

7 December 2013

Dear All

I am aware that a little time has passed since our meeting in the pub re: the Gypsy Appeal, but please rest assured there are a number of things going on behind the scenes.

Herewith a quick update on progress so far...

1. We are now a **confirmed Rule 6 Party** with the Planning Inspectorate – our working group name for the purposes of the appeal correspondence is '**Landowners and Forest Green Road Residents Group**'. The Rule 6 gives us equal status at the Inquiry to RBWM.. We have already been vindicated in our approach, as recent correspondence with the authority has highlighted that they are unclear what to do with this Inquiry...
2. The **Public Inquiry date** is confirmed as the **1st April** and has been programmed to sit for **3 days** – We will need to turn up in force to show the weight of local opposition so **please do pencil the 1st – 3rd April into your diaries**... If you can attend all three days fantastic, but even one day will help..
3. **Jim Tazey from Pegasus planning** is acting planning consultant for us (Richard Bellman is the direct point of contact for Jim, but if you have any planning related/ appeal questions please do put them back to me and I will liaise with Richard for responses). Jim will be getting on with lodging all the appropriate paper work and the case for the residents as well as briefing our QC.
4. **Mr Hugh Richards is confirmed as our QC** for the Inquiry and will represent us (all contact with Mr Richards will be made through Jim Tazey - Pegasus). This is fantastic news as he has an extremely successful track record and is regarded at the top of his game with these types of appeals...
5. A final offer for the site may still be held with the Gypsies in early January.. We will see if this comes to anything..

Now turning to the issue of funding...

Quotes are now in for the planning agent and the QC and it looks like the appeal is likely to cost somewhere in the region of **£30K**. – We are sorting out arrangements for how the **fighting fund – working title 'Protecting the Holyport Greenbelt'** will be held and managed, and how much the local community groups can contribute towards covering the costs.

As soon as the system is in place (likely to be early January/ Feb) I will be in touch with the details of how to contribute to the fund if you are able. Please remember this will affect our property prices if we do not put forward our best case so please do give as generously as you can!!!

You may also have some ideas for possible fund raising events to help boost the fund... Any ideas, volunteers please let me know...

For now, any questions queries or general points of clarity on any of the above, please feel free to email, or if your passing knock on my door..

Kind regards

Anna Parsons

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