

From the Chairman of Lower Heyford Parish Council

SAY 'NO' TO GREAT HEYFORD : Newsletter # 2

20 June 2016

Firstly a big 'thank you' to everyone who has written to our Clerk, Cathy Fleet, to bring the list of residents e-mail addresses up to date and to Bruce Eggeling with offers to help with the Group that would be set up to vigorously oppose this application if required, at the right time and in the right way.

I think it would not be an overstatement to say that there is 100% support for opposing this proposal. It is heartening to see our community so united and this will no doubt hold us in very good stead if, and when, this opportunistic scheme gains any traction.

By way of update the following have occurred since the last newsletter:

1. The Parish Council (PC) has received a letter from Corpus Christ indicating they were no longer working with Bonnar Allan;
2. Our understanding is that whilst they cannot withdraw this expression of interest as they did not make it (it was made by Bonnar Allan) they are not actively pursuing it;
3. The PC has looked at the process and timings of it and, having done so, does not believe there is any merit in taking any action at this time for reasons I set out in the process notes below.

The process going ahead:

- A. Cherwell District Council (CDC) has received some 128 expressions of interest of which this is just one;
- B. The officers at CDC now have to evaluate these and to arrive at a short list of schemes that they feel have merit and wish to investigate further;
- C. This initial part of the process is likely to take until August or September of this year.
- D. There is no merit in making waves at this juncture as the decisions are taken at principle level;
- E. Based upon my experience as a Cherwell councillor and having been on the Planning committee for many years I consider it highly unlikely that the 'Great Heyford' scheme will make any shortlist;
- F. If it looks like it that it *might* make the shortlist that is the time that the PC will wish to consider some sort of action, most probably comprising appropriate representations being made en-masse;
- G. If, despite the above, it makes the short list then the PC believes that we should begin a process of mobilisation of an appropriate opposition group to co-ordinate our responses and to seek to defeat any application by whatever means the group feels appropriate and proportionate.

The PC re-iterates that this is a scheme which it is determined to see fail and, with your support and that of the wider community, the PC pledges to do everything in its power to do just that.

In the longer term we remain of the view that our best defence against such schemes will be the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan. So we encourage you to support the Plan and visit one of the various presentations being held locally. Further details can be found at: <http://www.mid-cherwell.org.uk/>

Please be assured that we will make sure you are updated by newsletters regularly if, and when, the situation changes materially.

James Macnamara