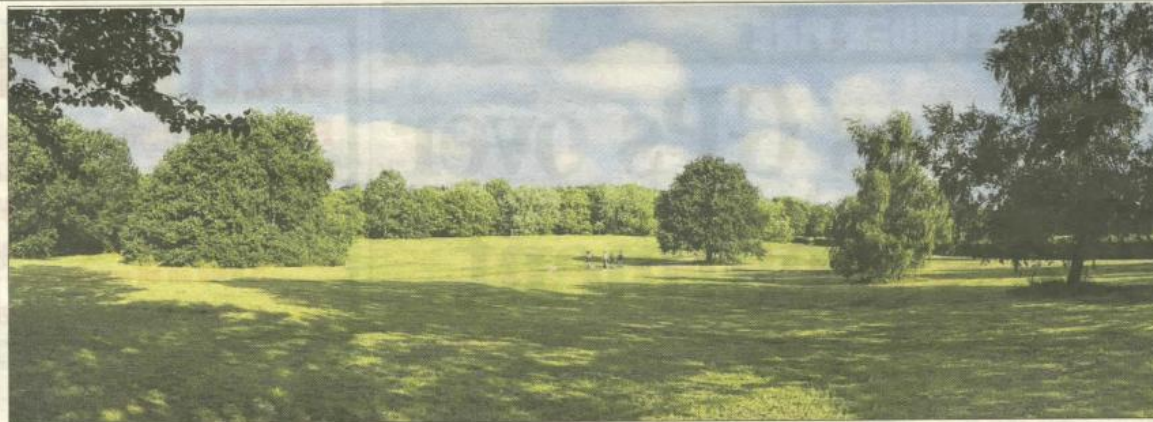


# Kentish Gazette

10<sup>th</sup> March 2016



Campaigners are trying to have Chaucer Fields designated as a village green

Picture: Chris Davey FM2215368

## Verdict on future of fields

by Gerry Warren  
gwarren@thekimgroup.co.uk  
@Gerry\_Warren

A five-year battle to have land on the southern slopes of the University of Kent campus designated as 'village green' is expected to be decided next week.

The Save the Chaucer Fields campaign was started in 2011 when the university proposed building a hotel and student accommodation on it.

Local residents said they had proof the 43-acre plot had been used for recreation for 20 years – giving it village green rights – and lodged an application in a bid to save it from development.



Campaigners battle to save Chaucer Fields from development

Picture: Chris Davey FM2215368

The university argued the field was only being used by the public with its permission and there were signs saying so.

A public inquiry was held early last year, at which evidence from

both sides was heard.

Now Kent County Council's regulation committee member panel is due to meet next Friday to consider the application.

The council officer's report and

recommendation will be available as part of the meeting agenda on the KCC website from tomorrow (Friday).

Campaign leader David Smith said: "It's been a long fight and we have given it our best shot and can do no more."

"It's in the hands of the committee members and we will have to accept the outcome."

"Of course, we will be disappointed if we do lose after such a long fight, but there is a fallback situation which could still protect the land because the city council has indicated in its Local Plan submission that it wants to keep the land undeveloped."

The regulation committee meets at 10am on Friday, March 18, at County Hall in Maidstone.

Reproduced with the kind permission of the KM Group