



29th June 2007

DOUBTS SURROUND BUNTINGS' CLAIMS OF SUPPORT



Headline from the Essex County Standard, June 22

Buntings announced last week that 90% of visitors responding to the public exhibitions about Horkesley Park supported the scheme. They claimed this showed an overwhelming majority in favour of their plans. As we said then, well they would, wouldn't they?

The story sparked a vocal public response, with large numbers of letters to the papers. See below extracts from just some of the letters as published by the Essex County Standard July 29th.

BUNTINGS PLAN REACTION: EDITED LETTERS

90 per cent support? It doesn't add up

SO the Bunting Organisation claims 96 per cent public support from their promotional events for the proposed Horkesley Park development. Well, what a surprise! I live in Nayland, near the proposed site, and can honestly say that I know of no-one outside of the Bunting family who is in favour of this development.
John Alexander
Chairman
Nayland with Wissington
Conservation Society

BUSINESSMEN the Buntings may be, mathematicians I think not. The whole scheme just does not add up.
With regard the claimed 90 per cent backing, this figure is generated from those who actually bothered to fill in and return their forms. I suspect many, like me, considered it futile to submit any adverse views on these forms as they would fall on deaf ears.
L Morrison,
Nayland

THE Buntings' claim of popular support for the Horkesley Park complex, dressed up as a heritage and conservation centre, is surprising since the 96 per cent support they claim is based on the responses of only 20 per cent of the 2,000 visitors to the exhibition. My sums make it only 18.6 per cent support from those who attended. Hardly a popular mandate.
James Carver,
Mill House
Nayland

THE Buntings claim 90 per cent support for their plan according to your article last week. They would say this, wouldn't they?
In actual fact, of the 2,000 people or so who visited, 387 completed the questionnaire, of whom 372 expressed support or had no objection. That is less than 19 per cent, which must in truth very much disappoint the organisers.
Martin C E Wright
e-mail

BUNTINGLAND PETITION YET TO BE ANNOUNCED



We expect that Buntings' next propaganda coup will be the announcement of a mass public petition in support of Horkesley Park. We have known about this petition since it started doing the rounds last summer, and it is now rumoured to have garnered upwards of twenty thousand signatures. If this is so, then what on earth were all these people signing for?

The Buntings' petition is questionable on two grounds:
1 Signatories have signed in support of a project that was not specified at the time of signing. Such signatures have no more validity than, for example, any letter any member of the public might write to the Council opposing Horkesley Park before it was defined by a formal Application. Buntings have also stated that they are changing their plans following their open days. It is therefore difficult to see how the petition will be capable of being linked to the final Application when it is put in.

2 The petition has been promoted at public events such as agricultural shows and car boot sales, in the streets of Colchester, and in the Asda car park. Those who signed it were drawn to see the Suffolk Punch horses on display, and given to believe that Buntings were doing crucial work for the survival of this rare breed (though in fact there are many other dedicated breeders, far more experienced and established than Buntings). As they queued and signed, they received a leaflet giving promotional copy about Horkesley Park and in many cases giving them a discount voucher for meals at the Buntings' Anchor Inn in Nayland. It would appear that the intention of many signatories was, in all probability, primarily an expression of support for the Suffolk Punch.