

**Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet**  
**Residents Association**  
**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 BENBOW CLUB on 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2013**

The Chair opened the meeting at 19.35.

**Attendees**

Rose Griffin (RG) Chair; Tracy Calver (TC); George Smith (GS); Carole Turkson (CT); Derek Twidell (DT); Laura Watts (LW) ; Tina Whitham (TW).

Apologies received from Gary Lee (GL).

DT acted as minutes secretary.

Approximately 70 members of the public attended the meeting.

**1. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were read and accepted.

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

There were no matters arising from the last minutes.

**3. Proposed HGV Training Centre**

The planning application for the proposed HGV Training Centre on the old Birse Civils site has been rejected. Now that this has been successfully dealt with, Mo Larkin gave a short speech about keeping focussed on our current objectives, and not to be distracted by any 'sweeteners' offered by developers and the like.

**4. Meeting with Meridian 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

The Residents Association (RA) met with Meridian on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013. We were shown plans which revised the number of dwellings downwards from 1300 to 750. These plans are meant to be put on 'disc' and sent to the RA for perusal. From the feedback received, it appears that the notification for the initial 'consultation' did not reach any people from Pitsea.

RG read out a brief resume of our meeting with Meridian, which was summarised in note form by GS, and the questions we raised with answers, if provided. Mo Larkin (ward councillor and mayor of Basildon) took the floor for a while, and commented on some of the points covered by the resume.

## **5. Westlake Avenue Consortium**

RG explained the current scenario regarding the Westlake Avenue situation. Donna Picton read out excerpts of an e-mail she had sent to Meridian regarding this matter.

## **6. Strategy to continue fight against development**

- a) Objection to revised plans – The stance of the RA remains zero development, and the revised plans will be opposed at every turn.
- b) The RA will press for a full consultation.
- c) Letters to MP – Up to the new year, approximately 170 letters of objection had been received by our MP, Stephen Metcalfe.
- d) Written Petition – We now have over 2000 names on our written petition. The momentum of this has slowed down a little over the Christmas period, but we hope to pick up during the coming months, assuming that new volunteers come forward for this time-consuming task.
- e) On-line petition – This has just started up, and we have 60 signatures since Sunday.

## **7. Fundraising**

- a) Flash Fiction Competition – RG gave an outline of the competition she was running in order to try to raise funds for our campaign. This will last several months, and we already have a sponsor putting up some of the prize money.
- b) Other – RG asked if the audience had any other ideas to raise money to contribute to the RA's fighting fund. Several ideas were forthcoming – a poetry competition and a photography competition (from a member of the South Benfleet Photographic Society). These ideas to be progressed.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

TC reported that we currently have just over £313 in the bank.

## **9. Any Other Business**

RG mentioned the Bowers Gifford U3A, in case anyone present was interested.

Mo Larkin said that a footpath was being opened from Stanford-le-Hope to Leigh Marshes, for those who liked a good walk.

RG finished by saying that petitioners were urgently needed for the Pitsea area.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is due to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at the Benbow Club. People were advised to keep a look out on our web site, just in case this needed to be changed.

**The meeting closed at 21.05.**

**Volunteers to help with the petition and leafleting are urgently required –please contact any member of the committee if you would like to help in this or any other way.**

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