

**APPENDIX E:**  
Copy of letter received from Mrs. I. Sharpe



Hartley  
LONGFIELD  
Kent  
DA3 8DZ

January 31st 2008

Southwark Council  
Town Hall  
Peckham Road  
London SE5 8UB.

Application for village Green status by Hartley Parish Council on Borough of Southwark Land.

Dear Melanie McNeir,

I felt I had to put pen to paper after enquiring about some of these facts. I notice that the Borough of Southwark is one of the poorest Boroughs in the country compared to Sevenoaks that are one of the richest. I therefore consider it immoral that Parish Council in Sevenoaks should expect the Borough of Southwark to maintain land for its use.

Within the parish of Hartley and nearby we already have over 300 acres of Amenity Land that can be enjoyed and used by people for dog-walking, picnicking etc. This does not include the many footpaths that people have the right to walk on and use. Most of this land is underused.

It appears to me rightly or wrongly that they want even more land to control with other people footing the bill, which seems quite wrong to me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ivy Sharp.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ivy Sharp'.



**APPENDIX F:  
Copy of letter received from Dr. J. Roberts**

Hartley  
LONGFIELD  
Kent  
DA3 8DZ

February 4th 2008

Miss Melanie McNeir  
Public Rights of Way Officer  
Kent County Council  
Environment and Economy  
Invicta House  
County Hall,  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XX.

**Hartley Wood-Village Green Application**

Dear Miss McNeir,

Very few members of the public in Hartley are aware of this application being made on our behalf by Hartley parish Council. It is a case of the minority deciding for the majority. I have been looking into the History of this piece of land and have come across an article published in the Hart Magazine in July 1993. This magazine is sponsored by the local churches and is distributed throughout Hartley.

I have enclosed a copy of the article on the woodland written by Mrs Fry for your perusal. As I did not live in Hartley in 1993 I cannot comment on its accuracy. Mrs fry has lived in Hartley for most of her life and was a very respected District and Parish Councillor. In fact she was Chairman of Hartley Parish Council between 1986 and 1989. I would therefore not doubt the accuracy of her work.

In the article she states that the "footpaths" are "at present overgrown and choked". The question needs to be asked, if the land was in this state how did people manage to walk over it? This clearly brings into question the statements you have which declare that the woodland has been freely walked on for the last 20 years. It also questions the validity of the Village green Application.

Yours Sincerely,

*J. E. Roberts*

Dr J.E.Roberts.

Cc Mr Kemp Head of property Southwark Council.

## **HOW TO SAVE OUR WOODLANDS. WILL YOU HELP?**

The part of Hartley Woods owned by Southwark Borough Council and the land going down to Hartley Bottom have been put on the market by Southwark. Southwark has owned land here for over a hundred years dating from the time when the rubbish from that area came by road and rail and was deposited on the tip - which is now grassed over. Hartley Parish Council has already taken steps to secure Hartley Woods itself for the village, but they have no jurisdiction over the section owned by Southwark. At one time it was hoped that Sevenoaks District Council would purchase the area and leave it for "passive" leisure, but that involvement has now fallen through.

Hartley Parish Council is deeply concerned that the Woods should not be purchased by somebody who would use it for anti-social activities. The Council sought the advice of The Woodland Trust who have experience in the saving and management of woodland. To this end, the Parish Council arranged a meeting with the Trust. This had to be done at very short notice because of the date that offers had to be sent in to Southwark. About twenty residents came to the meeting together with representatives from Longfield Parish Council. The cost of purchase would be beyond the Parish Council on its present budget and therefore other ways of acquiring the area (just the woods) were examined. The Woodland Trust could put in an offer supported by pledges from residents for which the **WHOLE OF THE VILLAGE** would be canvassed. The Parish Council would make a useful contribution, and small grants might be available from other public authorities. The woods (the Southwark section) would be vested in The Woodland Trust who would take over the management i.e. open up the footpaths at present overgrown and choked; coppice in rotation; and keep the woods as a natural habitat.

Enquiries are going forward to this end (the Parish Council have decided formally on this matter) and a Public Meeting will be held in July. This will be well-publicised in Hartley and other areas affected. In other places where the Woodland Trust has operated successfully, e.g. Fawkham, donors gave generously that a large sum of money was raised. Without that scale of giving the purchase of the wood would have lapsed. Our residents will be asked to give a one-off donation to save these woods for ourselves and for posterity. Every donation - of whatever size - will be a step towards keeping Hartley and its woodland beautiful.

Please watch for the notices, and if you care about our woodland and want to make sure that they stay with us please come along with your friends to the meeting. The purchase that is attempted to be made is of the woods only, not the infill land.

If you would like some more information before the notices are sent out - or wish to offer your help in distribution leaflets - please contact any of the members of Hartley Parish Council.

Yvonne Fry (for Hartley Parish Council)