

## **REMOVAL OF MUGA - STATEMENT TO COMMUNITY**

Following a recent court hearing, the Parish Council has made the difficult decision to remove the MUGA from the War Memorial Park. This decision has not been taken lightly, and we share in the disappointment felt by many in the community. However, we believe it is the most sensible course of action to abate the noise and avoid further legal costs and resolve a 5 year legal process which has failed to provide a definite solution.

While this change is regrettable, it also gives us the opportunity to re-look at the War Memorial Park as a whole, as well as our neighbouring parks across the Parish. We want to ensure our green spaces reflect the needs of the whole community, both now and for the future.

We will be carrying out a community consultation in early 2026, where residents will be invited to share their views and have a voice in shaping what facilities they would like to see in our parks.

In the meantime, we are also exploring alternative temporary spaces that can be made available for community use while longer-term plans are developed.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we take these next steps together.

Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council

We have put together some FAQs to help explain the decision taken and next steps

### **1. Why are you removing the MUGA?**

The removal is a consequence of the court case in July and a desire to avoid further expensive and ongoing litigation.

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### **2. Why aren't you fighting this in court again?**

Continuing to challenge the decision would cost tens of thousands of pounds in public money, with no guarantee of success. The Council believes this money would be better spent improving its parks and investing in facilities for residents.

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### **3. Can't you just ignore the ruling?**

No. Ignoring a court order would lead to further legal costs, possible fines, and additional liabilities for the Parish Council, all of which would be paid from public funds.

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### **4. What will happen to the MUGA?**

We will explore options to:

- Relocate it to another suitable location, or

- Replace it with alternative facilities that benefit the whole community.
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## **5. Will the park lose facilities altogether?**

No. Our goal is to maintain and improve facilities, not reduce them. We are committed to investing in something new for the community.

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## **6. Will residents be involved in deciding what comes next?**

Yes. We will be engaging with the public in the New Year, and residents will be given the opportunity to give their views and ideas. Details will be announced soon.

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## **7. Has the Council wasted public money on this case?**

The Council has a duty to defend community facilities when challenged. The decision to stop further legal action was taken to prevent even higher costs and to focus on constructive solutions. Unfortunately, the legal fees are not covered by the Parish Council's insurers and is funded through the parish precept. We no longer feel that it would be responsible of us to continue and the possible outcome could be detrimental to our community.

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## **8. How soon will the MUGA be removed?**

Work to remove the MUGA is scheduled for week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

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## **9. Where will the funding for new facilities come from?**

We will explore a combination of Parish Council funds, grants, and community fundraising to minimise the cost to local taxpayers. We welcome any ideas and support.

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## **10. How can I share my views?**

We will publish consultation dates, surveys, and meeting details on the Parish Council website, noticeboards, and social media.