



Open Space

*An occasional newsletter of the
Aldborough Hatch Defence Association*
Issue 18 – March 2007

Public Exhibition at Aldborough Hall Farm

Residents will know that the sand and gravel extraction at Aldborough Hall Farm – which commenced some four years ago – will soon be coming to an end. The original planning application required Lefarge Aggregates, the developers, to restore the land on completion of the extraction so that it was fit for agricultural use. Now a new planning application is being considered where part of the land would be a leisure conservation area.

Aldborough Hall Farm is in Aldborough Road North and the land being excavated backs onto the gardens of houses in Applegarth Drive and Bawdsey Avenue, and extends up to Painters Road.

In mid-February the Aldborough Hatch Defence Association learned that a planning application for change of use for Aldborough Hall Farm from agricultural to agricultural and leisure had been submitted by Lefarge Aggregates to Redbridge Council. The application was listed to be heard by the Council's Regulatory Committee on 28th February. It became clear that only a handful of residents in Aldborough Hatch were aware of this planning application and that residents in Applegarth Drive and Bawdsey Avenue had not been advised of this.

The Association made representations to the Council's Planning Department and to Ward Councillors for the planning application to be removed from the agenda for the Regulatory Committee on 28th February. We were advised that the planning application had been advertised in the *Redbridge Yellow Advertiser* (which is not delivered in all parts of Aldborough Hatch!) and through a notice posted at the entrance to the gravel pits in

You are invited to a Public Exhibition and Consultation

on the future of

Aldborough Hall Farm

Friday 16th March – 6pm to 9pm

Saturday 17th March – 9.30am to 12noon

The Tea Thyme Tea Rooms

at Aldborough Hall Farm,

Aldborough Road North

*Please do not miss this opportunity to find out what
the future holds for this valuable community asset and
open space*

Everyone welcome to attend

Painters Road (down which few people walk in mid-winter!). Letters were not sent to residents in Applegarth Drive and Bawdsey Avenue, and the Council apologised for this oversight.

Suffice to say that the planning application was withdrawn from the agenda of the Regulatory Committee on 28th February. We have been assured that letters will be sent by the Council to residents whose gardens back onto the farm. This will advise residents where they may view the planning application and how to make representations to the Regulatory Committee.

It was the view of the Association that this development is so important that it warranted a public exhibition and consultation locally so that residents could see for themselves exactly what is proposed and have the chance to discuss the plans with the developers. We are pleased to announce that Lefarge Aggregates have agreed to stage an exhibition and consultation on 16th and 17th March – details are above.

We understand that it is proposed that part of the land will revert to agricultural use, possibly an acre or so near the farm and the area where excavation has not taken place abutting onto the gardens in Applegarth Drive and Bawdsey Avenue. The metal fence will be retained as a security measure, but trees and a hedgerow will be planted to screen the fence from the gardens. The remainder of the land will be a leisure conservation area for bird and wildlife, with meadows, ponds and woodland.

It is no surprise that the land is not to revert to agricultural use only as farming is often not a viable option in the present economic climate. There will be few residents – if any – who would object to the proposal to develop the area for leisure conservation, although some may have reservations about specific aspects of the planning application – and the consultation will provide the opportunity for these to be aired and discussed.

*Please come to the exhibition and encourage your
friends and neighbours to do so, too.*

Aldborough Hatch Defence Association

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