



Newsletter

February 2013

Thank you to everyone who wrote to Basildon Council in response to the propose HGV training centre on green belt land at Saddlers Farm. With your help we succeeded in getting the application refused. This goes to show that letter writing works!



If you came to our February meeting or you have read the press, you will know that Nottingham Council/Meridian Strategic Land Ltd., submitted plans on 18th February to build 750 homes on the Little Chalvedon Hall Farm site. The plans include the option for Basildon Council to increase the number of dwellings to 1296 if it wishes to do so. Even if Basildon Council rejects the plans then Nottingham/Meridian Strategic Land Ltd. will have the option to appeal to the Secretary of State (Eric Pickles MP) who can overturn Basildon Council's decision.

Therefore, it is important that we continue to get as many signatures on our petition, including the www.bowersgifford.info on-line petition, as soon as possible **BEFORE THE DECISION DATE OF 20th MAY**. Please also continue to send letters of objection to Stephen Metcalfe MP. **Do encourage your friends and family to sign the petition and write to Mr. Metcalfe - Every Letter Counts**. Example letters are on the website or contact secretary@bowersgifford.info for any further help or advice.

If you would like a blank copy of the petition or you are willing to help us knocking on doors in Pitsea or possibly form part of a group getting petition signatures outside of Pitsea market then please contact us. If you belong to a group or club - why not take along a copy of the petition to your next meeting and get a few signatures? **Every Signature Counts**. If you can help please contact allanaubrey@hotmail.com

On receipt of our petition Stephen Metcalfe will present it to parliament and make a short speech on behalf of the people of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

We continue to fight development on Little Chalvedon Hall Farm on several counts - inappropriate infrastructure - drainage; flooding; sewage; traffic etc. - all the reasons that you will find on our website and listed on our e-petition. We are also trying to prove that we are a Wildlife Corridor and are seeking help from various wildlife charities.

If you have any photos of local wildlife then please send them to us. Please also send us any photos you may have of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet countryside which we could use as part of our submission to the Landscape Partnership's "Character Assessment" which will feed Basildon Council's core strategy.

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Wildlife Corridor

Basildon Council has employed the Landscape Partnership to carry out a Landscape Character Assessment of the borough. The character assessment includes a review of the history, environment and wildlife in each of 15 identified areas and will feed the new core strategy. Carole and Rose attended the Stakeholder Consultation on

behalf of BG&NB Residents' Association on Wednesday 6th February. Brian from the parish council came along too and Rose spoke about the history of the area.

All three of us put forward our claim that Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet forms a Wildlife Corridor between East Anglia and the Essex Marshes. You only have to look at a map to see the buildup of housing from Thorpe Bay to South Benfleet, then there's a green oasis before the housing starts again at Pitsea. The volume of wildlife seen in this green oasis, or that we have become aware of, has increased significantly since the RSPB recently took over the Bowers Marshes and other sites on the marshes e.g. Canvey, Vange. If Nottingham Council/Meridian Strategic Land Ltd. are allowed to go ahead with the development on Little Chalvedon Hall Farm then this corridor will be partially blocked. If a precedent is set by building on Little Chalvedon Hall Farm then other development will take place and the corridor may close.

At the Stakeholder Consultation we met Steve Prewer who is the Manager of Countryside Operations and Development at Wat Tyler country Park. It soon became clear that Steve knew more about the local environment that Rose, Carole and Brian put together! Steve kindly attended our residents' meeting of 20th February and spoke about how

the Wat Tyler park and managed wildlife reserves of the marshes came about, the type and increasing number of wildlife that are seen there and the influence of the Thames Gateway Project.

The Landscape Partnership has asked us to send photos of wildlife; any outstanding views especially those taken in the summer (as they have only seen BG&NB and Pitsea during the winter months); sites of historical interest e.g. old cottages, the pump off Burnt Mills Road, Pitsea Mount. In fact, anything we think would prove useful to the study at the latest by 8th March 2013. At this point the outcome of the study will be fed back to Basildon Council for input into the new core strategy.

Any evidence of rare species would be of much importance e.g. greater crested newts, adders, bats, red squirrel, and deer. Again, photos would be great but even a note of a sighting which you have made would help our claim.

Please send your photos and/or note of any sightings etc. to secretary@bowersgifford.info by **8th March at the absolute latest**. We will then put everything into a report to be sent to the Landscape Partnership by the 9th which is a non extendable deadline. Please also load any photos, or details of any sightings etc. up on to the website forum on the Wild Stuff Board (you will have to register first - see easy user guide on home page). If you

cannot upload on to the website then we will do it for you.

Many thanks for any help you can provide because evidence of the Wildlife Corridor could save our village and the surrounding wildlife from greedy developers.

Development and website information boards. At the RA meeting of 23rd January some residents said that they would display a board in their gardens but didn't leave their contact details. Please contact Tracy Calver if you can help on enquiries@bowersgifford.info

Fund Raising for the Residents' Association. Please don't forget our Table Top sale at the Benbow Club on Saturday 2nd March 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Can you make cakes - would you be willing to bake a cake for our tea/coffee/refreshment tables? Do you have any clean jumble, bric-a-brac etc. you want to get rid of? Do you have any unwanted gifts which we could use for the raffle?

Would you like a table of your own for £5?

Please contact Daphne on 01268 726575 for more information or if you think you can help in any way. Please come along and support us even it is just for a cup of tea and a chat.

Enter our Flash Fiction

Competition - Cash Prizes - Click the Fundraiser tab on the website

All Profits2SaveOurGreenBelt Campaign

Next Public Meeting 20th

March 7.30 pm at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford - **guest speaker Tony Ball** - Leader of Basildon Council.

Special Offer to Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Residents Association (including Pitsea members). The special offer at the Colour Lounge in South Benfleet is

still available for a short while. Visit www.bowersgifford.info and click the Forum Tab, then the "general board", then the "special offer" thread for more information. The offer was advertised on the NHS Staff Discount website. Rose Griffin telephoned and asked if it could be extended to the BG&NB RA and they said it could.

Remember, you need to be a registered member of the forum to access it fully.

And finally, a really big **Thank you** to all of our helpers who braved the elements to deliver leaflets and collect petition signatures.

Contact Us

If you wish to contact us or you have a friend or neighbour who would like to be added to our email update database then please contact

secretary@bowersgifford.info

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Follow us on twitter @northbenfleet

