



# Stour Valley Action Group

[www.stourvalleyactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.stourvalleyactiongroup.org.uk)

## Newsletter



22nd April 2014

### Horkesley Park Appeal Result

By now most of you will be aware that the Appeal by Buntings for Horkesley Park has been refused by the Secretary of State in his letter of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014. In this letter he supports the recommendation of the Inspector following the Public Inquiry in October 2013. The Inspector's recommendation is given in an extensive document dated February 12<sup>th</sup> 2014. In summary, the reasons for refusal are:

- i) The site is unsustainable and would be reliant on private cars for the vast majority of visitors. This could not be off-set by the provision of additional public transport. It is contrary to local policy in this crucial respect
- ii) The change of use of the land, the addition of the Chinese Garden, the enclosure of the parking area and the loss of tranquility would adversely affect the special landscape character and qualities of the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley AONB. In several places the documents make it clear that the Application does not meet the criteria of the key Colchester Development Plan Policy DP22 which gives very specific protection to the AONB.
- iii) The Chinese Garden would be an inappropriate addition and would inevitably harm the significance of the Grade II listed Chantry and its setting. It would be inconsistent with Local Policy in this respect.

We are of course delighted with the outcome of the Appeal and must thank all our members and the other organisations including the Dedham Vale Society, the Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society, the Colne Stour Countryside Association, the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project, CPRE Essex, Suffolk Preservation Society, Little Horkesley Parish Council, Nayland Parish Council and many others for their unstinting support over the thirteen years of this and previous Planning Applications for the site.

Buntings have the right to challenge the decision of the Secretary of State in the High Court within six weeks of the decision and it remains to be seen whether or not they will exercise this right.

Let us hope we can now put Horkesley Park behind us.

Will Pavry Chairman,  
Stour Valley Action Group