

PRESS RELEASE

Haddenham 'Say No to Mereham' Group Update

Date: 10th September 2007

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Since its establishment the Haddenham 'Say No to Mereham' Group has been active in supporting opposition to the planned development of 5,500 houses (long term plan up to 7,500 houses) at the Mereham site between Wilburton and Stretham on the A10. The following actions are being taken and we would like to encourage as many people as possible to support us. The Developers, Australian company Multiplex Stannifer, have huge resources available to them to fight for planning to be granted - all we have are our voices and (very limited) time, plus whatever donations we can obtain from the local community.

Petition:

34th Haddenham Steam Rally (8th-9th September)

A great effort was made by members of the 'Say No to Mereham' Group this weekend at the Haddenham Steam Rally.

Demonstrating the cross-party nature of this campaign, County Councillor William Hunt (Conservative) and District Councillor Gareth Wilson (Liberal Democrat) worked together with other volunteers to tell visitors to the Steam Rally about the threat of the Mereham development. Locals and people from further afield queued to sign the petition and over 1,000 signatures were collected.

A similar exercise is planned on Ely Market 22nd and 29th September and we need volunteers to man the stand and attract the attention of passers-by.

Paper copies of the 'Say No to Mereham' petition have been circulated to shops and other businesses in Haddenham, Wilburton, Witchford and other surrounding villages.

The petition has now been set up on the '10 Downing Street' website. The address for this is: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/SAYNO2MEREHAM/> or it can be accessed from the first page of the Haddenham website: www.haddenham.org.uk.

Signs: A further supply of signs with some different slogans is available. All residents of Haddenham are being encouraged to download and display the window sign from www.eastcambes.gov.uk/mereham or put up one of the campaign placard signs in their garden or other open space.

In Haddenham these can be obtained from Julie Parr - 01353 741380.

In Wilburton these can be obtained from Maureen Harrington 01353-741175

Public Meeting: All residents of Haddenham and East Cambridgeshire are being encouraged to register to speak at the Public Enquiry in the Arkenstall Centre on 9th October. You may pre-register with Lynette Duncan at Persona Associates - the appointed meeting programmes co-ordinator - at:

Lynette Duncan

Programme Officer ~ Mereham PI

Persona Associates

West Point, Springfield Road

Horsham, W. Sussex RH12 2PD

Email: LynetteDuncan@personaassociates.co.uk

Telephone: 01403 217799

Mobile: 07855 649904

PLEASE email or write to Lynette Duncan NOW.

New Planning Application

Stannifer Developments Ltd have given formal notice of appeal on the two key issues that will be under discussion at the Public Enquiry. These notices have been published in the local papers.

Application APP/W0530/A/06/2014216/NWF relates to the application refused by South Cambridgeshire District Council to carry out highway works on the A10.

Application APP/V0510/A/06/2014221/NWF relates to the application refused by East Cambridgeshire District Council to carry out the Mereham Development.

The formal notices include notification of changes to the original plans.

Persons wishing to make representations about these proposals should make them before September 28th to the Secretary of State at the Planning Inspectorate, Room 4/04, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN.

Please use our template letters to object to these proposals as soon as possible. *These will be circulated as much as possible and put on the Haddenham and WAGONS web sites.*

Co-ordination:

Witchford held a preliminary Action Group meeting on Wednesday 5th September at St Andrews Hall. Councillor Gareth Wilson and Councillor Bill Hunt joined Giles Hughes (Head of Planning and Economic Development at East Cambs District Council) in explaining the Mereham threat. George Jellicoe is to act as the liaison between Witchford and Haddenham.

Wilburton has the well established WAGONS group, whose web site is at: <http://www.wilburton.org.uk/Mereham/>.

Posters about Mereham are being distributed this week to every household in Wilburton.

There is a public meeting in Wilburton Village Hall on 28th September at 7.30 p.m.

News: We are organising news drops and posters throughout Haddenham village. We urge all our residents to look out for these and read them. This issue goes well beyond party politics and the Liberal Democrats have very kindly used their resources to deliver the first such news drop. Please, please read it even if you are not a supporter of the Liberal Democrats.

Did you Know Number 3?: We are analysing the Mereham proposal in its entirety with the objective of exposing the planning gobble-de-gook it includes. We will be regularly keeping you amused with 'facts' from the application in a 'did you know?' format. The third one is printed below.

Did You Know No. 3

According to Multiplex Stannifer:

“Site observations have shown that in the morning peak periods the numbers of vehicles turning right from the A1123 into Twenty Pence Road (B1049) is high (around 286 vehicles). This can sometimes lead to vehicles blocking back and impeding the ahead traffic. The B1049 is currently signed as a through route to Cambridge from this junction and this contributes to extraneous traffic movements through the villages of Cottenham and Histon. Whilst the development will not contribute to increases in the right turn movement at A1123/B1049 or to significant traffic increases in general on the B1049 the opportunity that the new settlement provides should be taken to seek to reduce traffic movements on the B1049. An alteration of the signage strategy at the A1123/B1049 junction to sign local destinations only (Cottenham and Histon) and direct Cambridge traffic via A1123/A10 should be implemented.”

In other words, Multiplex Stannifer's top class traffic consultants think that changing the signs at the top of Twenty Pence Road will stop all the additional traffic from Mereham from using it to get to Cambridge.

With facts like these, **who** needs credibility?

Ends.