
From: Norma Singleton [mailto:]
Sent: 05 April 2011 15:30
To: Development Plans
Subject: housing development in Natland

To Development Plans Manager,
SLDC
South Lakeland House,
Lowther St.,
Kendal.

Re:- Home Field, Natland - R62

Dear Sir,

I am concerned by the proposal to develop the Home Field in Natland, to the west of the Sedgwick Road, and feel that it should be preserved for the following reasons:-

1. The Home Field has great significance for the village, and the views across the field to the round wood, known as "The Cockpit" are characteristic of Natland. (The Cockpit may well be a prehistoric tumulus). The adjacent footpath, with its views across to the round wood and Scout Scar, provides a safe and delightful walking environment for numerous villagers, especially the elderly.
2. The significance of the Home Field is all the greater because at one time it was a playing field for St Mark's Home, a playing field for the village school, a playing field for the Natland Football Team, and the site of the village bonfire. There is no reason - apart from the desire of the Children's Society to sell it for development - why this field should not be used for recreational purposes once again.
3. The field was purchased for St Mark's Home, opened in 1885, through the efforts of the then vicar of Natland, the Reverend Charles Whitaker. The funds for buying the land were raised locally, and it was suggested that each child in the diocese might contribute sixpence to buy one square yard of the field. St Mark's Home and field were subsequently taken over by what is now the Children's Society. The boys of St Mark's Home were educated in the village school, and took a full part in village life. What a betrayal of trust if the Children's Society were now allowed to sell the land for "development".

yours faithfully,

Paul Singleton.