

As Chair of the Steyning Society I would like to thank Paul, for bringing up the issue of Clays Field.

Clays Field is entirely in Bramber Parish, and it gives SPC **the opportunity of fully supporting BPC's Neighbourhood Plan**, which concluded that Clays Field was unsuitable for development. **This was accepted by HDC.**

The present state of Clays Field must be a disappointment to the Aikman family. Father Alastair Robertson-Aikman fought hard to save the field from development. He maintained it through his company SME until 2016, and Marilyn his wife gave loving care to the ponds and ducks.

From the statement near the gate, it is not clear whether Alastair wanted to share the use of Clays Field with the Community in perpetuity, and it is not clear that **all the family** wish it to be developed.

However what is clear is that Steyning and Bramber owe **a great deal to the Robertson Aikman Family who founded Steyning's second largest employer SME**; built an architecturally fine factory, and allowed the Community to use Clays Field for a generation. **It would be a great loss to both communities if any development now took place.**

Instead may Cameron Aikman be encouraged **to give the land to BPC in perpetuity in honour** of his family, and that Sussex Wildlife Trust be involved in its management. **A simple plaque** could be erected to record this generous gift, naming it Robertson Aikman or Alastair's Field. This would be an appropriate outcome in the year of COP 26.

Thank you again Paul for drawing SPC's attention to this issue. As a member of SPC we know you have Steyning's interest at heart and you would not wish to **upset our neighbouring Bramber Parish Council. However your motion will do just that.** BPC have worked hard to reject any development in Clays Field, and **HDC** have accepted their excellent Neighbourhood Plan.

Your motion indicates the Aikman's family's goodwill towards Steyning, so there is every reason for **you to persuade them that an outright gift to BPC and an appreciative plaque** is the best outcome. As a Steyning Councillor of longstanding I am sure you will withdraw your motion and support the people of **Bramber** as well as Steyning.

Tom Aubrey
Chair.The Steyning Society.