

ELLENBROOK UPDATE

September 2015

Message from the Committee

This is our first newsletter since the Local Plan consultation and we can only say how delighted we were by the response to the consultation. The result can be seen on the Council website but to sum up:

- There were 173 individual submissions on Hat4
- There were 171 individual submissions on Hat5
- The petition had over 500 signatures.

We would like to thank

- The individuals who organised and carried out the door to door visits – giving up their valuable time and braving the weather
- All of you who took the time to let the Council know your views

Most responses seem to be against the development of the Green Belt in the area. But whatever the views, the most important thing was that we have shown the Council that individuals in this area do care and that there is a community worth listening to. An update on the Plan is in this letter.

You will have noticed that this letter is in a different format from the past. We are hoping to build on the goodwill generated from the Local Plan campaign to become more active than has been possible in the past. We would like the newsletter and website to be able to provide news of events and services in the area as well as the local news. We would appreciate any feedback on this, and also hear from anyone who would like to advertise in future newsletters. Also if you have any news to include, please contact us.

We have an exciting Autumn ahead of us with the Alban Way celebrations- hopefully this will be a chance for our community to bond, without it being in response to threats on the area! Look forward to seeing many of you on October 18th!

About Us We are a group of local residents who aim to keep residents in our area informed of developments and help to make our area's voice heard. We have no political affiliation.

Our Chairman is Doug Tibbles.

The Alban Way - 150 years old

On **18th October from 10am** there will be a celebration on the Ellenbrook Lane playground/field area next to the Alban Way to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway line.

You will find an invitation with this letter.

We would like to keep down costs by delivering future letters where possible by email. If we don't have your email address, please email info@ellenbrookresidents.co.uk

Help! We managed to rustle up help for the Local Plan campaign but still need volunteers, particularly a **treasurer**. You do not need to be an accountant, but able to look after the bank account for just a few transactions a year and prepare a simple summary of income and expenses. Also if you are interested in getting involved and can spare time to help generally, please let us know.

Campaigns We would like to look at other issues which we can work on. We want your help and ideas to improve our community. Some ideas are

- A 20mph zone
- A community defibrillator
- A "blooming Ellenbrook" next summer

What do you think? Is there something you would like to work on and get involved in? Let us know

info@ellenbrookresidents.co.uk

The Local Plan

Following the Public Consultation earlier in the year several developers put forward additional sites for possible redevelopment. Some of the smaller sites are: a field at Mill Green - up to 25 homes; Hatfield fire station - up to 52 homes; The Morgan Smith electrical site opposite the Wrestlers Pub- up to 17 homes; Part of the Onslow School site - up to 71 homes; The Citroen garage in the Old Town - up to 53 homes. However, the real shock is the proposal for Symondshyde Village along Hammonds Lane to the north west of Hatfield Garden Village up to **1100 homes**. Gascoyne Cecil have also put forward very detailed plans for Hat4 and Hat5, the fields along Ellenbrook Lane & Wilkins Green Lane.

The timetable for the review of all the responses and new sites is as follows:

Summer/Winter 2015 Review responses to consultation, and further technical work/revise Policies.

Early 2016 Consultation on Final draft.

Spring/Summer 2016 Review responses to consultation and submit for examination.

Autumn 2016 Examination in Public.

Winter 2016/2017 Examination of Inspectors report and Adoption.

So we still have some way to go...

Other News...

THE INCINERATOR – A RESULT! Veolia are not challenging the decision against the incinerator and so the Hatfield community has won a major victory – the incinerator will not go ahead.

TOWN CENTRE Residents may well be aware that Peacocks, the clothing retailer has taken 7000sq. ft. of space in White Lion Square opposite the Halifax Bank. This will add another store to their portfolio of 400 existing stores throughout the Country.

Planning consent has been granted for the refurbishment of White Lion House and the shop fronts and first floor facades on White Lion Square. It is planned to be completed in 2016 and perhaps Peacocks arrival will make it happen. The market has been moved to the "High Street" for a trial period to see if this increases footfall and "improves the shopping experience".

OLDINGS CORNER Following hot on the heels of the Borough Council's refusal to allow part of the Homebase store at Oldings corner to be modified to incorporate a Marks and Spencer Simply Food, Home Retail Group has applied to have an Argos 'insert' store there. These are much smaller than High Street stores only stocking 2,000 of the most popular lines, the rest being available on a click and collect basis. There are already 80 such inserts in Homebase stores. Interestingly both M & S and Argos stated that there were no units big enough in the Town Centre to accommodate the store size that they would wish to put there.

HOSPITAL Plans are before the Council for a £40 million Private Hospital on the Business Park, to be built adjacent to the Porsche Garage. As with all things Business Park the parking allowance is underestimated we believe.

COMET ROUNDABOUT One of our Committee members has made it her personal 'goal' to get this roundabout tidied and be a credit to the town, it is a main entrance after all. The green planters costing £1600 are to be removed unused because of the difficulty not foreseen in maintaining/watering them. Pity they did not think of that before spending our money!

COMET HOTEL Owners of The Comet Hotel are submitting plans to refurbish the original hotel building and add accommodation for possibly 350 students on the site. We will update you when there is more detailed information.