

APPENDIX TP/SVAG1.2

STOUR VALLEY ACTION GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. PURPOSE

The Stour Valley Action Group (SVAG) has been formed to bring together and co-ordinate the opposition to the proposed development at the former Bunting nurseries ("the Site") as a John Constable Countryside and Heritage Centre. The Planning Application for this proposed development was submitted to the Colchester Borough Council in April 2001 and SVAG believes that it would have a substantial and adverse impact on all those who live in the surrounding villages. The proposed development would create a substantial retail complex on the very edge of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and SVAG believes that it would be entirely inappropriate for many reasons and should be opposed vigorously.

SVAG will also monitor any further proposed development of the site.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of SVAG is open to all those living in any of the villages that would be affected by the proposed Heritage Centre. Villages immediately affected are Great and Little Horkesley, Nayland and Boxted, but the affects of the centre will concern those who live in Langham, Leavenheath, Stoke-by-Nayland, Higham, Wissington, Wormingford, West Bergholt, Eight Ash Green and other surrounding villages. Anyone who is in opposition to the Planning Application is welcome to join.

3. AIMS

The aims of the SVAG are as follows:

- To expose to full public scrutiny the Planning Application for the John Constable Countryside and Heritage Park, and any variation to such application for development of the Site.
- To liaise with those organisations whose prime objectives are the maintenance and improvement of the Countryside – English Heritage, Conservation Societies, CPRE, etc.
- To lobby at Parish, Borough, County and, where appropriate, National level on issues raised by the proposed development of the site and any variation or revision or resubmission.

- To liaise with professional advisers, Planning Specialists, Lawyers etc to obtain the best possible guidance in orchestrating a rational review of the above Planning Applications.
- To raise the necessary funds to support the above activities.
- To keep its members informed of its actions
- To consult with its members in respect of its recommendations regarding any new proposed developments

4. CONSTITUTION

Officers

Chairman	Responsible for co-ordinating all activities of SVAG including Policy and Strategy direction.
Treasurer/Vice-Chairman	Responsible for supporting the Chairman and acting in his absence, maintenance of proper accounting procedures and control of funds.
Secretary	Responsible for administration of SVAG and keeping minutes of meetings.
Membership Secretary	Responsible for maintaining a schedule of all members and for membership liaison.
Planning Co-ordinator	Responsible for the management of the interface between SVAG and professional advisors appointed from time to time.

The work of SVAG will be carried out by a series of sub-committees as may be required by the officers.

Sub-committees will cover:

- Media and Communications
- Lobbying
- Liaison with professional advisors
- Fund-raising and financial reporting

Sub committees may appoint associate members as and when necessary for particular activities.

Officers will be appointed by majority vote at the inaugural meeting of SVAG to be held on June 14th, 2001. Thereafter they will remain in office (Term of Office) for a period of eighteen months or final decision on the Planning Application or any variation or re-submission of such application, whichever is the sooner. Should the Planning Application go beyond eighteen months, the Officers will stand for re-election for a successive Term of Office running from the date of re-election, and so on at the end of each Term of Office.

Officers and members of any sub-committees appointed by the Officers must support the Purpose and Aims of SVAG.

Members

Members of SVAG are those individuals or groups of individuals who have registered their interest in SVAG.

5. COMMUNICATION

SVAG will keep members informed of significant developments in the Planning Application through regular Newsletters. It will also call periodic meetings open to all members and others in sympathy with the aims of SVAG as issues arise that require wider discussion.

SVAG welcomes views at any time concerning the Planning Application or any variation or re-submission thereof. These will be acknowledged and dealt with by the appropriate sub-committee.

18.02.02
revised 09.10.03