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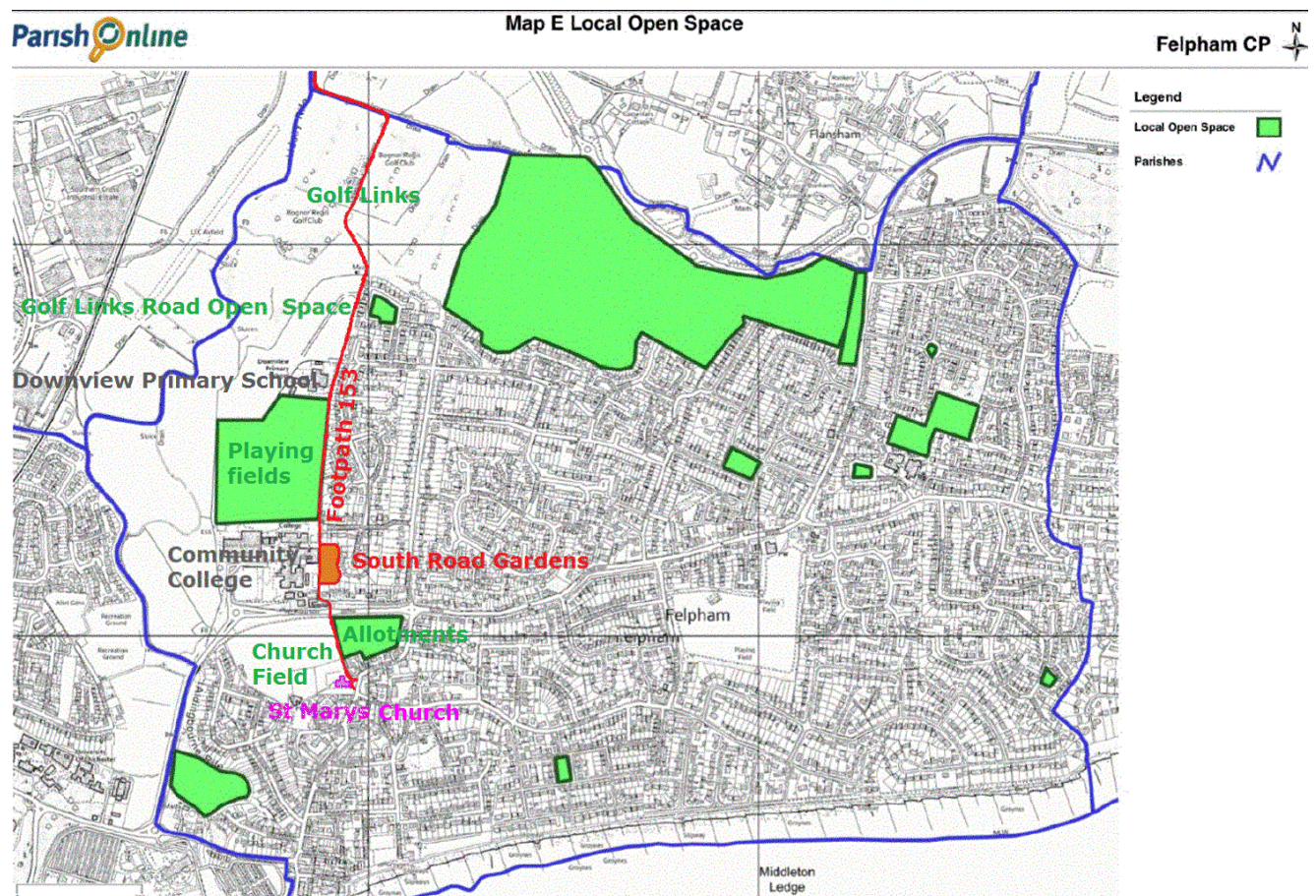
Dear Sir,

Re: FP/30/19/PL & Footpath 153

My wife and I believe Footpath 153 forms an important part in many people's lives. Each person's use of it may last only a minute or two, a few times a week, but its effect in terms of quiet-time-out in semi-rural surroundings can provide a re-charge that endures much longer. Its benefit for the community is then many times multiplied by the large numbers who use it.



If, when walking to the north, we leave the timeless rural feel of St Mary's churchyard, we're taken between the open green space of historic Church Field on the left and allotments to the right. Once across Felpham Way, things become at first more confined between Felpham Community College on the left and an area of back gardens to houses of South Road on the right. These include that of No 10, on which FP/30/19/PL proposes to build within 6m of the Footpath. However, at present the houses of South Road lie 50m and more away, so their presence and habitation are not much evident, allowing a semi-rural feel to survive.



Once past the end of Goodwood Avenue, houses are built much closer to the Footpath, but the experience is saved by views that open up across and beyond the expanse of playing fields on the left. We have heard it said that to have houses built in South Road gardens would give no worse an experience for people than when walking beside the playing fields, with houses close by on the right. But we could not disagree more; it is exactly the playing fields and open views they allow -- replaced by conserved woodland once north of

Downview Primary School -- which compensate for the proximity of these houses.

In comparison, although the Community College does have some mature trees and grassy areas, it also has buildings very near the Footpath. So while not all bad, it contributes far less towards a rural feel than the playing fields and woods. In our view, it is instead the largely uninhabited expanse of South Road back gardens -- shown in orange on the map above -- which compensate for this.

This area of South Road gardens is not a public space and is therefore probably inelligible for 'Local Open Space' designation. Nevertheless it seems to us that there is something to be gained by comparing it with others which are.

There is one in particular – Golf Links Road Open Space (marked on the map above) – which is quite close to the Footpath, although walkers would not be aware of this because it is closed in by around twenty or so bungalows in such a way that nobody, other than residents and people visiting, are likely to see it. Nevertheless, this is what the Neighbourhood Plan has to say about it:

Its open aspect enhances the ambience of the area and contributes to a pleasant street scene. As it is the sole open space and contributes to the overall appearance of the area this should be included on any Local Green Space listing for Felpham.

We have absolutely no wish to challenge or disagree with this elevated status but instead to suggest the value placed on it be borne in mind -- though in slightly different ways -- when considering the gardens of South Road, which boarder onto Footpath 153.

This collection of South Road gardens are comparable in area to that of the Golf Links Road Open Space, but admittedly they are not properly open. Nevertheless, with their distant habitation, of which one is barely aware, they do allow open skies and the feel of garden/wildlife close by. People are not therefore walking in a fully urban environment, added to which there are probably more people who benefit, than those who know of the Golf Links Road Open Space.



In our principle letter of objection to FP/30/19/PL we have explained that, in our view, a grant for this application would trigger further development, of which the applicant's earlier FP/186/16/PL could be one example. To assist in our objections to this earlier Application we constructed a 3D computer model from which to produce photomontages such as these below:



For this above we left the trees and hedgerows in place, but had this development gone ahead, we don't believe these would have survived, due to their overbearing nature when selling the houses and problems with roots being so close to construction. This below is therefore what we would have expected.



It would not of course have remained as computer-harsh as this -- some vegetation would have been allowed to grow -- but undeniably the semi-rural ambience would have been lost.

In the ways described above we believe the existing domestic gardens of South Road, together with the generous green verge of Footpath 153, which enhance this "twitten", provide valuable amenity greenspace (7.3.6 **GI SP1**).

Not only would development of these gardens harm the South Road Street Scene, but their loss would lead to a less pleasant and wholesome experience for walkers, so damage this "Footpath Scene" as well. Together they at present contribute to a sense of place, helping to provide an environment in which people want to live (7.3.8 3 **GI SP1**).

It would also conflict with **D SP1**, in particular through failing to respect, improve or enhance the existing surrounding environment.

In another aspect, Footpath 153, in some sense at least, defines a transition between the comparative tranquillity of the Strategic Gap and habitation. It would seem better to us that this role is preserved in our minds, rather than eroded (7.4.6 **SD SP3**).

Taken overall, we hope that, along with the many other reasons for objection to FP/30/19/PL, the preservation of Footpath 153's character will find its place.

Yours sincerely

Jean and Bernard Shattock