



Stour Valley Action Group

www.stourvalleyactiongroup.org.uk

Newsletter



17th July 2014

Dear Supporter,

The Way Forward For SVAG

SVAG met on July 3rd to discuss, amongst other things, the way forward. Despite excellent tennis on television from Wimbledon, approximately 100 of you attended. Following that meeting, I have now taken over from Will Pavry as Chairman of SVAG.

Will has already written to you outlining the agenda and the nature of the discussion that took place. I would like to add a note about Will. Thirteen years is a very, very long time to be heading a campaign, not just for Will but for his whole family. Will did an outstanding job, maintaining a calm, methodical approach throughout. He worked his way through endless lengthy documents, picking out their critical points or inconsistencies and setting them against government legislation so we didn't have to do this ourselves. With phone calls throughout the day, and the many meetings with planners, lawyers and environmental experts, his retirement was taken over by the demands of his role at the head of SVAG. Apart from anything else, his tireless work enabled SVAG to keep a step ahead of every new move the appellant made. Will feels very uncomfortable with praise so I will stop here: thank you so much Will & Angie.

The role for SVAG in the community hasn't ended with the demise of the Buntings' applications. We still have a job to do while the future of the London Road site is determined.

I don't wish to sound a negative note but feel it is worth highlighting that the next chapter for SVAG will be rather different: we are no longer united in opposition to an application that threaten to overwhelm the area. Houses might prove a more divisive issue.

As I am sure most of you know, Pigeon, or their development arm, W & H Park, hope to build up to ten high-end homes on the site of the existing greenhouses. Some people will be appalled by this; others will see it as the least worst option.

Along with the excellent SVAG committee, I intend to monitor developments and to keep you up-to-date with information as it emerges. If you have concerns which you would like to discuss, please get in touch.

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Chairman of SVAG

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