

Poster subterfuge or theft?

Latest Horkesley Park ruckus over disappearing banners

Andrea Collitt

CAMPAIGNERS against a scheme hoping to attract thousands of visitors to the Dedham Vale have claimed vandals have deliberately removed protest posters.

However, backers of the scheme say it is just another stunt by protesters to generate publicity.

People opposed to Bunting & Sons' plans for a heritage and visitor centre at Horkesley Park have put up "Horkesley Park - why?" posters around the area.

But Fred Grosch, of Holly Lodge Farm, Great Horkesley, said about 15 of them had been torn down

from The Causeway in the village, during two nights.

He added: "No posters are put anywhere other than people's own private land or fences.

"Whoever removed them will have had to trespass in order to remove them. They are not offensive at all, all they are doing is drawing attention to the issue."

Mr Grosch said about 200 posters have been put in the local area in the last month.

It is the fifth version of the plans which have been drawn up over the past decade.

Opponents to the application claim the plan would be out of keeping in an area of outstanding natural beauty and there would be a vast



Mystery: Fred Grosch, wondering where all the posters have gone at Tog Lane, Great Horkesley.

C068720

increase in traffic.

A planning application for the proposals, which include transforming the redundant

glasshouse nursery site into a country park, Suffolk Punch breeding centre, art gallery and visitor centre,

was recently submitted to Colchester Council.

Bunting & Sons predict 316,250 tourists will visit the Stour Valley Visitor Centre each year, with 150 jobs being generated.

Kate Bunting, partner of Bunting & Sons said: "I can categorically state that Bunting & Sons has not removed any posters.

"This is clearly a stunt by one or two hardcore objectors to artificially generate negative publicity and attempt to tarnish our reputation."

Colchester Council aims to make a decision on the planning application by October 31.

andrea.collitt@nqe.com