

Ottery St Mary Primary School

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Ottery St Mary
Devon EX11 1HY

Headteacher: Mr Mark Gilronan

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West Hill Primary School

Beech Park
West Hill
Ottery St Mary
Devon EX11 1UQ

Headteacher: Mrs Cheryl Boulton

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15th October 2018

Community access to the school field at West Hill Primary School

Dear West Hill Parish Council,

Following the meeting you had with Cheryl Boulton and Simon Pedrazzini on Monday 1st October and your three subsequent e-mail requests to Cheryl Boulton on Tuesday 2nd October, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th requesting a variety of documents and a visit to the school field by councillors, The Smile Learning Trust would like to respond in acknowledging that we do not wish to pursue the matter of community access to the field at West Hill Primary School any further.

We have spoken with DCC Property Solicitors and whilst we appreciate that a verbal agreement might have been made in the 1980s between DCC and the Village Hall regarding community access to the school field, the deed stated that this agreement was always subject to change and could be terminated at any time such as the transfer of West Hill Primary School to Smile Learning Trust. Whilst Land registry still currently shows the land as DCC property, DDC have admitted that this is due to incomplete paperwork which is still in process. DCC solicitors have explained that the beneficial interest has already transferred to the Smile Learning Trust and the land is now in our ownership, despite not yet showing on the land registry search.

The Smile Learning Trust has accommodated and explored your request and can see no benefit to the school in allowing community access to the school field. As stated at the meeting you had with Cheryl Boulton and Simon Pedrazzini on 1st October, no other schools in our Local Learning Community allow community access to their school fields for the variety of reasons that were presented: safeguarding, litter, vandalism to the school, field and site, as well as insurance issues, solicitor agreements etc. Your proposal was also dismissed by our local PCSO having seen the recent anti-social behaviour experienced in our Forest School area.

We acknowledge that this is not the outcome you wish, however we wanted to inform you at our earliest convenience before any further meetings were proposed.

Please can you ensure that any response to this is directed to The Smile Learning Trust and not directly to Cheryl Boulton as in recent requests.

Kind regards,

Cheryl Boulton
Director

Mark Gilronan
Director

Oliver Helm
Director