



# MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

11 February 2021

### Marlborough Common – A Consultation: 11 February – 25 March 2021

The Town Council has launched a consultation to gauge opinion about the possibility of creating a permanent training area on Marlborough Common, making more space for sports for young people. The pandemic has helped to reiterate how important active exercise is to the general health and well-being of the whole community, from dogwalkers to sportsmen and women of all ages. Free access to The Common is everyone's right. The issue is whether the extension of existing facilities, equating to the size of a rugby pitch, would restrict usage for the wider population or whether this new provision is of greater importance.

Over the years, this wonderful piece of open space has had to evolve with the changes each generation brings - horseracing in the nineteenth century, helping with the war effort with a military hospital during WW2 as well as a school between the 1940s –1960s. Today it is home to a number of successful sports and recreation clubs – a Golf Club, Rugby Club, Model Flying Club, Marlborough parkrun and a Tennis Club as well as offering some space for other sports, most notably junior football. Many events now take place there too – civil war re-enactments, circuses, fairs, food festivals, car boot sales, dare devil stunt shows, even a hot air balloon take off.

This superb open space is also host to the Diamond Jubilee Plantation and its fruit trees as well as much wildlife, flora and fauna – all important to those who regularly use The Common for recreational walks. So, to help future proof this, the Town Council is commissioning a survey of flora and fauna so the natural environment can be protected.

Town Mayor, Councillor Mark Cooper, said: “The Town Council is guardian of this wonderful space and must ensure that it is available for everyone for years to come. We recognise that a proposal to create more space for another sports facility evokes some strong feelings. There’s a balance to be found between making sure that Marlborough Common remains a place for all to enjoy and creating much needed sporting space for our young people. All users of The Common should be able to sit comfortably alongside each other. So, before we make any decision on this issue, I, with my fellow Councillors, want to listen to what local people have to say about it. I encourage everyone to take part in our consultation.”

A short survey can be completed online at:

<https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/community/marlborough-common-consultation>

A hard copy of it is also available from:

Marlborough Town Council, Council Offices, 5 High Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1AA  
or [enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk)  
or 01672 512487 or 07593 584099

**Please return your questionnaire to Marlborough Town Council, 5 High Street, Marlborough SN8 1AA to arrive no later than 4pm on 25 March 2021. This deadline also applies to the online survey.**

For more information contact:

[enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk)

Marlborough Town Council, 5, High Street, Marlborough, SN8 1AA

Tel – 01672 512487 or 07593 584099 Email - [townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk)

[www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk](http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk)