

Open Space

*An occasional newsletter of the
Aldborough Hatch Defence Association
Issue 34 – October 2016*

No news on planning application to extract sand and gravel near church and homes!

The planning application (2089/16) to extract sand and gravel on Aldborough Hatch and Hainault Farms was deposited with Redbridge Council in May – but we have no idea if and when it will be heard by the Council's Regulatory Committee. The area of Aldborough Hatch Farm to be excavated is bordered by St. Peter's Church and Close, Oaks Lane, the Central Line, Fairlop Waters and Aldborough Road North. At Hainault Farm, the area will be close to residential properties.

To date over 160 objections have been posted. We will update residents on the main objections at the Annual General Meeting on Friday 28th October. If the application is listed for hearing at the next Regulatory Committee Meeting on Thursday 3rd November we will put posters up around the Hatch.

Aldborough Hatch Defence Association Annual General Meeting

Friday 28th October at 8pm
St Peter's Church Halls
Aldborough Road North

All are very welcome to attend

*The latest information on gravel and the
green belt will be given at the meeting.*

Towards a more effective defence of Aldborough Hatch

At the AGM this month we will be tabling a proposal to make the Association more effective by replacing the Committee with an Executive comprising named roles to share the heavy workload.

Residents will be aware that the work of the AHDA has increased considerably over recent years. Much of this requires reactive action and cannot wait for a meeting of the Committee to be convened. To explain what I mean, here is a brief summary of some (but not all!) of the issues in which we are involved currently:

***Fly-tipping** takes place most weeks – Council Officers need alerting;

***Bridleways** - there are occasional issues with hedge cutting, clearance of the footway and puddles;

***Aldborough Hall Farm:** this is long overdue for completion of restoration (due by the end of this year); the opening of the new Bridleway was seriously delayed and problems remain;

***Bollards on the footpath from St. Peter's to the Equestrian Centre:** when these are damaged by cars and lorries (which is often) unless we report to Council Officers, nothing would be done; we monitor to ensure that repairs are carried out;

***Hedge cutting:** reference to Council Officers is needed from time to time to have hedges cut back – the footpath from St. Peter's is used regularly by adults, young people and students from the William Torbitt Primary School to access the Dick Turpin, the Equestrian Centre and Fairlop Waters;

***Pavements:** reporting accidents and uneven pavements and requesting repairs; calling for spraying to kill weeds and shrubs growing on pavements;

*When work is taking place on gravel extraction areas, reporting **mud on the roads**;

*The need for **step-free access at Newbury Park station** is an ongoing issue;

***Monitoring planning applications** by residents and ensuring that conditions approved by the Council are adhered to;

***Ragwort** – an invasive weed that is dangerous to horses is spreading over the farm and grass land in the Hatch. We are holding the Council to account as landowners to eradicate ragwort as they are required to do by law;

***Council Officers** do not have the resources to monitor many of the issues listed above.

These are day-to-day goings on, which are regularly taken forward by Vanessa Cole, Chis Gannaway, Nicholas Smith, myself and others. In a perfect world the Council would have staff out monitoring many of

these matters – but unless the AHDA reports these things, nothing would happen! Some of our reporting is direct to Council Officers, whilst other issues are taken up with Ward Councillors, who then take these forward on our behalf; the AHDA is often the “eyes and ears” of Ward Councillors and their support is much appreciated. There would be no reason to call a committee meeting to deal with any of these, but in addition there are now three major projects:

Planning application to extract sand and gravel on Aldborough Hatch Farm: this needs daily monitoring to keep in touch with objections and responses to those objections. To date there are over 160 objections posted. Media coverage has to be arranged – both articles and letters with photo-calls, preparations made to speak at Council meetings and liaison with Councillors.

Cuckoo Hall and Dick Turpin Orchard – The Orchard Project are now working with the AHDA in restoring the orchard at Cuckoo Hall and the orchard trees in the grounds of the Dick Turpin. The work, started in July, is the culmination of some three years of working with the Council and Miller & Carter. There is much hard physical work to be done, together with coordinating with Councillors, Council Officers, the Dick Turpin, the Orchard Project and AHDA members. Chris Gannaway is lead in this.

Redbridge Local Plan 2015-2030 – the green belt under threat: the Plan is out for consultation and the AHDA has worked with the Save Oakfield Society (SOS) and the Seven Kings & Newbury Park Residents’ Association (SK&NPRA), researching our opposition to intrusion onto the green belt for building some 18,000 homes – at Oakfield, Ford Sports Ground, Seven Kings Park, Billet Road, King George and Goodmayes Hospitals. This major piece of work is led by Chris Gannaway, whose wildlife expertise is much valued, and Nicholas Smith. The AHDA is specifically fighting 1,100 homes at Billet Road where traffic congestion is a nightmare!

Looking to the future

It is my view that a revitalised AHDA would best be served with a smaller working executive, rather than a large committee, comprising members who would be prepared to take on the following roles in an active capacity, which could be revised at each AGM and during the year as projects and issues change:

Chairman – as coordinator

Vice-Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

Membership Secretary – to encourage new members and to put the AHDA on a firm financial footing to enable the Association to improve the local environment (provision of more litter and dog bins, more regular issues of OPEN SPACE, for example). We do not have enough cash in the bank to pay for this issue of OPEN SPACE and we are grateful for



(Above) The entrance to the Orchard at Cuckoo Hall after masses of undergrowth was cleared.

the donation received to enable this to happen.

Sand and Gravel Lead

Green Belt Champion

Cuckoo Hall Orchard Project Lead

Planning applications monitor – to monitor new planning applications and approved applications to ensure that conditions are being adhered to (they were not when gravel was extracted on Aldborough Hall Farm but this only came to light in the recent Brett Tarmac Exhibitions – for Council Officers do not monitor approved planning applications to ensure that conditions are met!).

Some roles on the executive would double up, for example, the Vice-Chairman is currently one of the Green Belt Champions, whilst the Chairman leads on Sand and Gravel. We would co-opt during the year when there is the need for additional executive members for specific projects which arise and hold public meetings where necessary.

I believe I would be failing in my duty as Chairman to allow the AHDA to continue in its present format. I have indicated in the recent past that I would wish to relinquish the role of Chairman at some stage and it would be easier to do so if an active, working executive was in place to give my successor the necessary support. I am approaching my 84th birthday and circumstances could arise at any time whereby I would have to hand over the role. I am not in my dotage yet (well, I do not think so!) but we need to be prepared and ready. Please attend the AGM – I look forward to having your support for these proposals.

Ron Jeffries, Chairman

Aldborough Hatch Defence Association

The AHDA Website is at www.theAHDA.org.uk with background information, up-to-date news on the progress of the ‘Enough is Enough’ campaign, and a link to the full gravel planning application.

Also follow us on **TWITTER (@the_AHDA)**.

For further information on any of the items in this issue please contact Ron Jeffries, Chairman,

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