

Surrey

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Burstow Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Renaming the Parish of Burstow as Smallfield

The Parish Council notes the recommendation that Burstow's name is changed to Smallfield. The Council strongly objects to the proposed change as we have a long history, stretching back to the inaugural meeting in January 1895, as Burstow Parish Council. It is our identity and we have gone to great lengths in all our documents, including our draft Neighbourhood Plan to reference both the parish and separately our larger rural settlement of Smallfield. To change our name from Burstow would not be popular with all our residents who currently live outside of the settlement space as, when asked, they say they live in Burstow.

In addition, Smallfield is defined as a larger rural settlement, inset from the Green Belt. This creates a clear boundary between the developed area of the parish and the more remote, rural, Green Belt.

Having the two distinct and separate names gives clarity when commenting on planning applications and we think it is better to have Smallfield as an area where development can take place and the remainder of Burstow which is Green Belt and therefore development should not occur unless very special circumstances are given that outweigh the hard.

Burstow's name also carries a historical significance that forms a large part of local identity. Burstow Church is first mentioned in records dating back to 1121. John Flamsteed, astronomer and cleric was Rector of Burstow from 1684 until his death in 1719 and in 1675 he was appointed by Charles II to be the first Astronomer Royal. His accurate measurements of star positions and the movements of the moon, made in the newly opened Observatory at Greenwich, contributes to making possible the safe navigation of shipping around the world.

John Flamsteed is buried in the grounds of Burstow Church. Before the charity commission amalgamated many charities in 1908 there were two local charities for the poor. In 1718 John Flamsteed left money to help the poor and his widow repeated the bequest in her will. Funds remain available today that first arose from their charity and this is administered by Burstow Church.

Attached Documents:

None attached