

Jon Cruddas Member of Parliament for Dagenham and Rainham

Statement in support of Dovers Green residents' application for 'Village Green' status

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Having worked alongside residents to knock back two previous planning applications on the land known as Dovers Green, my position in support of their application for Village Green status could not be clearer.

The land in question has been a vital community asset for c.65 years and is regularly used both formally and informally by residents. It beggars belief that Havering Council are opposing the residents' application to protect the land.

I am supporting the Village Green application on a number of grounds;

1 – Taking into consideration the proposed development of New Plymouth and Napier House situated on Dunedin Road, which is set to engulf the surrounding children's play area; Dovers Green will be the last open space left in the direct vicinity for residents.

2 – There is a large scale development less than 0.5km away on the Beam Park site, which will include approx. 2,900 new homes. If Dovers Green goes unprotected we run the risk of turning this part of Havering into a concrete jungle, at the cost of a community.

3 – Dovers Green is more than just a patch of grass. It is the centre point of a community that has been established since the 1930's. The loss of this land will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on the nature of the community. The Mayor of London, who I have contacted regarding this issue outlines in his London Plan that: "Local green and open spaces should be protected" which I echo in my support of this application.

4 – A recent report highlighted, quite radically that children in the UK spend less time outside than prisoners, due to a decline in green spaces. With this in mind we should be looking to protect our green spaces, as highlighted in the previous point; treating them as valuable assets – not financial opportunities or political footballs.

Finally I would like to reiterate the sentiment from the beginning of this statement; that I am in full support of the residents' application for Village Green status.

If the application should be unsuccessful I will continue to work with the residents in pursuit of Village Green status, and have already met with my action team, the residents, and a number of legal professionals seeking advice for judicial review.

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