



## Policy for prioritising Village Green Applications

### Our Village Green Applications Policy

Approved by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside on 16 July 2015.

Applications to record land as town or village greens are processed in accordance with the following priority guidelines. The County Council publishes a list of the applications it holds on its website which is regularly updated, showing the order in which they will be processed at:

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/CommonsandVillageGreenApplications.pdf>

**Policy guidelines for determining applications for the registration of village green rights made under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006**

These policy guidelines should be read in conjunction with the notes at the foot of this document.

1. Correctly made applications will be processed in the order that they are received, and will be held in one list, in chronological order.
2. Where the applicant (or other interested party such as the affected landowner) informs us that a 'trigger event' has occurred  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/27/schedule/4/enacted>  
with no corresponding 'terminating event'  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/573466/cra-guidance-2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573466/cra-guidance-2016.pdf) we will take the relevant application out of turn and process it before other existing applications that are not affected by trigger events.
3. Every request for added priority should include full details of the reasons why the application should be taken out of order.
4. Trigger events include:

- the first publication of an application for planning permission for the land, which will include circumstances where planning permission is subsequently granted
- the publication by the local planning authority of a draft local plan or neighbourhood plan proposal which identifies the land for potential development – Schedule 1A to the 2006 Act refers to a ‘development plan document’ and ‘neighbourhood development plan’, but they are generally referred to as ‘local plans’ or ‘neighbourhood plans’
- the adoption or making by the local planning authority of a local plan or neighbourhood plan which identifies the land for potential development
- when a proposed application for development consent under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure project regime which has been accepted by the Secretary of State (in practice the Planning Inspectorate) is first publicised by the applicant

There are currently 14 trigger events in Schedule 1A, each of which relates to a specific planning mechanism.

Please note that there are no trigger events in relation to permitted development rights. Therefore the exclusion (for processing) will not apply to land on which permitted development has taken place, unless a trigger event has occurred in relation to that land for another reason.

5. Where more than one request for added priority is received, the order of processing will be decided after consideration is given to the urgency of the need for a determination in each case.

*Notes:*

*It is acknowledged that, owing to the number of applications made under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 and the current resources allocated to their processing and determination, the County Council has a backlog of applications waiting to be dealt with. Although applications are processed as soon as is reasonably practicable, this is not always soon after an application is received. The purpose of these guidelines is to clarify, for applicants and officers alike, the basis on which, and order in which, applications will be processed.*

*In order to be fair to all applicants and affected parties, there is a strong presumption against processing applications in anything other than chronological order. However, it is recognised that prejudice may be caused if a claim is not processed where planning permission has been granted, or land is included in a neighbourhood or local plan. It is expected that such cases will be rare and the majority of village green applications will continue to be dealt with in chronological order.*

*The processing of applications to register land as town or village greens is only one aspect of the work of the Countryside Access Team.*