

## **BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

### Statement on Broomfield Common

Broomfield Parish Council was approached in Autumn 2016, by 121 Turnaround to use Broomfield Common for teaching young people survival skills. Historically permission existed for this type of activity on the Common with no negative impact to the area. It was perceived that the numbers would be small and as the use would be predominantly with children with special or additional educational needs, the Council felt that this was a very worthwhile cause. It was, from the outset, pointed out that any use would be subject to the approval of the three Councils, namely Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Broomfield Parish Council, who are joint custodians of the Common.

The Council sought the assistance of the Quantock Hills AONB Service and discussions on the type of usage have taken place over many months; it was always envisaged that any agreement would only be signed if all three Councils agreed and Parishioners had been fully consulted.

It has not been possible to put together a suitable agreement, with the result that 121 Turnaround have been advised that, like all members of the general public, they are very welcome to walk on the Common but no more than that. The company has agreed to remove all existing shelters and the like from the Common.

This decision will be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### Future Management

The Common is within the Quantock Hills AONB and is also a County Wildlife site. As a result the Parish Council have further consulted the AONB Service about the creation of a suitable management plan, not only to preserve and benefit the Common for the future, but also ensure that any necessary operations can be carried out to ensure safe access to the general public.

The AONB Service have agreed to provide a management plan that exists for an area of similar woodland within the AONB on County Council land which it is hoped can be adapted to form the basis of a management agreement for Broomfield Common. The Parish Council will then consult with District and County Councils before seeking views of Parishioners.

The Parish Council hope that they may be able to apply for grants from the AONB to implement any approved management plan and make use of voluntary labour from Parishioners to carry out much of the work.

Duncan Henderson  
Chairman, Broomfield Parish Council  
31 January 2018