

Pincents Hill Special

Community News

Spring 2009

NO TO PINCENTS HILL DEVELOPMENT! Local Survey Results

Alok Sharma, the Conservative Parliamentary Spokesman for Reading West, together with Local Councillors Joe Mooney, Tony Linden and Emma Webster, ward members for the Pincents Hill area, held a public meeting on 3 November regarding developer Blue Living's intention to submit a planning application during Spring 2009 to build 700-900 homes on the Pincents Hill site in Tilehurst.

Following this meeting Alok and the councillors delivered a Local Residents' Survey regarding the proposed development to homes



Above: Pincents Hill public meeting



Above: Alok Sharma with Cllrs Joe Mooney, Tony Linden & Emma Webster

Around 900 local residents responded to the Survey, also providing detailed comments which can be viewed at www.readingwestconservatives.com

The key findings of the Survey were:

- 87% of those who replied felt that the Government's housing target of a minimum of 10,500 new homes between 2006-2026 for West Berkshire was not reasonable nor acceptable to existing local residents;

- A massive 85% of respondents want NO development at all on the Pincents Hill Site;
- 96% are concerned about the impact of traffic from any new development and 86% about the pressure on local public services.
- 87% are worried about the loss of a green space and 82% about the impact of development on the environment and wildlife.

Working closely with local residents and the Save Calcot Campaign Group, we are continuing to campaign hard against any development on Pincents Hill and making our views plain to the developer, the Council, in the local papers and on local radio.

The vast majority of local people just do not want any development on the Pincents Hill site and together we will fight this one all the way!

GOVERNMENT DOWNGRADES PROTECTION FOR STRATEGIC GAPS

Unfortunately in its response last July to the South East Regional Plan the Government downgraded the protection given to green belts and "strategic gaps", if this protection was the reason holding up a major development which supported the objectives of a Regional Plan.

A "strategic gap" is a piece of open land, like Pincents Hill, which clearly separates two

settled areas, in this case Tilehurst and Theale.

A future Conservative Government will abolish regional planning and do away with regional building targets.

We will enable councils to revise their existing Local Development Frameworks to take account of the abolition of regional planning which will in turn allow local councils to protect land such as green belt.

CONTACT US:

If you want to be kept updated on Pincents Hill or you would like to discuss the issue with Alok Sharma and the local Councillors then please

call us on 0118 945 4881

or email us at:

pincentshill@readingwestconservatives.com

*By giving us your email address and/or mobile number, you are agreeing to receive communications and information from us by email or SMS.

MESSAGE FROM SAVE CALCOT CAMPAIGN GROUP COMMITTEE

Most people are now aware that developers (Blue Living) intend to submit an application for Outline Planning Permission for up to 900 dwellings on Pincents Hill. In all probability this application will be submitted in April.

In late April you should receive a communication from us (the Committee) telling you about the various stages that this application will follow and what steps we, the public, can take to oppose this Application.

On the back of the coming communication there will be a pro forma letter that only needs a few details to be completed and boxes to be ticked but it does have a text box that requires a few words of your own to say why you wish to oppose the development.

However PLEASE do not send in any letters to West Berkshire Council opposing the planning application until you know that Blue Living has actually submitted the proposal as it could well be delayed.

Once a Planning Application is submitted we will also organise a Public Meeting for local residents.

All the latest information and updates on the planning application and details of a future Public Meeting will be made available on our website and it will also be possible to download a copy of the pro forma objection letter from www.savecalcot.co.uk

We would very much like to correct a misunderstanding created by one of our committee members on the back of a flyer released by Martin Salter last week. It stated that the Committee needed to raise monies to pay for the hire of Littleheath School Hall for a public meeting. Littleheath School has very generously said there will not be any charge as they are actively involved with the community and we have gratefully accepted their offer but we consider it only fair to make a donation to the School to show our appreciation.

We are however trying to raise funds to cover the costs of running this campaign so any contribution no matter how small are welcome and the instructions on how to do this are on our

website.

Lastly but no means least, we wish to express our thanks to all who have most ably supported us, not only our District Councillors, Tilehurst Parish Council and our current MP who are all totally dedicated to fighting this and any development on Pincents Hill, but also to Alok Sharma who is very much on the front line of this fight offering invaluable help and encouragement.

But most of all we need you, the general public, because without you there would not be a fight to keep this much treasured open space.

Thank you.

The Save Calcot Campaign Committee

CAMPAIGN NEXT STEPS! YOU CAN HELP THE CAMPAIGN BY:

We are now waiting for the planning application to be submitted.

The Save Calcot Campaign Group is currently liaising with local wildlife experts in relation to the Pincents Hill site and we are also exploring other initiatives to try and save this green space from development. Once a Planning Application is submitted we will be organising a Public Meeting to rally support against the proposal.

- Signing the Save Calcot Campaign Group's Downing Street e-petition at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/Pincents Hill/>.
- Writing individual letters to West Berkshire Council asking them to exclude Pincents Hill from their Local Development Framework which will set out sites to be considered for future development up to 2026.
- Visiting regularly the Save Calcot website for new information on the campaign www.savecalcot.co.uk
- Visiting the website of developer Blue Living to keep up to date with their plans to concrete over a beautiful green space! www.blueliving.co.uk

