

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet

Residents Association

INTERIM COMMITTEE - TO FIGHT THE PLANS TO

BUILD ON BOWERS GIFFORD & NORTH BENFLEET GREEN BELT

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE

at the BENBOW CLUB on 8th AUGUST 2012

The Chair opened the meeting at 19.00.

Attendees

Rose Griffin (RG) Acting Chair; Gary Lee (GL); Tina Whitham (TW); Tracy Calver (TC) Acting Treasurer; Doreen Glibbery (DG); Barry Groves (BG); Pam Groves (PG); Derek Twidell (DT).

Apologies were received from George Smith (GS), Caroline Sanderson (CS) Acting Secretary and Eileen Davies (ED).

DT acted as minutes secretary

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st August were read and accepted.

Matters arising from the last minutes

TC agreed that she would be the contact with the Woodland Trust.

RG had yet to contact Rochford with regards to how they found funding to fight building on green belt

Election of formal committee – process

As there were a number of other attendees, the current committee introduced themselves to the floor. RG explained that this was an interim committee set up to 'get the ball rolling' and there will be a requirement for a formal committee election process. For the time being, we will call ourselves 'The Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet Residents Association'. A date of 21st September was set for nominations to be accepted, with a General Meeting on 3rd October for the elections.

DG, as a resident from Pitsea, had been co-opted on to the group as the Resident's Association draft constitution applied to residents within this parish only. Several people from Pitsea had made contact with the Association but because of the election process it would not be possible to include

them in this group. Therefore, RG would contact Bowers & Pitsea Football Club, Royal British Legion and the conservative club to ascertain whether they could be catalysts for such groups. However, DG would remain on the group until the formal committee was elected.

Strategy

- a) GL explained the setting up of the petition, 500 hundred signatures were given during the 2 day consultation and to date a further 400 signatures had been given. Volunteers would be requested to take the petition round to various roads that surrounded their homes, in order to maximise the number of names that we could obtain.
- b) RG said that as well as the petition, Stephen Metcalfe MP had emphasised the need to send him as many 'personal' letters as possible, as he felt that these would carry far more weight than a 'mass' list of names. A resident (from the floor) stated that he had had a response to his email to Mr. Metcalfe within 48 hours stating that *"he found it was and is wholly inappropriate for a another local authority to speculatively acquire land in someone else's area and then try and profit from it"*. He also requested that letters sent to him be copied to local councillors
- c) The Echo, Recorder and Essex Enquirer all had the facility for 'blogging' on their web sites, and people were asked to visit these and make as many comments as possible.
- d) RG mentioned her letter written to the Nottingham CC Pension Fund, and read out their response. She also read out a letter she wished to send to the Audit Commission, and the committee gave their approval for this to be sent.

Website

GL reported that he would be in touch with his contact very shortly.

Any Other Business

To obtain a slightly wider view, RG read out an e-mail from a Pitsea resident regarding what she thought the effect more housing would have on the already overcrowded London to Southend trains, and the potential chaos at Pitsea railway station.

Several residents (from the floor) expressed concern regarding the Meridian questionnaire which was designed in such a way that any responses could be manipulated by the consultant to be positive.

Several residents asked about claims in the paper that a further 2200 homes were to be built on Bowers Gifford green belt. Laura Reeves said that she had done some research into this and that she believed these plans, which had so far not been approved, related to Benfleet Hall Farm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.20.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 22nd August at 7.00 pm.