



Pilot Field Area

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

4th April 2022

Subject: Pilot Field Area Residents' Association Newsletter April 2022

Dear PFARA Supporters

We hope that you will have a good Easter. Here is some news from PFARA.

Litter Pick ! This Saturday 9 April at 10.00 starting outside The Spar

There will be a Litter Pick on Saturday 9 April at 10.00, meeting outside the Spar. Volunteers needed! One of our committee members, Denise, is organising this and has all the necessary equipment (gloves, picks, bags etc). Long standing litter is a sign of neglect in an area so if you are at all able, please support Denise and her volunteer team this coming Saturday.

Pilot Field

As I am sure you have read in the press, Hastings Council have rejected the application for the Tilekiln football stadium and the housing development on the Pilot Field. HOWEVER as we write this newsletter those planning applications are still on the Council's planning website and Hastings United Football Club (HUFC) have said that they still want to pursue the Pilot Field housing development which would be crucial to their financing of any new stadium (although HUFC have never published any details of how the financing of a new stadium would work.). So we are keeping a watchful eye on what is happening, staying in touch with our local councillor Mike Turner. In passing it seems curious that HUFC want to build a 4,000 spectator capacity stadium (but only 250 seats) with a small pitch (the minimum size allowed by the FA) when they already have a 4,000 spectator capacity ground at the Pilot Field with a much larger (and good) pitch.

Anti social behaviours

There was a good meeting, initiated by councillor Mike Turner, on 22 March in the St Barnabas Hall to address concerns about anti-social behaviours in the area. The meeting was attended by police, the Community Safety Manager, John Whittington, and local councillors. The big message from the police is to report everything no matter how small AND no matter if no response is immediately taken. As they explained, when they see an increase in reported anti-social activity in a particular area as evidenced by increasing numbers of reports, they will then redirect their patrols. Richard Lawless, Business Manager of the Education Futures Trust ('EFT') at the Firs next to the Pilot Field, confirmed

this very point as the EFT had experienced an increasing number of incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour on their site. They reported every incident and as a result saw an increased police presence which has addressed the problem.

Helenswood (on the Ridge) Part 1

The Flagship School – School Building Update.

From Helen Kay (Head teacher) :

As you will have seen, great progress with the build of the permanent Flagship School is going well. We are hoping that the building will be completed by September 2022. This is a small delay to our original time-table, caused largely due to the severe storms we recently experienced. We do not anticipate any significant disruptions to local residents as a result of the build. The major works in respect of mains supplies have been done – and as you have seen, the core building blocks for the school are now in place.

We are anticipating moving into the new school at the end of September or in early October. However, with building works unexpected delays are always possible. Landscaping of the area around the school will be taken forward as part of the build; developing a small farm and creating a 'green space' for pupils to access. We are also planning a tree planting exercise, to ensure that our environment is as green as possible for the pupils.

We are excited about the progress that is being made with the build. We do not, at this stage, anticipate any need for additional help from local residents. However, once we have moved into our new building, we may well benefit from some additional help and support. We are very grateful for the support that you have given us to date. And we are really excited, at the school, as we see the building being developed next door.



Helenswood (on the Ridge) Part 2

Ex-Mount Deny's and Helenswood' sites update re future housing development

This update concerns itself with the section of the Dept for Education (DfE) owned* 'Ex-Helenswood Site' that is not occupied by Flagship School (see above), as shown on the map here. As many of you will know, this site has been identified for the potential development of 113 residential dwellings across the strip of land spanning the 'ex-Mount Denys' site on the Ridge/St Helen's Down through to Pilot Road. (*Owned previously by East Sussex County Council but still with some residual covenants over the land as to its future use.)



The development is outlined in the August 2021 version of the Hastings Borough Council (HBC) Development Plan which is currently at the consultation phase. HBC are preparing a report on consultation outcomes (the first consultation occurred during lock-down) and **further consultation is expected to occur mid-2022**. HBC has identified the following development considerations:

- Provide 40% affordable housing.
- Take account of Southern Water's underground infrastructure in layout.
- Boundary landscaping between the site and the Flagship School.
- Impact on flood risk downstream from all sources of flooding.

PFARA plan to oppose the residential development, as does Cllr Mike Turner. In common with many other areas in our location, this site has a long and documented history of drainage and flood issues, some of which we have highlighted and discussed during Flagship School Development. It is/was also covenanted land with building restrictions on it and has been previously designated for sports and leisure activities.

Alongside the above, in order for HBC to proceed with such developments, permission for change in land usage is required. We believe the Council have yet to gain such permission from the DfE. Over the coming months PFARA will be further researching these and other issues, and establishing a localised action group to build the case for objection.

Street parties - Saturday/ Sunday 4/5 June

The Queen's Platinum celebrations are scheduled for that weekend and so you may wish to organise your own local street event. Pictures from any such events would be good for our website if you have gained permission from the participants.

Conservation group

Penny Avann is now running this group and can be contacted on pennyavann@btinternet.com

Best regards,

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