

From: Cllr Russ Goodchild
Sent: 22 November 2022 13:51
Subject: RE: Parson's Close renaming: An Objection

Hi

Thanks for forwarding this objection. However, it is not my intention to delete 'Parsons Close' entirely but instead keep it as the address of the newly named area so it would be Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground (or Park), Parsons Close, Leighton Buzzard thereby retaining the historic connection of the site to the Church.

The LB District Archaeological and Historical Society correctly indicate that Parsonage Close was transferred to the town in 1848 but Parsons Close as we know it also includes Little Kings Mead which is the lower land where the skate park is situated.

My motion does include the requirement for public affirmation so no doubt we will receive other objections along with positive support.

Regards

Cllr Russ Goodchild AssocRICS, ACIOB
Leader, LibDem Group
Leighton-Linslade Town Council

From:
To: Reception <reception@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Parson's Close renaming: An Objection

For the attention of Leighton Linslade Town Council,

The Leighton Buzzard Archaeological and Historical Society would like the following information placed before the Town Council at its meeting on November 28. I attach a map for their information and interest.

On behalf of the Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeological and Historical Society I would like to object to the historic name of Parson's Close being removed and replaced (Item 11 on the agenda for meeting of November 28th, 2022). The name has existed from ancient time as "Parsonage Close" since it belonged to the church and was used as common land for fairs, races and other town events. Under the 1848 Enclosure Act, enclosing common land it was passed to the Leighton Buzzard Urban Council, became Parson's Close, and continued in use for town events, celebrations etc.

In 1905 (see enclosed map) the great and good of the town decided to improve the recreation ground by planting trees around it and providing benches for people of the town to sit on in the shade. They planted four species Lime, Plane, Scarlet Chestnut and Sycamore. On the left of the map is the key - each person paying for a tree, the number of the tree, and the type of tree is recorded. There was a great ceremony with everyone in top hats (there is a photograph of it). Many of these trees survive and can be identified from the map.

Queen Elizabeth II in her final year and in celebration her Diamond Jubilee urged people to "plant a tree for the jubilee." This was her dearest wish. Her son Charles III is also keen on trees. We have a very fine Coronation Oak planted in 1953 by the bridge on Clipstone Brook at the bottom of Lake Street so the town has a history of "royal trees."

Would it not be a more fitting tribute to the Queen to accede to her wish and plant some trees at Parson's Close or nearby - perhaps unusual native trees like the Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*) described as imposing, elegant and rare by the Woodland Trust and Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) which is said to have lovely blossom, with fruit which is a favourite of garden birds

It would save a lot of money on new signs, changing maps etc, preserve an ancient name and be a fitting tribute to our beloved Queen.

Thank you

