



11th February 2022

Dear PFARA supporters

Welcome to 2022! We hope this finds you well. Here is an update on our ongoing projects.

Pilot Field planning application

Following our leaflet campaign just before Christmas I expect many of you are wondering how we fared at the Hastings Borough Council planning meeting on the 19th of January.

Soon after the closing of our petitions in early January we learned that consideration of the Pilot Field application had been postponed from the January meeting. We have been advised that it may be presented to the Planning Committee meeting scheduled for March but that is yet to be confirmed. Our petitions (paper and e-petition) were submitted on time in January and there were some 143 signatures, which is encouraging. Accordingly we have far more than the 10 signatures needed to grant permission to speak at the meeting. During our campaign we learned that the Planning Officer assigned to the Pilot Field application left HBC in December and her role has been taken over by her deputy. This is no doubt creating pressures on a department that has more than enough to consider already.

Flooding

With so much heavy rain in late December and in early January, there was some considerable flooding in the area. This is a big issue and will be increasingly so. Photographic evidence or anecdotes of any recent flooding in our area would be useful.

We are aware that some properties downstream from the Pilot Field, eg down from Hoads Wood Road, have experienced serious problems with the intense water flows and instances of toilets backing up and raw sewage being deposited in gardens have been reported. If you have any evidence of such difficulties then it would be very helpful to know of these so that we can mention them when presenting our information to the Planning Committee. The proposed addition of 86 houses on the Pilot Field will make this already bad situation, far worse.

Helenswood Flagship School site, The Ridge

The building work at the School gave rise to local drainage issues getting worse during December 2021 and January 2022. Following a recent meeting with the School, Dept for Education and site managers, PFARA were informed that these difficulties should be temporary and when the School build and site are complete, and drainage is fully installed,

then water will flow into the main drains. As such the local drainage situation should then improve. PFARA will monitor the situation via contact with local residents.

Nature Conservation Group

We would like to form a Nature Conservation Group or similar to document, monitor and protect the amazing variety of local wildlife that we enjoy in this particular area. Accordingly we are looking for volunteers to start a group with this in mind. If this appeals to you then please do get in touch (email or phone) just to register your interest initially. Then we can work out things from there.

Linley Drive play area

One area of concern is the Linley Drive play area which has recently been vandalised. Any information about this and particularly thoughts on how it should be replaced would be welcome. We will do our best to get some action from HBC.

Next newsletter

We will write to you again in March if that is when the Planning Committee will consider the Pilot Field application and will keep you updated on the status of the application.

And finally.....

Who has spotted this amazing piece of knitting in Elphinstone Road (close to the Pilot Field) !

If you have any other concerns or ideas on how we can further support our local community then please do get in touch either by email at pfarassociation@gmail.com or phone **07432 863622** (*listen to the message first*).

Peter Bailey
Chair, PFARA

Your Pilot Field Area Residents' Association
(PFARA) Team
Visit our website for more information:
www.pfara.org

