

Newsletter – 27 July 2021

## Newsletter to Supporters of savethedonkeyfield.co.uk

This Newsletter is to bring you up to date concerning the planning application (21/00779/FUL) submitted to build 8 houses on the Farmer's Field, lying between the Donkey Field and the Sports Field. Much has happened since our last two Newsletters of 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June. This latter Newsletter included advice on how to express effective comments upon the application and many of you seem to have found this helpful in formulating your objections.

We thank all our supporters for your comments submitted in respect of the application.

We recognise that, if granted approval, this development would facilitate access to the Donkey Field owned by Eton College and have therefore seen it vital to oppose the application not only on its merits but also because of its potential wider implications .

**Critically we understand that the our Ward Councillor has requested that the application (21/00779/FUL) now be considered by the Isle of Wight Council Planning Committee, rather than decided by the Planning Officers under delegated powers.**

**Over 125 Public Objections were submitted. Only one submission was made in support. There have been several other important submissions which can be found in the full list of Documents at the IoW Planning Portal. Two very important documents were those from Island Roads and the Rights of Way Team. Both recommended refusal.**

We, savethedonkeyfield.co.uk, submitted our own objection. In the writing of that document, we were advised by Whaleback Planning & Design, a planning consultancy. We had sought their advice to make sure that we were using all knowledge of relevant material considerations to full effect.

You will also find the submission by Cotswold Transport Planning, the specialist consultancy retained by us to comment on all traffic and access aspects.

We attended the Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June. At that meeting, the Council reached an unopposed decision to recommend refusal of the application.

**What and when is the next step? Frankly we do not know although we assume the applicant and the Council have agreed an extension of time to consider the application. If this matter now goes to the Isle of Wight Council Planning Committee we feel that will likely be helpful to our cause. The public can normally attend such meetings and may be able to make**

representations in person. When we know the date and time of any meeting we will make you aware. Before the meeting the relevant papers are published and this may give some insight into the Officers' recommendation to the meeting. The rules concerning the 'Calling In' of planning decisions and public attendance and participation at meetings of the Planning Committee are available on our web site on the page dealing with the current application.

## **We now need to ask for your further generosity.**

Professional reports are essential in our campaign of opposition and late in the day, we felt we needed extra input from both Whaleback Planning & Design and Cotswold Transport Planning to address specific points in the application, the supporting statement by the applicant only being submitted after public consultation had already begun. These extra costs alone were nearly £1,000. However in addition we also need to prepare for the next stage in defending the valued green corridor through our two villages. There is shortly to be a re-consultation on the Draft Island Plan which includes the categorisation of the Donkey Field as 'developable'. We believe this is the best opportunity to get that designation changed and thereby ensure the longer term green and undeveloped future of these two important open spaces. To achieve that further funding will be invaluable.

Again we thank those supporters who have funded our work so far and if you wish to further support us please visit the 'Donate – Help Us Save The Donkey Field' page on our website.