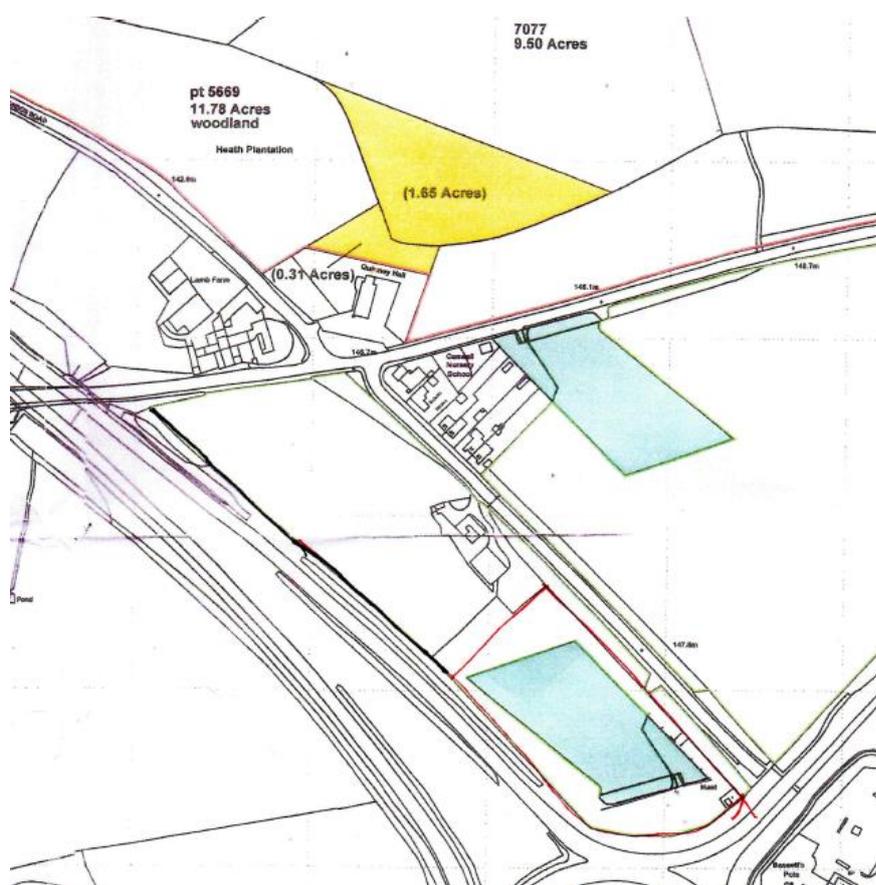


# Proposal for purchase of Canwell Field by a local landowner.

The Council has been approached by a local landowner who wishes to purchase Canwell Field and sell a piece of land off London Road to the Council as a replacement recreation area. It is anticipated that the value of Canwell Field would be higher than the new area which would provide surplus which could fund facilities like sports pitches or a pavilion.

The Clerk has spoken with the proposer, the objective of acquiring Canwell Field is to consolidate land already held in that area which would make it more attractive in terms of development.

There has been a previous proposal, to exchange Canwell Field for land behind Quinney Hall. The Council thought that consolidating its own land and buildings could be of benefit to the community. The community voiced strong objections to this proposal and residents made their feelings clear that Canwell Field should not be sold.



## Positives of the Proposal:

- A piece of land more suitable for recreation, with better/safer access, would be available for the community. Canwell Field is currently under-used but this proposal might mean more residents of the wider parish would be able to use the space.

#### Negatives of the Proposal:

- It would appear that strategically, Canwell Field is providing a buffer/obstacle to development of the green land around it.
- Access for the nursery to use the recreation ground would involve the children being walked along a road (albeit quiet), rather than the safe access they currently have to Canwell Field.
- Local residents would not be in favour of the sale of Canwell Field.
- The provision of facilities on a new recreation area would create a financial burden on future generations of ratepayers.
- There does not appear to be demand in the area for playing fields or a sports pavilion.
- The protective measures against unauthorised encampments would also create a financial burden.

#### Conclusion:

This proposal is similar to a previous proposal that became a contentious issue. The community came together to strongly voice its objection and the Clerk imagines this current proposal would elicit the same response.

The Clerk recommends that the Council rejects the offer to purchase Canwell Field.