

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
POLICY FOR PRIORISTING VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

This policy applies to applications currently held by the Council in its capacity as Commons Registration Authority.

All decisions relating to this policy are to be made by the Countryside and Rights of Way Panel.

Applications to register land as a village green which are submitted to Staffordshire County Council, in its capacity as Commons Registration Authority (“the CRA”), which are:

- a) unaffected by an “trigger” event within the meaning of Schedule 1A of the Commons Act 2006 and
- b) otherwise validly made pursuant to the relevant Regulations will be processed in accordance with the following guidelines.

1. Applications will be processed in chronological order based upon the date they were first received by the CRA unless the CRA receives a written request of priority from either the applicant or any affected landowner. Applications for priority will be determined by taking into account the following criteria (which must be addressed in the aforementioned request):

- a) Applications may be given priority where an application for planning permission in relation to the land (or part of it) has been granted (whether on appeal or otherwise) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- b) Applications may be given priority where evidence is presented that a envisaged development of the land will be materially delayed by the village green application. Such may evidence may include, but is not limited to, evidence that it has been identified for potential development in a development plan. The words “potential development” are to be given broad meaning in this context.

- c) Applications may given priority where there is an identified issue relating to user *as of right* and the CRA determine that that issue can be reasonably determined on the papers without the need for a public inquiry.
 - d) Applications may be given priority where there is an issue relating to user *as of right* as set out at paragraph 1(c) above and by reason of similarities with other applications it is a more efficient use of the CRA's resources to processes multiple applications together.
2. The extent of any priority to be given to any application, upon a request being made, shall be at the reasonable discretion of the CRA. Further, applications will be given further preference depending on the size, scale and potential public benefit of the related development (as referred to in paragraph 1(a)-(d) above).
 3. The CRA shall maintain a list showing the current order of priority of outstanding applications.