



Newsletter

December 2012

Boundary Commission - flawed proposal

The Boundary Commission has been seeking to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies and are proposing to re-align boundaries as a result. One of their proposals is to split the two Pitsea wards. Pitsea North Ward would remain in the South Basildon and East Thurrock constituency whereas Pitsea South East Ward (which includes Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet) would move to Castle Point. We would still remain under Basildon Council for all purposes except parliamentary elections.

The rationale behind moving us to Castle Point is that they considered there was a *"significant barrier between the two wards of Pitsea North West and Pitsea South East in the shape of the A127 trunk road"*.

Obviously, the Boundary Commission have a problem with their geography. The boundaries of the A127, A130 and A13 naturally align us with Basildon not Castle Point.

The Residents' Association is not politically biased in any way but our current MP, Stephen Metcalfe has been very supportive in our

endeavours to keep Little Chalvedon Farm as green belt. We are not sure whether a different MP would give us the same support.

If you wish to comment on the proposed changes then please send your comments, **by 10th December**, to:

www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk and use the "contact us" tab and copy to paul.burkinshaw@basildon.gov.uk

Closing date for the submission of representations and comments is 10th December 2012.

More information is available on the Parish Council website. You can get to the Parish Council website by going to www.bowersgifford.info and clicking the parish council tab on the right hand side.

Little Chalvedon Hall Farm (LCHF) - Proposed development by Meridian and Nottingham Council PF

Meridian, Nottingham's developers, has asked for meetings with the Parish Council and the Residents Association. At the moment we are considering whether we should meet with Meridian. In the past, the Residents Association Management Committee has declined to meet Meridian on the basis that as we are opposed to any development whatsoever on the LCHF site, there is no reason to meet them. However, these renewed requests for meetings may mean that submission of the revised plans is imminent.

Those of you who attended the last meeting will know that the Residents Association requested sight of Meridian's flood plan as we believed that there was a possibility that if the flood plain was pushed between the new development and Pitsea that there could be a flooding issue for the new development as well as Pitsea (Crown Avenue, Kenneth Road etc.), Burnt Mills Road and the plot lands. Meridian refused to give us a copy of the flood plan on the basis that this document

was confidential between themselves and Nottingham. We sought advice from Basildon Council and were told that there was no legal reason why Meridian should **currently** share its Flood Plan with us, however, the plan would become available when plans for the development are submitted.

Petition

We do not propose another public meeting until January - date and venue to be advised. However, we do not want to let our anti-development movement lose momentum. There are currently 1900 names on the petition and we would like this to reach 2000 before Christmas - blank copy of the petition is attached in case you have the opportunity to add a few names to the list. We also urge everyone to write to our MP objecting to the proposal. There are some anonymised example letters on our website but please also find an example attached. However, a letter setting out your

concerns and objections in your own words would be much better.

HGV Training Centre

The Residents Association has been contacted with regard to a proposed HGV Training Centre on the Birse work site (Sadler's Farm Development). The Parish Council are aware of this issue and there does not appear to be any reason for the Residents Association to get involved. Although not an agenda item the proposed HGV training centre was discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 28th November. Concerned residents should make every effort to attend the next parish council meeting on 19th December and express their concerns **and respond to the consultation document which has been sent to them - as with LCHF every letter counts**. However, there is also a post on our website www.bowersgifford.info on this topic - you can still join the forum and express your view here.

N.B. The Birse temporary work site is green belt land and Birse agreed to return it to its previous state i.e. grass and trees, when work on Sadlers Farm was complete.

Next Meeting - details on our next email update

We will try to publicise the date, venue and time of our January meeting in the Bowers Bugle, our parish magazine. If you live in Bowers Gifford or North Benfleet watch out for the Bowers Bugle coming through your door after Christmas. Also, keep an eye on our website

www.bowersgifford.info

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