

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet
Residents Association
www.bowersgifford.info
COMMITTEE TO FIGHT THE PLANS TO
BUILD ON BOWERS GIFFORD & NORTH BENFLEET GREEN BELT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE
at the BENBOW CLUB on 1st May 2013

The Chair opened the meeting at 19.35.

Attendees

Rose Griffin (RG) Chair; Tracy Calver (TC); Derek Twidell (DT); Laura Watts (LW); Tina Whitham (TW).

Apologies received from Allan Aubrey (AA); Gary Lee (GL); George Smith (GS); Carole Turkson (CT).

DT acted as minutes secretary.

Approximately 32 members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2013 were read and accepted.

2. Matters arising from the last minutes

The Residents Association's response to Meridian's Transport Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment and Geophysical Assessments had been completed and copies were passed around the meeting for perusal. When the assessments are passed by the council to Meridian they will be put on the website. The RA's responses to the Wildlife Survey and Heritage Reports will follow.

3. Update on Decision Date re Little Chalvedon Hall Farm

David Lewis has informed RG that the date for the hearing should be sometime in June (4th, 18th) or July (2nd, 16th) - a Tuesday evening. RG requested that as many people as possible attend the hearing. Residents will be notified by means of a letterbox drop.

4. Update on correspondence

No response from Carol Keeling (Jackaman's Farm), Pitsea Royal British Legion or Bowers United Football Club.

RG read out a copy letter from Nick Boles to Stephen Metcalfe regarding planning regulations. The letter stated that this government's intention was to protect the greenbelt. However, the final paragraph stated that "where a Council did not have an agreed strategy, in exceptional circumstances, developers would be allowed to build on greenbelt".

5. Residents Letters & Petition

Stephen Metcalfe's office had sent copies of letters received by him to Basildon Council. The Planning Department said that it had not received the letters but if they were sent before the outline planning application had been received, and therefore did not have an application reference, they would have gone to the Chief Executive's Office, no to the

Planning Department. RG would try to find out what happened to copies of letters to the MP forwarded to the council.

750 signatures were obtained on the petition at the St George's Day fair in Wat Tyler Park. We currently have over 4,000 names on the written and on-line petitions.

6. **Fundraising Updates**

RG updated everyone on the results of the St George's Day tombola, the writing competition and the Benbow Club offer.

7. **Potential Bug Count – Westlake Park**

Meridian's wildlife report stated that a jewel beetle was found on the edge of LCHF. RG raised the possibility of a 'bug count' in Westlake Park, similar to the one carried out at Dry Street.

8. **Treasurers Report**

TC reported that our current balance stands at approx £600.

9. **Any Other Business**

RG had tried to contact CPRE to ask them to speak at this meeting. We were unaware that there was a local representative until contact details were supplied by the Jotmans Farm action group in Benfleet. TW had tried to contact CPRE in the past but had not been given the local contact details.

Allan Aubrey has had to resign from the committee due to personal circumstances. Allan had done a lot of work knocking on doors in Pitsea and getting signatures on the petition. Allan was not present at the meeting, but RG said that she had sent an e-mail thanking him for his support.

Date of Next Meeting

No further meeting was planned unless any new issues or any other urgent matter should arise e.g. date and place that the planning application will be considered by the Council. If that were the case then the RA would arrange a mail drop to every home in the parish and other properties supporting the RA which were outside the parish.

The meeting closed at 20.34.

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. Phone 01268 726475 or e-mail secretary@bowersgifford.info.

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