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Press Statement 11 January 2008

Radley Lakes Town Green

County Council urged to grant registration or defer decision

Oxfordshire County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee will be considering the Radley Lakes Town Green application on Monday (County Hall, 14th Jan at 2pm). The item is top of the agenda.

Council officers, in line with the recommendation of the Town Green Inspector, Vivian Chapman QC, are advising that the Committee reject this application. However, the Inspector's Report makes it clear that the land has been used for lawful sports and past times for the relevant 20 year period. The issues of controversy that the Inspector has raised apply equally to the Oxford Trap Grounds, which was awarded Town Green status. Indeed the case for the Radley Lakes being a Town Green is, if anything, even stronger. Councillors can, and should, take a view that is different from the Inspector, and such a view would be reasonable in law.

If Councillors being asked to make this decision haven't walked over the land themselves, then we are saying that they should defer a decision until they have done so. They should also visit the Trap Grounds and make the appropriate comparisons.

They should also defer a decision if, despite our representations, any of them are uncertain of their ability to differ from the recommendations of the Inspector. They may also wish to take the opportunity to seek a second legal opinion on the disputed point(s) of law.

We are bound to want to seek permission to bring an application for judicial review, if Oxfordshire do decide to reject the application. Save Radley Lakes is of the opinion that the lakes are properly registrable and will be challenging any decision by the Committee accordingly.

Supporters of the Lakes are urged to make every effort to attend this meeting and to take the opportunity to make their views known to Councillors beforehand.

For further information contact: Marjorie White on 01235 216428 or 01235 530174,
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