



## St Francis Fields CIC St Francis Fields – Village Picnic

CIC 24/10

**To:** Northiam Parish Council

**Meeting Date:** 13/06/24

**Presented by:** Jonathan Strong, Director SFF CIC

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**Summary:** The Council is asked to approve the use of Field 1 and the sand schools of the SFF estate for a Village Picnic on one day over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

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**Background:** As mentioned in Paper CIC 24/9 on the future strategy for SFF, the CIC has been considering the issue of public access to SFF – an area of current concern for a number of residents. Among the proposals in that paper is one for a Village Picnic on the estate over this August Bank Holiday weekend and this paper requests the Council's approval and support.

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**Detail:** The proposal is to open Field 1, the sand schools and much of the rest of the estate to the community for one of the days of the Bank Holiday weekend and to invite residents and village groups to make use of them for the day. The intention is for a family day with people picnicking and joining in activities organised by village clubs & societies to publicise what they do.

The Pop-up Pub will be open that weekend and access will be allowed to the stables and up to the Conservation Society's Community Orchard/Nuttery and the Community Produce Garden along the track from the Hub onto the permissive footpath.

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**Finance:** There will be no cost arising to be met by the Council.; minor set-up costs will be met by the CIC. Activities at the event will be expected to be self-funding.

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**Key dates:** Agreement to the proposal at the June NPC meeting to allow planning to proceed and for the Parish Council to promote the event alongside the CIC.

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**Planning position:** Planning regulations allow a landowner to use non-residential land or buildings for an alternative use for not more than 28 days in any calendar year without the need for planning consent.

Common alternative uses under this exemption include fairs, fetes, festivals etc. Current uses of the SFF estate that would fall within this definition include the Pop-up-Pub and the use of Field 1 for parking for the NBS Midsummer Festival. Use of the Field 1 and the sand schools as proposed above would not add to the total of days used as the Pop-up-Pub is already planned to be open over the weekend.