

# **Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet**

## **Residents Association**

[www.bowersgifford.info](http://www.bowersgifford.info)

### **COMMITTEE TO FIGHT THE PLANS TO BUILD ON BOWERS GIFFORD & NORTH BENFLEET GREEN BELT DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE at the GUN PUBLIC HOUSE on 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

The Chair opened the meeting at 19.35.

#### **Attendees**

Rose Griffin (RG) Chair; Gary Lee (GL); George Smith (GS); Derek Twidell (DT); Laura Watts (LW); Tina Witham (TW).

Apologies received from Tracy Calver (TC); Doreen Glibbery (DG); Carole Turkson (CT).

DT acted as minutes secretary.

127 members of the public attended the meeting.

#### **1. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October were read and accepted.

#### **2. Matters arising from the last minutes**

The management committee was continuing to look for any options held on other green belt land.

RG had emailed other groups fighting plans to build on green belt but had not received any response so she would not make further efforts to contact them.

#### **Background**

For the sake of the newcomers (approx 25-30%) RG explained the reasons for the existence of the Residents Association (RA), and the background to the issues in hand, detailing what has been achieved to date. New attendees came from Pitsea where a sponsored leaflet drop had been undertaken.

#### **3. Petition**

There are approximately 1800 names on the petition as at the present date. RG requested attendees from the floor to take petitions away for the signatures of people in their locality. Blank copies of the petition will also be available on the website.

#### **4. Communications Update**

The Residents Association had written to Nottingham asking for copies of its flood and other plans. Nottingham had referred the Residents Association's request to its developer, Meridian Strategic Development. RG had telephoned Meridian and been refused copies of

the plans on the basis that these were confidential documents between Meridian and its client (Nottingham). The Residents Association had written to Tony Ball asking for advice as the documents requested should be considered part of the consultation process.

**5. Wildlife Information**

DG was not able to attend this evening, so the wildlife update was deferred to the next meeting. However, details of some of the wildlife seen was on the website. Attendees were urged to visit the website.

The wildlife plan was one of the documents requested from Nottingham/Meridian but had been refused (see item 5 above).

**6. Guest Speaker – Stephen Metcalfe MP**

Stephen Metcalfe was given the floor and immediately voiced his opposition to the development and his support to the Residents Association. He said that Basildon needed more homes but Little Chalvedon Hall Farm was not an appropriate location because Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet did not have the infrastructure to support any large development. Attendees expressed some concerns about the fact that Basildon Council's strategic plan for 6,500 new homes had been rejected and central government required a new plan with more houses. Mr. Metcalfe said that a revised strategic plan should be ready sometime in early 2013.

If the correct channels are followed, the planning application will be submitted by the developers, and Basildon Council will decide an outcome based upon the application's merits. If Basildon rejects this, Nottingham/Meridian will most likely appeal to the Secretary of State. This is where the battle really starts; arguments for and against will be heard, and the outcome decided purely on planning grounds.

Mr. Metcalfe advised that we keep thoroughly focussed, and ready for future action. Carefully thought out grounds for objections must be raised at the right time.

Questions from the floor were then taken, and Mr Metcalfe finally sat down after approximately fifty minutes on his feet.

**7. Any other business**

RG thanked Mr. Metcalfe for his attendance and continued support.

RG thanked Lynne Mohseni for providing a venue for the Residents Association, free of charge.

St. Andrew's open evening would be some time week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> December – details would be on the website.

There was no further business and the meeting closed 20.50.

**Date of Next Meeting** – No meetings were planned until at least January 2013 unless anything urgent occurred. Date, time and venue would be advertised on our website [www.bowersgifford.info](http://www.bowersgifford.info)