

Improvements to be made to plan

# Heritage scheme withdrawn

**CONTROVERSIAL** proposals for a Constable heritage centre have been withdrawn while improvements are made to the scheme.

The people behind the project, Bunting and Sons, which owns the former nursery site and Horkesley Park in Great Horkesley, said that by withdrawing the application it would have more time to amend the details – following on from various consultations.

Once the technical details have been revised, the planning application will be resubmitted to Colchester Council, expected to be later this year.

Stephen Bunting, partner at Bunting and Sons, said £250,000 had been spent on a major environmental impact assessment, which had raised some technical issues.

The improvements would

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also take into account Colchester Council's Local Development Framework, guiding the future of the borough for 2006 to 2021.

Mr Bunting said the scheme was running full-steam ahead.

He said: "The planning application consultation process, and in particular the technical responses to the environmental impact assessment, had identified the need for some additional information and expanded explanations to be provided and for certain improvements to be made.

"This will take into account the positive and negative inputs by consultees and the general public.

"A resubmitted application would fit readily together with Colchester's recently

unveiled objectives for tourism and economic development."

The plans for the £20 million heritage centre, including a breeding centre for endangered suffolk punch horses and an art gallery, have become a major talking point in the Horkesley area.

Mr Bunting added: "Bunting and Sons is fully committed to the creation of Horkesley Park as a venue where visitors will be able to enjoy and appreciate the countryside within an extensive parkland setting.

"Will Pavry, chairman of the Stour Valley Action Group (SVAG), which was formed to oppose the development, said: "It is obviously very interesting news for us.

"We hope that the very concerned and detailed opposition that there has been from many bodies, not least the SVAG, has had some influence on Mr Bunting in coming to this decision."