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Family to fight on for heritage centre

ESSEX/SUFFOLK: Intending to appeal against planners' refusal of £25m project

By Ross Bentley

THE family behind the project to build a £25million tourist attraction on the Essex/Suffolk border have insisted they will fight on to see the project come to fruition.

Kate Bunting of Bunting & Sons, the family busi-

ness behind the proposals for the 100-acre Stour Valley Visitor Centre at Great Horkesley, said they intended to appeal against the decision of Colchester Borough Council's planning committee to refuse it.

The refusal is the latest twist in a 12-year battle to get permission for the attraction and goes against the advice of planning officers at the local authority, who recommended the proposal be approved less than a fortnight ago.

Colchester MP Sir Bob Russell said the committee should have to "justify their negativity" if it were to go to an appeal, but borough councillor Mark Cable, who sat on the committee, said he could not back a project "he felt in his heart would not work".

Chairman of the Stour Valley Action Group, Will Pavry, said he was "delighted" by the decision.

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