

Enforcement notice agreed

COUNCIL chiefs are one step away from prosecuting a landowner they claim has failed to build a community park at Eshott village.

Planning officials at The Kylins — who have been given the green light to serve an enforcement notice on Eshott Estates — say that despite carrying out major housebuilding the developers have failed to fulfil their side of the bargain by creating suitable recreation facilities at Bainbridge Lane.

The Development Services and Licensing Committee agreed the course of action, which gives the landowner a limited time to implement the scheme or face going to court.

Castle Morpeth's Director of Environmental and Planning Services, Tony Woodcock, told councillors that problems had arisen with Eshott Estates failing to build a suitable community park and failure to develop passing places at the entrance to the village.

Speaking afterwards he said: "This is a very frustrating situation for us. There was an opportunity to create something really nice, a place for children to play and people to walk the dog but what is there at the moment is not up to standard.

"When we granted planning permission for Eshott Estate to build 31 homes part of the deal was that they would make a commitment to the regeneration of the estate and parts of the village. Problems arose because what has been done to the site just off Bainbridge Lane is of the lowest possible standard in our opinion."

Mr Woodcock added: "If the enforcement notice is not adhered to and substantial improvements are not carried out then they will be in breach of the conditions and we will have no choice but to prosecute.

"The present situation is a shame as it looked as though the partnership with the developer was going to be ground breaking — but at the 11th hour the work that we required from Eshott Estates was not carried out sufficiently."

A spokesman for the developers said: "When asked for comment, Mr Sanderson of Eshott Estates said he was very surprised to hear of any proposed action.

"He has subsequently spoken with Planning Department officers at Castle Morpeth Borough Council, who have been unable to clarify the position at this time."

24/10/2002
MORPETH HERALD