

Inaugural meeting of the Coggeshall Community Action Group

On: 30th April 2014 at 7.30pm

At: the Parish Hall Coggeshall

Present: The Committee

All committee members are to be referred to by their initials in the minutes

Also present were approximately 300 members of the village community, they were asked to identify themselves before speaking and their names are entered in the minutes in bold type **xxxxxx**

Item	Action
<p>Introduction by ML who has lived in Coggeshall for 20 years. ML explained that the COGGESHALL COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP is not for proponents of the Honywood scheme – only opponents. He established that everyone present was opposed to the scheme.</p>	
<p>ML introduced himself as a resident of Coggeshall for 20 years then went on to explain the aims of the group under the following headings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WHAT – the group is opposed to the proposal “The Honywood Project” submitted by Mr Mason. Our objective is to oppose the scheme and not to accept a compromise solution. 2. WHY – Several issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey is the 13th most dangerous road in the UK • Junction of A120 and Colne Road is bad – there is no magic solution to this • The resultant pressure on services – doctors, shops, fire station etc • xxxxxx interjected saying Marks Hall Trust does not have the authority to sell or donate the land 3. WHO – CCAG is a group of people who heard about the plan and decided to join together, but we need help from everyone in the community. 4. WHEN – We need to start now – by lobbying the relevant parties 5. HOW <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) By sending a letter these should not be personal or emotional – letters but well written and structured guidance will be available on our website (www.coggeshallcommunityactiongroup.com) ii) By signing a petition – those present were asked to show their commitment by doing so, there was one available to sign. 	ALL
<p>PC introduced himself as someone who has lived in Coggeshall 13 years He explained that everyone needs to send letters of objection and we have produced a guide giving the main points which need to be in the letters. All letters need to be individual as copied letters will not count. Please use your own words, email post@dreamoccasions-hire.co.uk for copies of the guidelines. He has also produced a list of people to write to. The guidelines include the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Park • Schools over subscribed • Loss of agricultural land and Marks Hall Trust <p>PC explained who the letters are to be sent to List A – Marks Hall, Mr Mason (Honywood school) and Priti Patel MP – initial letters List B – All of above, plus Braintree District Council – but only once the planning proposal has been submitted List C – Other local feeder schools. Mr Mason has written to these schools, (eg. Earls Colne, Copford), to lobby support. However with the building of 300/350 additional houses this will result in only students</p>	

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<p>in Coggeshall gaining places as there is no intention to increase the number of pupils at the new school. Therefore the local feeder schools must be made aware that they will not necessarily benefit from the new Honeywood School</p> <p>JS has put information on the facebook pages of other villages explaining that they will be too far from the village to apply for places at the school once the new homes are built. She also stated that the letter implies that future students will not get a good education without a new school.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx asked– Do we have a lawyer?</p> <p>He said that we need to look at the Marks Hall articles of association as there is wildlife on the land. We should also get in touch with the Essex Wildlife Trust (John Hall). ML invited Malcolm to join the group.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– Marks Hall shouldn't be donating the land as it is not right</p> <p>She was concerned that Marks Hall will become a “Discovery Park” focused on profit and not a natural environment, we need to get a fund to employ a solicitor.</p>	
<p>ML– Site is outside the development plan set by BDC for the development in the local area until 2026. A similar scheme was suggested by Marks Hall in 2011 but was rejected by the BDC Planning Committee as it used Tilkey Road for access.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx Has been in correspondence with Priti Patel regarding the flooding. We need to make use of the local press.</p>	
<p>ML– It was noted that the school had made a point of reserving a place in the car park for Priti Patel this week, so it is clear that she has met with Mr Mason to possibly discuss the project. It was confirmed by one lady that Mr Mason had met with Priti Patel recently</p>	
<p>xxxxxx asked- Is it 300 or 350 houses?</p>	
<p>ML– Unsure as it says 300 in one part of the proposal and 350 in others.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx from Tilkey Road said it is also worth contacting the Campaign for Rural England they have a branch in Feering as they are already objecting to this scheme.</p>	ML/ JC follow up
<p>ML– we are also working with the Save Lives not Time campaign who are opposed to any development along the A120</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– as a nation of dog lovers asked where will the additional residents walk their dogs. He answered his own question by stating that they would walking in the countryside thereby deterring the wildlife even further afield. He also asked why the school can't build a smaller extension.</p>	
<p>ML– a good school has good teachers (not facilitators). The quality of teaching comes first and the facilities are secondary.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– Trust have got money as they have been fencing off large areas to accommodate rare breed cows.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx asked - who owns the land that is to be built on.</p> <p>ML replied Marks Hall, the Potter family and Ardencrest, which is a trading name for,</p>	

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or subsidiary of the Co-op.	
<p>xxxxxx– has lived in the village for 25 years. Petition is great, but 500 letters are better – even if it is a two sentence letter. He has written just stating that the development is not in the best interests of the community and that he would be objecting strongly if a planning application is submitted.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– Asked who has put up the money for the displays and the cost of the consultants he would not be happy to discover that taxpayers money has been used.</p>	
<p>JS– Stated that we are still awaiting confirmation of costs under a Freedom of Information request.</p>	JS
<p>xxxxxx– Has concerns that this might be a long term battle and that we should do our research so that we can be ready to fight back when a planning application goes in. A similar project in Great Horkesley project has been kicked out after 11 years of campaigning .</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– Saw a recent Panorama program about a similar scheme at Saffron Walden who faced a similar issue. She felt there was mileage in contacting them to learn how they carried out their campaign and she agreed to do this.</p>	SW
<p>xxxxxx– Who owns the land where the school currently is?</p>	
<p>ML – We are not sure, this needs to be investigated. Might also be worth writing to the Potter family to make them aware of the strength of feeling.</p>	ML
<p>xxxxxx–said that she would try to find out what the situation was regarding the Potter land.</p>	KP
<p>xxxxxx– Last year a planning application was submitted for Tey Road, but this was thrown out.</p>	
<p>ML– need to take legal advice and also get a list of the trustees and patrons of Marks Hall. Lady Newton is a patron of Marks Hall and also Braintree District Councillor. She is unable to comment until a planning application has been formally submitted as she needs to remain impartial. There is the possibility of getting a solicitor involved.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– from Pattiswick. We need to write to the trustees of Marks Hall as they are not aware of the strength of feeling in the village about the development.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– School governors also need to be advised.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– she is a member of Marks Hall and will be resigning and writing to them to advise the reason is the school proposal. Suggest that anyone who is a member does the same.</p>	
<p>xxxxxx– All water and sewage comes down to the lower point of the village which is around Bridge Street / The Gravel – foul and surface water is combined into the one system. Any additional building will require major infrastructure changes to the drainage to the whole village. ML thanked him for his contributions and said that he, IP,</p>	

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can be our expert on this.	
xxxxxx – There could be an increase in crime, especially as we don't have a village policeman.	
xxxxxx– suggested car stickers	
PC – Everyone can help – not just by sending letters, but also delivering leaflets. The posters are being removed, so we may have to go back to delivering individual letters through each property. There is a list of roads, so if people can help by delivering to their local area, please sign up.	
xxxxxx– works in construction and a project this size will take six years. That will be six years of heavy lorries, disruption to the village etc.	
xxxxxx- Lives near Walford Way and has had months of dust, noise, pollution, lorries etc. as result of the small development in that street.	
xxxxxx– Can everyone write letters and bring to meeting next week as it will have more impact if they are delivered en mass to Mr Mason, potentially with the newspapers and media involved.	
xxxxxx– Charity commission website will have copies of the accounts for Marks Hall – also as a charity, we should be able to attend their meetings.	
PC- Next meeting will be WEDNESDAY 8 TH MAY 7.30pm at the village hall and asked everyone to bring their letters – stamps not required.	

The meeting finished at 8.30pm

