



Dear SVAG member,

November 2007

Following our Newsletter of September 2007 we can now report as follows:

1 Recent Applications:

Brewery:

The retrospective Application (number 071084) for use of one of the buildings on the site as a brewery has been given temporary approval until October 31st 2010. This is hardly surprising in view of the established light industrial units on the site. The fact that the building had been in use as a brewery for over a year without Planning Permission was not considered to be a reason in itself to withhold planning permission.

It is interesting to note that the Colchester Borough Council has said that "temporary use hereby permitted is not appropriate for a permanent permission because of the location of the site within the countryside and on the edge of the Dedham Vale AONB".

There is a restriction that no retail sales shall be carried out from the unit at any time. The reason given is "to protect the amenities of the surrounding area and to comply with the Council's retail policies". (This must surely mitigate against approval of any retail element associated with a future Horkesley Park Application).

Mobile homes for Permanent Accommodation:

Application number 071086 was registered on August 2007 for permission to use three mobile homes on the site for the permanent accommodation of agricultural/estate workers. As we said in our last letter, we have written to the Colchester Borough Council objecting strongly to this proposal on the basis that the Site is not designated for residential use of any kind in the Colchester Borough Plan and that to grant permission would create a very dangerous precedent. We have made the point that Buntings have other properties adjacent to the site which could be used for accommodation of staff if they so wished. This Application has yet to come before the Planning Committee and no date has been set.

2 Status on Horkesley Park proposal:

We now understand that the major proposal for the Horkesley Park Heritage and Conservation Centre will not now be re-submitted before the New Year. We have no details of this at present but indications are that Buntings are still talking of 500,000 visitors a year and a £20m investment. It is not clear why the major publicity campaign launched by Buntings last Spring and Summer has not so far resulted in an Application this year.

The only certainty is that we will be ready for the new Application when it comes and will keep you fully informed.

Once again, I hope this brings you up to date with recent activities. As we approach the seventh anniversary of the first Application for the John Constable Countryside and Heritage Centre, our resolve to prevent any inappropriate exploitation of the London Road site is as strong and steadfast as ever.

Thank you for your continued support.

Will Pavry
Chairman, Stour Valley Action Group