

Save Winchester!

Newsletter of the Save Barton Farm Group – February 2009
www.savebartonfarm.org

Dear Supporter,

The Save Barton Farm Group is Back (we never actually went away)

Barton Farm and indeed the whole of Winchester is under imminent threat of massive development.

Winchester City Council has declared Barton Farm as its “Preferred Options” site for 2,000 houses.

The full Council meets to make its final decision on **22nd April 2009** – time is therefore of the essence.

The Threat

In putting this proposal to the Council, George Beckett’s (WCC Leader) sole recommendation was:

“On balance it seems that Barton Farm is the most appropriate site to deliver the housing component of ‘development with a purpose’.”

The Council claims it is merely reacting to housing numbers imposed by Central Govt. We say the Council should be proactive and stand-up for Winchester. The Council Leader, George Beckett, claims Barton Farm is the “least damaging” option for Winchester. SBFSG say that is not good enough – Winchester deserves the best option not the “least damaging.”

Councillors are starting to listen to objections and proposals

SBFG have continued to put pressure on Councillors. WCC have since added three more Recommendations:

- “Prioritise the use of previously developed land” in line with government policy.
- “...support the Annual Monitoring Report (2008), which suggests “that large greenfield releases will not come forward until the latter part of the Plan Period”
- The Council continue to press this and future Governments, to alter their housing targets so that Winchester is not compelled to develop sensitive greenfield locations.

We think Councillors may now be starting to listen to your objections and to SBFSG’s proposals.

Your support of our campaign could help them listen more, to save Winchester

March “March”

We need your support for a march through Winchester on March 14th to show Winchester City Council the strength of opposition to this development. Please come to the Westgate at 10.00am. The march will start at the Westgate, and will proceed down the High Street ending in a rally outside the Guildhall.

Please put this date in your diaries and tell families and friends – Our strength is in numbers. Last time we marched we had 500+ with us – this time we need 1,000+. More details will follow.

Public Meeting - Campaign Launch

Come with your neighbours and friends, and give us your ideas and help with our campaign.

7.30pm on Wednesday 25
February at Peter Symonds
College,
Science Lecture Theatre,
Bereweke Road, Winchester.

***We need your support to
save Barton Farm and
Winchester !***

Our Strategy

We say Winchester is different and special and therefore has to be dealt with individually, without blanket planning proposals. Winchester needs and deserves a long term pro-active strategy to provide the Winchester that residents and the people of this country want. ***We propose a long-term plan for Winchester to take full advantage of the things that make Winchester special – its history, culture, arts and unrivalled landscape setting.*** Of course this would need to address issues such as housing and employment but this should be done holistically as part of the long term, pro-active strategy. We offered to work with the Council to take part in a project involving all interested parties to promote this long-term strategy – the Leader rejected our offer.

We have a two-pronged strategy between now and the full Council meeting on 22nd April:

1. **“Save Winchester” campaign.** We need to demonstrate to the Councillors the strength of feeling and numbers against these proposed development Plans. We will be meeting with other bodies and individuals to form a “Rainbow Alliance” against this disaster for Winchester.
2. We will lobby all Councillors with all the relevant views, evidence and information, to enable them to make a considered decision. We have offered to meet with them to discuss the issues.

How you can help? Please get in touch!!

It would be great if you could help us in any way eg by: coming to the **Public Meeting on 25th Feb**, joining us on the **MARCH “MARCH”**, coming to meetings, delivering or emailing Newsletters, writing letters to press or councillors, collecting signatures – the list is endless – please see below and contact us.

Government petition

We have started an on-line petition at The Government’s website at www.number10.gov.uk – our petition is simply called “Save-Winchester” – please get friends and family to add their name to the petition – it takes seconds but will be invaluable in showing Winchester City Council the numbers opposed to the development. ***This is a national issue.***

Donations

Over the next two months all our efforts will be concentrated on excluding Barton Farm as a “Preferred Option” site in the LDF – we will then have a concerted fund-raising effort to help us make the Campaign as effective as possible. Meantime any donations would be gratefully received at the address below.

WWW

We have revamped our website in the face of this new threat. Please visit us at:

www.savebartonfarm.org

- for further details of our campaign and how you can help us in our fight to “Save Winchester.”

Contact

Please contact us as follows:

Email: savebartonfarm@btinternet.com

Tel: **01962 883932**

Post: **SBF, c/o 7 Courtenay Road,
Winchester SO23 7ER**

Thank you

Gavin Blackman - Chairman, Save Barton Farm Group
