

New year, new plans for Thakeham Village?



Looking down into Thakeham

Mushroom Sites Update

We are expecting Monaghan Mushrooms to either submit new planning applications or make significant amendments to the existing ones soon. You will remember that the two linked applications concern the building of approximately 146 houses in Thakeham, mainly on greenfield sites, which will supposedly help finance modernisation of the mushroom business.

Please take time to consider how this proposal might impact Thakeham. In its decision on the original applications Horsham District Council (HDC) had admitted that the housing development went against their own policies and plans with regard to sustainable development, but argued that this was a special case. Do you agree? Be ready to write to make your views known.

Save Our Sussex Alliance

Thakeham Village Action has joined the new Save Our Sussex Alliance (SOSA) which supports a number of action groups in the area. Backed by the West Sussex County Times, SOSA is questioning the amount and type of housing development throughout our area.

The Alliance is not against house building in general, but is asking why more affordable homes are not being built for local people and why greenfield sites are being mowed down when there are many brownfield sites still available. At the moment of writing, members include:

Thakeham Village Action
Henfield's Own Preservation Society
Don't Over Develop Durrington
Sussex Area Ramblers Association
Campaign to Protect Rural Pulborough Village
Worthing Downlanders
Keep Southwater Green
The Ifield Society
Save Our Storrington
West Chiltington Rural Preservation Society
Action for Access



*What poor design leads to...
 An example of a housing development*

The growing number of SOSA members shows how much pressure is being put on the South East generally for house building. SOSA will be discussing the review of Horsham's Core Strategy, due to start in January 2012.

As part of this review new housing sites could be proposed including sites in Thakeham previously put forward, such as land between Water Lane and Storrington Road and at Rushfield Nursery in High Bar Lane. TVA will be responding to the consultation and will ask residents to make their views known if large sites in our area are proposed for development.

If you would like to know more, please access SOSA's website : <http://www.saveoursussex.com>

Laybrook – WSCC delays its Waste Plan again

The good news that landfill for Laybrook was off the list of possible waste sites came in May 2011. West Sussex County Council declared that its intention was that "no new landfill sites will be allocated" in its Waste Plan. TVA's campaign for 'No new landfill at Laybrook or anywhere' had been a success. However, in October 2011 WSCC said the new plan would be delayed. This means that we cannot verify that the council will deliver on its promise. Once details of the consultation are released, residents are urged to write to WSCC to make sure its declaration turns into reality and any suggestion of Laybrook becoming a landfill site is finally quashed.

What's up with our agricultural fields?

You may have noticed work taking place on land south of Jackets Hill. The owner of this land made a planning application (DC/11/1992) for equestrian use, originally claiming to locate Pulborough Equestrian Centre to this site. Some of the work already undertaken has apparently been without planning permission and therefore subject to enforcement action. TVA has argued that both the nature of the development and the level of activity which would result from a fairly large equestrian centre would harm the quiet farmland character of the area.

Moving further north, the land between Dukes Hill and Cray's Lane has been divided into small plots which are now being used for a variety of purposes, including hobby farming. Owing to concerns expressed by several residents as well as TVA, the Parish Council has now decided to ask an Officer from HDC to speak to a Council meeting on what are acceptable agricultural uses in planning law. This is expected to take place at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 16 January, open as usual to all residents.

Fundraising Event

Thakeham Village Action is planning another great get-together for everyone in the village. Look out for details in future editions!

Thakeham Village Action Annual General Meeting

TVA's AGM will take place at 8pm on Thursday 26 January 2012 in the Village Hall. All members welcome!

Join or renew your membership

It's that time of year again! Renew your membership of TVA for the fantastically low fee of £5 per household! If you are not yet a member, please join us in our fight to stop inappropriate development in our beautiful rural village and its surroundings. Use the subscription slip below and send to Mark Keenan or bring to the AGM.

Thakeham Village Action - Membership Subscription

I enclose a cheque (payable to **TVA**) or cash for £5. I include a donation of £_____

Name & Address _____

_____ Telephone No. _____ No. in Family _____

Send to:

Mark Keenan, Copper Beeches, The Street, Thakeham, RH20 3EP
(1st house on left immediately after the school)

If you wish to help you can email thakehamva@yahoo.co.uk

I would like to receive information from TVA by e-mail. My address is _____