



The Editor

The Essex County Standard

October 27th 2009

Dear Sir,

Constable Country Lottery bid and Horkesley Park

I was delighted to see the article by Wendy Brading in last Friday's County Standard about the £1 million second stage bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund made by the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project. The objectives set out by Mr Amstutz as reported seem to make very good sense and would enhance the qualities of the area and help to develop its historical assets in an entirely appropriate way if the funding is granted.

Your article also refers to the Horkesley Park proposal and makes it clear that the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Joint Advisory Committee is against this. Their many reasons for rejection are detailed in their letter to the Colchester Borough Council of 31st March 2009. The comments quoted by Sula Rayska of Rayska Heritage consultants based in Shrewsbury are however very misleading and would appear to imply that planning consent for Horkesley Park will be granted. We would like to point out that planning consent for Horkesley Park is far from certain and to imply that it will be granted undermines the statutory planning approval process particularly in the circumstances where Buntings have not been able to progress even to Committee stage in the many months since they presented their fourth application for the site. We are not sure on whose behalf she was speaking, but clearly not as a member of the local community with direct knowledge of local issues. We understand that any decision by Colchester Borough Council is weeks - if not months - away. The link claimed in your article between the two projects is entirely inappropriate in our view.

Our opposition to the Horkesley Park scheme on many grounds and in particular the potential it has to do irrevocable damage to the peace and tranquillity of the Dedham Vale AONB, is well known and we will continue to do all we can to ensure that it is rejected.

Yours sincerely

W L Pavry

Chairman Stour Valley Action Group

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