

SOLVE Report February

At the time of writing, mid January, we are pressing ahead with the Judicial Review thanks to generous donations to the SOLVE fighting fund, ranging between £20 and £500; a big thank you to all those that have already donated. The exact timing of the JR is dependent on our legal team.

SOLVE and CountryWatch share the aim to protect the Loddon Valley and the surrounding countryside and are working together on legal aspects. CountryWatch has its own source of finance.

The purpose of the Judicial Review is to expose the Council's "unlawful actions" regarding the Manydown land. By excluding 2,000 acres of land, originally bought for development, to the west of Basingstoke (Manydown) for the next 16 years most new housing will be to the east of the Borough with all the associated problems. We know that if the land to the west is not included in the potential sites then defending any other Greenfield site will be almost impossible. Unfortunately, the Council continue their blinkered response to our appeals and arguments so we have no option but to press ahead with the Judicial Review process to fight their 'illegal' actions which threaten overdevelopment in the following parishes; **Old Basing & Lychpit, Chineham, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Newnham, Mapledurwell & Up Nately and Bramley**. So far, our lawyer sees nothing in the Council's response to concern him or us; our case remains strong. You can find copies of legal communications on our website.

Having spent £10M on acquiring the Manydown land the Council are prepared to spend more taxpayers' money defending their decision. In effect they hold this land in order to prevent development. The draft Core Strategy document (some 140 pages) was debated by the P&I OSCOM on 11th & 12th Jan. It demonstrated how unbalanced the proposed housing developments around the Borough are when a large area of council owned land in the west is missing. Some Councillors, including some representing wards in the east, need to consider their positions. We hope that the appointment of a new Council Leader may give the opportunity to take a more reasonable approach for the sake Basingstoke as a whole.

Despite the marvellous response to our call for funds additional donations would be very welcome. This will give SOLVE the best chance of winning the Judicial Review and conduct effective planning campaigns after that. We are asking for voluntary donations (If possible £50 per household. We realise it is a difficult time and all donations however small or however generous are greatly appreciated). If you live in one of the above **parishes**, please consider a voluntary donation to this fund to help prevent overdevelopment in your area.

You can donate by making an electronic bank transfer to: Account Name: **"SOLVE"**; **Sort Code: 20-05-00; Account Number: 23034607**. Or by sending a cheque made payable to **'SOLVE'** to **Kate Tuck, Old Basing House, 99 The Street, Old Basing, RG24 7DA**.

It would help us if those donating could send an email contact or address so that we can send an acknowledgement. All donations are fully confidential and we respect those that wish to remain anonymous.

Don't forget to register on our website, www.solveloddon.org, follow us on Twitter: @SOLVE2010. Telephone contact Kate Tuck - 01256 324043.

Peter Bloyce
SOLVE