

Woolverstone News

March 18th 2016

Dear All

Ganges Update

Good news! We received a letter yesterday from the High Court of Justice regarding our application for a Judicial Review of the decision to grant planning permission for the proposed development of 285 houses etc. on the former HMS Ganges site at Shotley Gate.

We have now been given permission to take our case against Babergh District Council to a Judicial Review.

"The Claimant [Woolverstone PC] has raised arguable grounds in respect of a difficult planning decision."

This is only the first stage in the process, but an important one. The fact that the Judge, Honourable Mrs Justice Lang DBE, has decided the case is arguable shows there is nothing "frivolous" about our objection, as some have claimed. Indeed, it is rather that the decision by Babergh District Council needs much closer scrutiny as to its lawfulness.

The case has been listed for 2 days in Court and will not to be heard by a Deputy High Court Judge. I expect it will be at least two months before the Judicial Review is heard.

There are financial implications if we were to lose the case, but we are protected by an order to a maximum of £10,000 costs of the defendant (Babergh District Council) and the interested party (Haylink – the developers). There would additionally be our costs for legal preparation and representation. I will send further details of this when we have them. Thank you to those who have already pledged financial support.

To get this far has been quite an achievement and demonstrates a huge degree of tenacity and determination in the face of seemingly overwhelming odds. We have already fought a Public Inquiry over a similar proposal for this site – and won. We will give this our best shot but the outcome is by no means certain. Nevertheless, we need to press on for the prize.

My sincere thanks to all have helped move us to this position where we can face the future and say we tried to protect this beautiful and unique village of Woolverstone from the harm that such a development at Shotley Gate would generate.

If you know your neighbour is not on the internet, or does not get this newsletter, please print of a copy and drop it through their letter box. If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list please ask them to send me an email to the address below and I will add them to the group email list. Many thanks.

Best wishes

Simon Pearce. Chairman, Woolverstone Parish Council (780009. simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk)