



**Castle Hedingham Parish Council
NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS**

**CHILDRENS PLAY FACILITIES
IN CASTLE HEDINGHAM**

**Please come to a PUBLIC MEETING on WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY,
starting at 7.45pm at the Memorial Hall.**

**The purpose of the meeting is to update residents on the current situation
regarding the playing field. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

The Parish Council has been working to achieve a solution to the lack of play facilities in the parish. Our objective has been to secure an appropriate location to install play equipment which meets the needs of our residents and their families, now and in the future. The Parish Council does not own any land which could be used for a play area.

The lease with Hedingham Castle on the current recreation field at Sudbury Hill expired in 1999. Since then the Parish Council has continued to pay rent, so holding over under the terms of the lease. We have also been continuing to cut the grass and maintain the current play equipment but are unable to improve the facilities without a secure long term lease.

Part of the old allotment field next to the Memorial Hall has been offered on a 20 year lease by Mr & Mrs Lindsay at Hedingham Castle, if planning permission is granted on the Castle's land at Sudbury Hill. Mr & Mrs Lindsay wish to retain the area of the old allotment field closest to Church Lane for possible housing development.

Braintree District Council owns the strip of land adjacent to the current recreation field alongside the road at New Park. The Parish Council has asked BDC on a number of occasions if a long term lease or purchase could be arranged so that an area of play equipment could be sited there. BDC has refused each time and is now proposing this land is submitted for housing development.

Braintree District Council's Local Plan was published for full public consultation during June/July 2016 and has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. No sites were allocated for housing development in Castle Hedingham. In May 2017, despite objections from Parish and District Councillors, Braintree District Council removed the "informal recreation" designation from their land at New Park. BDC officers are now investigating in detail the opportunity to bring this piece of land forward, together with the adjoining land owned by Mr & Mrs Lindsay, for residential development. The intention is to submit a planning application in the spring of 2018.

**PLEASE COME TO THE PUBLIC MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY TO FIND OUT MORE.**

**REPRESENTATIVES OF BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND
HEDINGHAM CASTLE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND**