

Thakeham's Mushroom Sites - Latest

Abingworth Nursery: Judgment awaited

As we have previously announced, Thakeham Village Action (TVA) challenged Horsham District Council's (HDC's) decision to grant planning for a large housing estate at Abingworth Nursery. At the beginning of November, The Hon Mr Justice Lindblom heard the arguments from all sides. Much of the time was spent discussing whether the permission met the terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment regulations. Other significant issues were also explored, such as whether it was lawful to build houses in an inappropriate location to generate money to subsidise a separate company's investment. At the end of the hearing, the Judge said that he needed time to consider the arguments made, but that he would hand down his judgement as soon as he was able to. Whatever the Judge decides, it is important to remember that Monaghan Mushrooms is a large and successful mushroom growing company which has the capability to make the improvements required to continue at Thakeham.



Abingworth Nursery - For Storage and Distribution?

Abingworth Developments have made a new application for Abingworth Nursery. Whilst we do not know the reasons for this, it is a significant application as they have applied for 'B8 storage and distribution use' on the 3.86 ha (38,600 sq m) area of hardstanding and buildings. B8 use allows storage in the open as well as within buildings. Some of the existing buildings would be demolished but their hardstanding would remain. This would change the use of the land from 'agricultural' as it is now to 'brownfield' (previously developed). No potential occupier is mentioned, so the area could be used for any acceptable storage and distribution purposes and involve as many truck and goods vehicle movements as required. Looking further ahead, planning permission for housing estates is much easier to obtain for brownfield as opposed to agricultural land. Whilst TVA supports local rural businesses in keeping with the area, the application that has been submitted to HDC has very little detail and it is important to find out exactly what the applicants' intentions are before it being decided upon. If you wish to comment go to <http://public-access.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/>, using the reference number DC/13/2176; or email planning@horsham.gov.uk.

Neighbourhood Plan and meeting on Thursday 30th January

Thakeham Parish Council (TPC) is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish, as you will have seen from their latest bulletin. The Council are asking for volunteers to prepare questionnaires, run focus groups and perform other tasks to develop the plan which is "absolutely key to the control of future development within the Parish" (John Weight, Chairman of TPC). The Neighbourhood Plan will form the basis for what happens in Thakeham over the next 10 to 15 years and will determine, through consultation, what type of development is right for the parish. Volunteers should email the TPC clerk at clerk@thakehampc.plus.com.



A public meeting at Thakeham Village Hall on Thursday 30th January 2014 will also be held to introduce the concept of Thakeham's Neighbourhood Plan to the community and to ask for anyone who would like to be involved.

Water Lane application

The Water Lane development application by Crest Nicholson for 75 houses went before the HDC Planning Committee on 15th October and received considerable support for refusal by a number of local councillors. There was representation by TVA in the form of the "Fighting For Our Fields" group, who highlighted issues including risk of flooding, access to schools, doctors and dentists, as well as increased traffic and air pollution. The issue of air pollution in the area was stressed heavily by the group and the majority of the councillors. Although it was suggested that the increase by each development was insignificant, the cumulative effect of the Water Lane development, in addition to applications already approved, proved to be a decisive argument for turning down this application. As a result the decision was to refuse permission, but to put it to delegation and seek legal advice to ensure the reasons for refusal can be upheld if challenged. We now await the final decision from HDC.

Waste Local Plan - the final consultation?

West Sussex County Council's (WSCC's) Waste Local Plan is nearing finalisation. However, as the Inspector has asked for modifications following the examination of the plan held last July, a further consultation is required. Many of these modifications are relatively minor, but TVA is concerned that the wording of one of the policies contained in the plan (Policy W1) could be misinterpreted and potentially allow Ibstock to apply (once again!) for landfill at Laybrook – despite the fact that WSCC does not wish for this to happen. We have asked for the policy to be rewritten to avoid any possible misunderstandings or loopholes. All being well, when finally completed the Council's intention that there should be no need for new non-inert landfill sites will be clearly stated in the plan. – and the threat of a non-inert landfill dump at Laybrook will thankfully finally be over.

Join or renew your membership

Renew your membership of TVA early for £5 per household, or make a donation at a time when we could really do with some help! 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.



Thakeham Village Action - Join or renew your membership 2014

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 _____