

We acknowledge the application made by Lesley Cutting, supported by Gill Carter and Dorothy Goodall - all of whom are Parish Councillors.

Before we respond to the evidence provided we would like to bring to your attention the Civil Litigation that exists between Gill Carter and ourselves. It concerns vehicular access over Sennings Lane and it is our opinion that this application is an extension of this.

In May 2016 we went before the Court, Gill Carter had made an application for an Emergency Injunction to remove any obstruction which interfered with her vehicles access to fell dangerous trees. Her claim for an Injunction was not ruled on as we voluntarily gave an Undertaking that we would not interfere with her reasonable removal of any obstructions, hoping this would be an end to the matter.

We challenged the element of the claim concerning the very front and exchanged arguments. In the end the Judge stated it was not in his power to give this and as such the map was amended to exclude the front piece of land including the planting.

And yet.....

On 8th June 2016, Gill Carter instructed and accompanied her agents to excavate. They began with our front, the piece of land subject to this application and also that which they were specifically told by the Court not to touch. They removed, to Gill Carters land, in excess of 1.3m of the side of the front piece of land, which included the plants, shrubs and trees and which left our front wall foundations exposed.

In addition they also removed plants and stones that ourselves and Mr Bowen-Jones had placed on the front to protect it. This didn't even feature in any part of Gill Carters application.

We believe the deliberate actions of Gill Carter have been instrumental in paving the way for this application which she now supports.

Further, we subsequently found out that on the day we were at Court and for the first time since we moved to the Village in 1997, we saw evidence of our frontage having been mown by the people who cut the village greens.

On two further occasions they attempted to mow the front and on one of these occasions they were challenged and told us they had been instructed by the Parish Council to cut the grass.

On 4th September 2016, my wife saw a man on our front, seemly gardening back & forth to Gill Carters, with a wheelbarrow. Eventually she went out & challenged this man who was weeding the area where the plants, shrubs and trees had been removed who responded saying Gill had asked him clear this area – the same area that my wife has maintained since 1997! It turns out this man is Gill Carters gardener.

Lesley Cutting and Gill Carter are very close friends. It is our opinion that Lesley Cutting is doing Gill Carter's bidding under the rouse of Parish Council business. When our Civil Action resulted in High Court in 2013, Lesley Cutting was a witness for Gill. Prior to this my wife witnessed Lesley Cutting poisoning the plants along our boundary, the very area that

was the subject of Gill Carters action in Court. The poison used was diesel and weed killer. We also witnessed Lesley Cutting uprooting plants along our boundary.

Lesley Cutting has photographed and videoed our home along the full length on a regular basis since about 2013 and even as recently as January 2017. It became necessary to report this to the Police.

Up until May 2016, Lesley Cutting has on a regular basis, almost daily walked her dog along the front of Hall Cottage and then up Sennings Lane, having come from Gill Carters home. Now that the planting on the front has been removed Mrs Cutting now walks across this, taking video's and photographs regularly. She hardly ever comes up Sennings Lane. Obviously, her focus or mission has now changed.

Since the removal of the planting we have observed Mrs Walton and her father, Mr Bond, now crossing the front. Mr Bond behaviour alters if he observes me leaving for work and stays on the road, i.e. he does not cut across the corner of the grass. These are friends of both Lesley Cutting and Gill Carter.

Ms Needham, who lives nearby, walks her dogs around the village, sometimes coming up Sennings Lane, but we have not observed her using the front.

Does not the behaviour of both Lesley Cutting and Gill Carter give cause for concern over conflict of interest?

Included with our response are a range of pictures, which show Lesley Cutting walking past our property using the highway, together a range of individuals some villagers some visitors walking on the highway and not on the front.

My family moved to Romaldkirk in March 1997.

We have never seen Dorothy Goodall use our front as stated. During the Beamish Rally my family and friends sit out on this area and have been joined by Mr Bowen-Jones prior to the decline of his health. Sadly he passed away in October 2015.

The picture submitted by Gill Carter is, I believe, my family. Attached are some pictures taken by our family, which clearly show no one is using this grassed area in front of ours. The checkpoint for the rally has been up by the Village Hall since 2005 at least. The majority of visitors congregate on the middle green (where the stocks are) with the Village Hall selling refreshments and the two pubs also benefiting from the trade. Visitors also gather on middle green (area in front of the Kirk / Caroline Cottage) and also on Low Green, as can be seen from the pictures attached. We have not seen anyone using the front of ours.

It's worth noting that the grassed areas outside Hall Cottage and Dene Lodge are village greens and yet no activity takes place on these.

The Village Fair attracts a lot of visitors as can be seen from the pictures. The main areas used are Low Green, Middle Green on both sides of the Kirk Inn, the area in front of the Village Hall and in the Church.

Visitors making their way down from the Village Hall to Low Green would use the highway, which natural turns toward Low Green taking you away from our front. It seems rather silly

to come off the highway onto the grass in front of ours to then come off it to get on to Low Green. Certainly while the planting was along the edge (pictures attached) this is what you would have to do. Further, visitors to the village would not be aware of what was / was not village green and we have not seen anyone using the small grassed areas that sit in front of the houses on Sennings Lane – people are generally careful and courteous as they go about the village. It is worth noting that the larger greens have signs saying something like - do not park on the village greens – which would indicate to the reader this is village green. There are no signs on any other areas whether they are village green or not.

Since moving to the village and for a number of years we were involved with the Fair, putting up bunting, participating in setting out and manning the games and stalls. The children when younger involved themselves in the fun of the day. Our family / friends would visit, every year until 2013, having access to our house and garden and would come and go during the day. We have not seen any activities take place on the grass in front of our house. From Low Green the front of our property is clearly in view. Once again, even though the grass in front of Hall Cottage and Dene Lodge are village greens there was no activity taking place on these areas.

No one has ever challenged or approached us telling us that the area in front of ours is used for village activities. Nor have we been asked to cease maintaining our front. Since 1997 we have maintained the front in conjunction with our neighbour, Mr Howard Bowen-Jones, who was already maintaining the front. He made it quite clear to us that this was not village green.

The fireworks was only operational for the first 3 years of when we moved here (1997 – 2000). I recall people gathering outside the Kirk on the grass in view of Low Green. We watched from the front of our home with our friends. We did not see Dorothy Goodall on our front. Dorothy Goodall lives over on the other side of Low Green, in the Old Rectory.

In the years that followed we attended and participated in the fireworks held at the Borers place, White Gates.

Our observation of Gill Carter movements in the village is that she goes out and about in her car. Plenty of times when out on the front / in the garden we would see her and her husband driving past. Occasionally we would see Gill on Sennings Lane (Teesdale Way).

The exception to this however would be the period from approximately 2011 - 2013, when clearly she was preparing to take us to court and she would be out taking photos etc.

Apart from this we have never seen Gill Carter or Ivan Carter use the front in the way she claims.

Rose Stile Coffage Romald Kirk

Regarding this application, we believe this to be nothing more than collusion.

Mr and Mrs Webb



Jan 2011 – showing stones to edge of our front



6 Nov 2014 - planting that has been removed



27 Feb 2011 – planting to edge of our front



25 Nov 2011 – planting to edge of our front



Taken August 2014 on right is planting to edge of grass in front of ours



Taken September 2014 showing planting to edge of grass in front of ours



Taken May 2016 showing planting to edge of grass prior to Mrs Carter removing this illegally



My family on our front taken on day of Rally 2016.



Taken on day of Rally 2016. Grass in front of our property with my family sitting on it. On road visitors using the highway to get around the village. Cottage in distance again has nothing on front despite this also being Village Green.



Taken on day of Rally 2016. Left – my family. Centre: Church in background, middle green in front with people sitting on green and visitors on the road (same ones from previous photo). Right – Low Green with cars parked around and on it. Right foreground – Grass out front of Hall Cottage



Taken day of Rally in 2016. Foreground our front leading to green in front of Hall Cottage which has nothing on despite it being Village Green. Then Low Green with cars parked on it.





Lesley Cutting passing using highway



Local villager with dog on highway having come from the Lane (Teesdale Way – on right out of picture)



Walker on highway



Lesley Cutting with dog, speaking with two local villagers on highway.



Walker using highway heading in direction of Village Hall



Walker using highway



Walker using highway



Lesley Cutting and dog using highway



Walker using highway



Walker on highway



Walkers on highway



Local villager using highway



Walkers using highway in front of ours



Walkers using highway



Walker with pram on highway



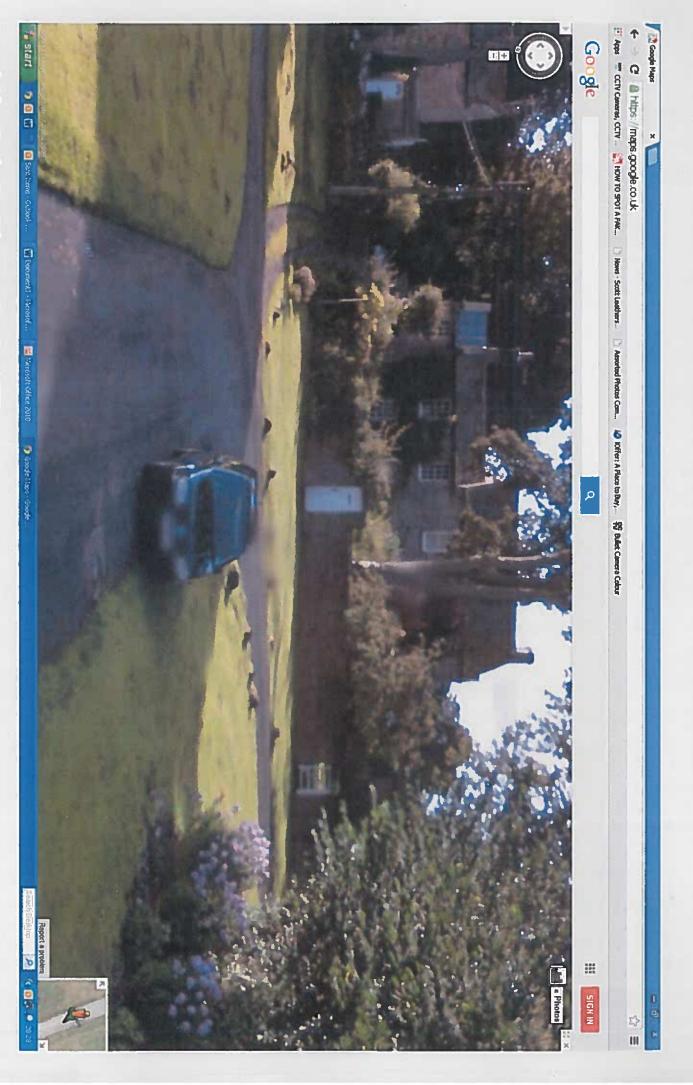
Lesley Cutting walking dog using highway



Gill Carter walks across front of Hall Cottage and then goes up Lane (see next picture)



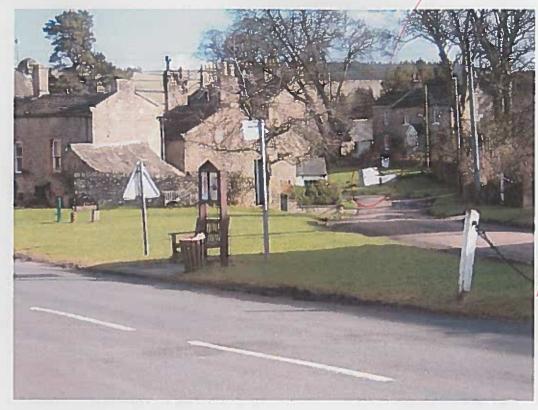
Gill Carter walking up Lane



Screen shot from Google - Street View. Image Date August 2009

Buildus Matarials

Taken 2006



Middle Green

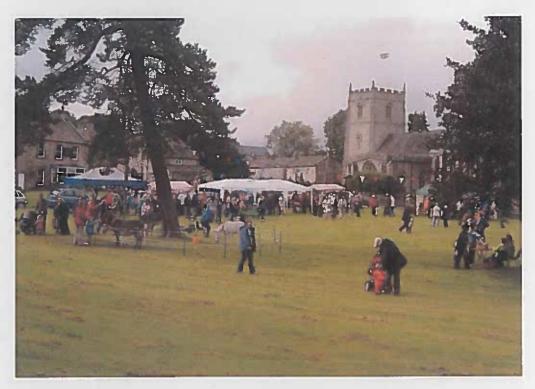
Taken 2013



LOW Gren
Caroline
Cottage
+
Kerk Inn



My daughter and cousin. Taken on day of Fair, approximately 1998



Taken by Hector Parr – 2009. Village Fair on Low Green.



Village fair 2015 – Taken on Low Green toward Kirk Inn



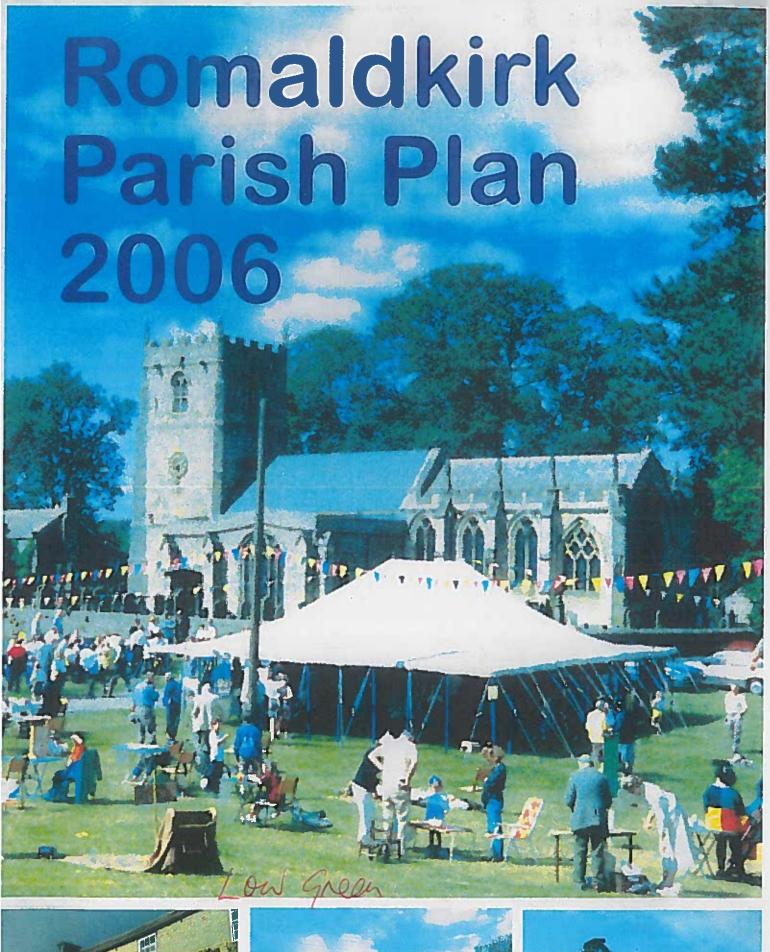
Village Fair - Taken around 2005. On Middle Green with Rose and Crown PH behind



Village Fair – Taken around 2005. On Middle Green with Kirk PH in background (Left). Sennings Lane on right which leads down to Rose Stile and Rosestile Cottage.



Rally in Village. Checkpoint with Rose and Crown PH and Middle Green behind









Romaldkirk Fair





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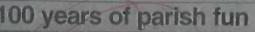


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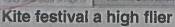
Donlays on Low Green

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Walk challenge





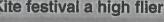




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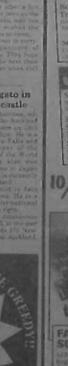
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I'm aware that there is an application on behalf of the Parish Council regarding the land in front of Rose Stile & Rose Stile Cottage and I would like to state the following.

Throughout my whole life (now 25) I have grown up in Romaldkirk I now own my own home and still visit most weekends staying with my fiancés family or at The Gatehouse and also visiting a friend who lives in the village.

My mother and father own The Gatehouse in Romaldkirk, prior to this my grandfather owned Hall Cottage until it was sold in 1974.

I can remember playing with Evie and her brother and other children from this village (Jack, Anna, Alice, Lewis and William) after school and on weekends. Sometimes Evie's cousins and their friends children would play on the greens too.

Mr Bowen-Jones shooed us off once, including Evie and Mully, when we were gathered on the front with our bikes.

I note Mrs Carter has said her son Ivan use to play on the grass in front of Rose Stile & Rosestile Cottage. I went to school with Ivan so I knew him. He was a quiet and reserved boy who did not mix well. He did not play with us on the village green nor did I ever see him in front of Rose Stile. When in the village I can only remember seeing Ivan when he was with his mother in the car. Even today you don't see Ivan about the village unless he is in his car or his mother's car.

From 2005 – 2007 I lived permanently in Romaldkirk at The Gatehouse while I was attending Barnard Castle School. In the evenings and weekends I played cricket and rugby on the low green with my neighbour- William Walton. I can recall seeing Evie and her brother playing on the grass outside of their place and on low green and they were in and out and I could see their parents gardening on the front.

As a family we attended the Fireworks which took place opposite our Cottage up until 2000 when the venue changed. I can remember the area being cordoned off with the majority of people standing in front of the Kirk Inn. I never saw Dorothy Goodall attend the Borers fireworks!

I enjoy the Beamish Rally and the old cars and right up to 2016 I have been in the village to watch the cars. My family would either sit outside The Gatehouse or stand on Middle Green, where the check point was or sometimes around on Low Green as the cars would come past here. Visitors would be doing the same.

I can recall Mr Bowen-Jones and the Webb's sitting outside with family and for the last 5/6 years I have sat with them on their front and watched the cars go by. I have not seen Dorothy Goodall on this area as she states. The checkpoint was up by the Village Hall area and this was where the majority of people gathered to see the cars.

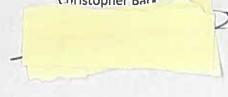
The Fair took place on low green and middle green and not on any of the smaller patches of ground in front of people's houses included Rose Stile Cottage. All the kids games ,the coconut shy and tug of war took place on Low Green. Other activities took place on Middle Green near the Village Hall and in the Church. Awards were given outside Caroline Cottage / Kirk Inn (Middle Green).

Even as a young adult when playing on the green or if out walking the dogs I never saw anyone, other than the owners, using / cutting across the front of Rose Stile. There has always been plants

and trees along the edge which would mean you have to step on and then off and go around which would be silly and futile, anyway I always thought it belonged to the owners of Rose Stile and Rose Stile Cottage.

I hope this will help you in your assessment of the application.

Christopher Bark



Reference your notice and the application from Mrs Lesley Cutting we would like to respond as follows. We have never seen anyone using this piece of land in the way described by these 2 Councillors and our observations as to the use of their front is as follows.

My family have lived in Romaldkirk since approximately 1965. My father resided at Hall Cottage from 1965 to 1974, when he then moved to the Gatehouse, Romaldkirk, which remains in our family to this day. We were married in 1973 at Hall Cottage. The green outside was looked after by my father up until Hall Cottage was sold.

Hall Cottage is next door to Rose Stile Cottage, with good views over the area in question and Low Green and the green in front of Caroline Cottage and Kirk PH.

As dog owners we walk our dogs up Sennings Lane and around the village at least twice a day. Our children and grandchildren have played (and continue to play) on the green and cycle around the roads.

The Fireworks was very much centred around the Kirk Inn as it was organised by the Publican. People stood in the area at the front of the pub overlooking Low Green. We never saw anyone standing over by Hall Cottage and Rose Stile, with the exception of the owners.

Specifically around the major activities i.e. the Fair and the Rally, these centre around the Village Hall (tea, coffee and food on hand) near the stocks and the two public houses. We can see this activity from our cottage, but we wander out and about in the village with the children, to get a closer look at the cars and to be involved in the Fair etc.

We have seen over the years the two families residing at Rose Stile using and maintaining their front in all the years the owners have lived there. Mr and Mrs Webb and Mr and Mrs Bowen-Jones were often seen by ourselves maintaining their frontage. For a long period of time (a number of years) there was a lot of building materials placed on the front, which was a little unsightly.

We never saw any other person use this piece of land, in fact we understood it to belong to the owners of Rose Stile.

We have never seen this piece of land being cut by the people appointed to mow the village greens.

There has been no village activity on this piece of land nor was there on the land in front of Hall Cottage. It seems a little spurious they are trying to claim this particular piece of land as village green when they do not even use any of the other smaller pieces of "village green".

Notwithstanding the fact that the whole village is aware of the ongoing legal battle between Gill Carter and the Webb's. It smacks of a little retribution especially when their adjoining neighbours have recently deceased and are unable to corroborate their use.

From 2005 to 2007 I lived permanently at the Gatehouse with my son while he attended Barnard Castle School. My son played rugby and cricket with my neighbours son on Low Green after school during the week and on the weekends. He also walked our dogs.

Walkers and dog walkers use the roads, the main greens and the footpaths around the village. We don't see anybody, other than the owners, using the grass in front of their houses around the village.

Signing on behalf of Ian & Bark and Rosalvid S. Bark

I have lived in Romaldkirk since I was 4 years old, when our family moved in to the village in March 1997.

As a child growing up I and my cousins (when they visited which was often) we would end up playing on the village greens, more often than not Low Green as this was near to our house and my / our parents could see us. We would leave our bikes and skateboards outside on the front grass as did our friends.

I left the village in 2013, and prior to leaving I have never seen our front being used for village activities. I have certainly not seen Ivan Carter play on our front but I have seen him on Low Green with his then personal trainer. In fact he was a quiet boy and didn't even play with us. He is just a few years older than me.

Again I have never seen Mrs Carter use our front as she has alleged. I have only ever seen her in her car going back and forth. Lesley Cutting and Gill Carter have been continually harassing my parents for some years over access on Sennings Lane and I consider this application to be fraudulent / corrupt and an extension of their unreasonable behaviour.

I am of the view that Gill Carter is using her civil action with my parents, together with and supported by Lesley Cutting, to undertake Parish Council business, that is this application to register this area of land.

I think it underhand that Lesley Cutting together with Gill Carter and Dorothy Goodall have colluded to pursue this claim after our neighbours and friends, the Emeritus Prof. Bowen-Jones and Mrs Val Henderson, have died (November 2015 & December 2015). Both of whom without any doubt in my mind, would have joined with my parents in refuting these lies. Both were very old and had long established links with this village, in excess 40 years. Prof. Bowen-Jones was also chair of the Parish Council.

I can remember the fireworks / bonfire which took place on Low Green in the vicinity of the pump. My memory is that everyone gathered around the front of the pub (The Kirk Inn)/ Caroline Cottage, where the tables and chairs are to view the display. We would be running in and out of the pub getting drinks and food and playing with sparklers. Dorothy Goodall did not stand on our front — nobody did — only our family and friends. My cousins and I would be running in and out of the house and I never saw anyone other than us using our front. When the fireworks stopped being on the green (in 2000) a family in the village (Borers) took on this activity and we would all go over to their place (White Gates).

The Village Fair: In 1998 I won a Teddy Bear which was presented to me by the local Vicar which took place on the green in front of Caroline Cottage / The Kirk PH. One year my brother and I won the best decorated wheelie bin. This was taken up to the Reading Rooms where the judging took place (we won). In 2005 my brother dressed up as Frodo and all of the judging took place at the Reading Rooms. They then paraded down the highway to Low Green. Again there was no activity on our front - there never ever was.

As children we were thoroughly involved in the Fair. Also my parents had involvement in the Fair, including putting up bunting, setting out and manning a game and my mother ran the elephant stall for a number of years until 2012. Each year we always had friends and family staying with us so they

could join in the fun of the Fair – it was quite an event. At no time did I see anyone use or attempt to use our front. Only the main greens were / are used for the Fair. Even the village green in front of Hall Cottage was never used for the Fair.

From about 2005 my father started building work on our property and for a number of years the front had been used to store a range of building supplies from dumpy bags of sand and ballast, pallets of stone blocks and roofing slates, plasterboard, and timber. No one walked over our front. They would have to navigate all of these materials which were constantly changing.

I always understood the front was ours and Mr Bowen-Jones and witnessed both Mr Bowen-Jones' gardener and my father mowing the lawn since 1997. My mother also maintained the front meticulously.

The Beamish Rally takes place annually and my family, cousins and grandparents would come over to see the cars. This was another event which was popular with our family and friends. We would put seating out on the front together with Mr Bowen-Jones until his health declined. I cannot recall Mrs Goodall sitting on this as she states although I do recall seeing her walking around the village. The checkpoint for the Rally is outside the Reading Rooms and people gather on the middle green to see the cars. In addition a local friend would bring his traction engine down to the village parking it outside the Rose and Crown PH. Our front is not used for the Rally or by the people visiting. I have seen people using the village green outside Caroline Cottage / Kirk Inn and on Low Green which included sitting on it and parking cars on it. But I think because they will have observed us coming in /out of the garden with cups of tea and food and likely assumed the front was private. The picture, submitted by Mrs Carter, is of me and my family.

Visitors to the Romaldkirk who wander down past our house do so using the highway, they do not use our front. This would have been made more difficult due to the trees and shrubs aligning Sennings Lane.

When I walk around the village and even as a child I never used any other area of grass to walk on, even the grass in front of Hall Cottage was never used as a playing area.

On recent visits to see my parents I've seen Lesley Cutting using the front which has now been cleared of plants by Gill Carter and yet Lesley Cutting has never done so prior to this.

Lesley Cutting is underhand, she has uprooted and poisoned plants all along the side of my parents' home with diesel and weed killer. I was instrumental in meeting with the Environment Agency who came and discussed this with me. This took place in 2012 about 12 months before Gill Carter went to Court (High Court, Newcastle) over access issues, where Lesley Cutting was a witness for Gill Carter.

I want to make clear that Lesley Cutting and Gill Carter, are being vindictive against my parents. Despite being to court, they continue to come and photograph my parents' home on a regular basis which I consider to be totally unreasonable behaviour.

Evangeline Ryves-Web-

Jill Errington

From:

rory henderson

Sent:

07 January 2017 16:34

To:

Jill Errington

Subject:

Application for the registration of Land as Town or a Village Green in Romaldkirk

Dear Jill,

I'm writing with reference to the Application for the registration of Land as Town or a Village Green in Romaldkirk. I understand that the application number is NL43.

To provide some background information to my statement, I am the joint owner (in conjunction with my sister) of the cottage located directly opposite this land (Dene Lodge).

The cottage passed into our joint ownership in the summer of 2016 following the death of our mother in December 2015. The cottage has been in our family since the 1940's. As a family we used the cottage for colidays up to 2000 when my mother became a permanent resident there. My sister had previously been a permanent resident there during the 1990's. I lived there myself from 2002 to 2004.

As I recall, the area of land in question has never been used for the village Fair, the village fireworks or for the Beamish rally. I have never seen any Council workers maintaining the land. This has always been undertaken by good willed local residents.

The greens are used infrequently by the occasional tourist walking across them and the occasional local resident walking their dog.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Regards,

Rory Henderson FRICS, BSc, MSc