



8th March 2009

Buntingland petition loses horsepower



Over the course of 2007 and 2008, Buntings' rustic cavalcade of Suffolk Punches appeared at county shows and events and – for an extended period – in the somewhat unlikely setting of the Asda car park in Colchester. (We hope that the juxtaposition of Suffolk Punch and mega supermarket is not an indication of times to come?)

The public was invited up to pat a sturdy horse and sign a petition to 'save the breed' by supporting Horkesley Park, and many were rewarded for their signatures by receiving vouchers for discounted meals at Buntings' Anchor Inn . Buntings say that a full 22,839 signed, despite the fact that the information given on Horkesley Park was very sketchy, that there are a number of other private and charitable organisations far more experienced and successful in the breeding of Suffolk Punches, and that the lovely Suffolk Punch, which Buntings told them was almost as near extinction as the Giant Panda, is only one of many breeds of heavy horse and not an entire threatened species!

Alas for Buntings, a bureaucratic hitch invalidates the petition. (It was signed for their previous Application not the current one.) And besides, an intelligent Borough Council policy sets far more store by individual letters than vague mass signings.

In a desperate attempt to resurrect the petition, Stephen Bunting has sent a letter to every signatory whose address could be read, stating the correct Application number and enclosing a prepaid reply form to Colchester Borough Council. He says such replies sent (with even sketchier information on the proposed development than before) will enable "the Council and its Planning Services officers to gain a balanced picture of public opinion."

Will it?

If you think otherwise, then point it out to the Council. Say so in your letter!