



27th May 2011

Colchester Council say 'NO' to Horkesley Park

At the meeting on 26 May, the CBC Planning Committee supported their officer's recommendation for **refusal**.

Eleven to one against the application!

The Moot Hall was packed with around 170 SVAG supporters and 50 Bunting family members and employees. The Anchor was closed so that the staff could attend! The Hall was full to capacity and at least a further 50 SVAG supporters were unable to get in and turned away at the door.

There were 25 speakers in all, against and in favour of the Application. Those speaking against included Dr John Constable, representatives of the Dedham Vale Society, the Colne-Stour Association, the Suffolk Preservation Society, CPRESsex, the Dedham Vale Project, Nayland and Wissington Conservation Society, Nayland and Little Horkesley Parish Councils, SVAG, and others. Speakers for the application included the Buntings' traffic, landscape, tourism and planning consultants, members of the Bunting family and other individuals. Stephen Bunting said that one and a half million pounds had been spent developing the project. His planning consultant Edward Gittins said that the planning officer's report was 'confusing and flawed', and legally 'unsafe', and asked for deferment. These charges were refuted point by point by CBC speakers.

Members of the committee spoke briefly before going to a vote. The issues that had influenced them most in their decision appeared to be traffic, sustainability and the beauty of the landscape and the preservation of the tranquillity of the AONB. Some had been deeply influenced by seeing the landscape on their site visit on a beautiful May evening, some by Great Horkesley church. (Councillor Ford was impressed by the sense that this was a site that had experienced '700 years of tranquillity')

THE LANDSCAPE WAS ITS OWN BEST ARGUMENT, AND THE LANDSCAPE WON!

To everyone who has supported us in this long battle, we must say, well done, and thank you!