



# Stour Valley Action Group

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

## Newsletter



8 July 2014

Dear Supporter,

### Meeting, 3rd July 2014

A meeting of the Stour Valley Action Group was held in Little Horkesley Village Hall on July 3rd 2014. It was attended by approximately 100 people.

#### 1. Recent History:

Will Pavry opened the meeting by reviewing some of the key points of the most recent Planning Application from Bunting and Sons which had finally culminated in the letter of rejection by the Secretary of State on April 16th 2014. He said that this had been summarized in the Newsletter of April 22nd 2014 which is on the web site. He thanked the membership for their support at the Public Inquiry and for the magnificent turnout at the Council Hearing on February 28th 2013 which had been crucial in persuading the Planning Committee to vote against the Application, thereby triggering the Appeal. Many people and organisations had contributed to the positive outcome of the Appeal and he thanked Dedham Vale Society, the Colne Stour Countryside Association, Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society, CPRE Essex, Little Horkesley Parish Council, Bernard Jenkin MP, Tim Yeo MP, Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project amongst others for their major inputs to the Public Inquiry. He also thanked the membership for their major financial support throughout the various campaigns which had been necessary to obtain the level of professional support required. He also said that Simon Taylor had been very helpful in persuading English Heritage to give the Chantry a Grade II listing at the eleventh hour and that Georgina Harding had worked very closely with the CBC in providing nationally-renowned academics to give Expert Opinions on the Chinese Garden and Constable Gallery aspects of the Application

He concluded by saying that SVAG has been successful over the 13 years of its existence in leading public opinion in the defeat of five separate applications for the London Road site in Great Horkesley.

#### 2. W&H Park Ltd:

Kate Charlton-Jones reported on the developments since the acquisition of the Bunting assets by W&H Park Limited, a subsidiary of Pigeon Investments. She reported that she had attended two meetings with them and that they seemed very eager to consult with the local community before finalizing their proposals for the site. She said that they wanted to drop the name "Horkesley Park" as this properly belonged to Littlegarth School. Their preferred option was for a limited number of high quality houses within the confines of the greenhouses and that this would include a common area around the Church. W&H Park recognized that this was outside the provisions of the Local Plan and that it would be a Departure Application. There would be a further meeting of all interested groups, chaired by Little Horkesley Parish Council. This would probably happen in September and before any submission of plans to Colchester Borough Council.

In discussion following this presentation, Steve Clarke, Chairman of Little Horkesley Parish Council, said that the intention was to try to get covenants on any proposed building to prevent further exploitation by others in the future and also to get a possible 'right to buy' on the agricultural and woodland areas with the concept of these going into common ownership.

### **3. The way forward for SVAG:**

Will Pavry said the Committee had met on May 18th 2014 to consider the way forward for SVAG. They had reviewed the original Terms of Reference dated 12th June 2001 which specifically limit the activities of SVAG to the London Road Site, formerly owned by Bunting and Sons. They considered it would be very difficult therefore to widen the remit of SVAG to become a more general Lobby Group whatever the title *Stour Valley Action Group* might imply. They also considered that wider representation was well catered for by the other organizations listed in para 1 above. The recommendation from the Committee was that SVAG had a continuing important role to play until such time as the fate of the London Road site was determined. This was accepted by the membership at the meeting.

### **4. Election of Officers:**

Will Pavry said that it was not his intention to offer himself for re-election as Chairman having held this role for over 13 years. He said that he had received various nominations for Kate Charlton-Jones to stand as Chairman. The nomination chosen was from Chas Bazely, seconded by Fred Grosch. Kate Charlton-Jones was duly elected as Chairman overwhelmingly by a show of hands at the meeting.

Will Pavry said that he had not received any nominations for other posts but that Simon Oats had offered himself for re-election as Vice Chairman, Carolynn Pissarro as Treasurer, Katie Romer-Lee as Membership Secretary, Andora Carver, Chas Bazely, Patty Ramsay, Alison Shaw, Georgina Harding, Mike Hunter, Mark Rogers, Fred Grosch and Vicky Minet all as members of the Committee. This group was elected by a show of hands at the meeting.

Kate Charlton-Jones thanked Will Pavry at some length for his tireless work as Chairman and also Angie Pavry for supporting him throughout.

### **5. Any other business:**

Fred Grosch asked that particular thanks should be given to Lorraine Brooks for managing the SVAG web site so professionally. He also asked that Robin Duthy and James Maturin-Baird, both of whom have died recently, should be remembered for their major contributions to SVAG.

***Kate Charlton-Jones, Will Pavry***

Chairman and ex-Chairman, Stour Valley Action Group

July 8<sup>th</sup> 2014