impact of life stress on children and helps them deal with adversity. The greater the amount of nature exposure, the greater the benefits.
- Play in a diverse natural environment can help reduce bullying.

The plan to replace the field and trees with a multi-use games area ignores the fact that that it already is just such an area – but also so much more. It's impossible to square this plan with the school's claim that it is "acutely aware of its responsibility to the natural environment and to ensuring a sustainable future for the natural world".

### Playground injuries: grass vs tarmac

Medical research into playground injuries has found that falls onto tarmac are nearly four times more likely to result in injury than falls onto grass.