

HARDINGSTONE ACTION GROUP

If they win you can say goodbye to this...



...and hello to this!

The *Hardingstone Action Group* is still campaigning on your behalf to save the village from excessive development of 1300 houses without regard to infrastructure provision.

This includes...

- Increased volume of traffic generated on the Newport Pagnell Rd. would cause impossible gridlock at the Queen Eleanor bottleneck, causing vehicles to use your road as a rat run, and increasing jams on the A45.
- Local schools are oversubscribed and the proposed small primary school provision offered by the developers is completely inadequate with no new secondary school places planned at all; not to mention the strains put on health services and the general hospital.
- Hardingstone would double in size and lose its village character.
- Firms in Brackmills are threatening to pull out because of delays in deliveries caused by congestion on the A45, and increasing flood-risk caused by run-off from higher ground in Hardingstone.

What we've been doing:

Feb. 5th

Hardingstone Action Group attended a meeting in Daventry of the Joint Core Strategy Committee where we were horrified by the lack of democratic input allowed for Northampton residents to express their views. About 200 people turned up to support our Borough councillors who are all very much against these proposals but we were “stitched-up”, in the words of M.P. Andrea Leadsom, by the casting vote of the Daventry chairman. Yes, that's right, Daventry is deciding on Northampton's development!

Feb 20th

We held a meeting at the Northampton Guildhall for all the local protest groups to compare our opinions and campaign strategies. This was well attended with local councillors and M.P. Andrea Leadsom there to support us. Another such meeting will be held later this month.

Feb 25th

We commented on the consultation on the Joint Core Strategy – the regional plan which promotes our fields as a development site. This earned us the right to a place at the Planning Inspector's Hearings, to examine the Joint Core Strategy.

March 25th

We attended the Joint Core strategy Inspector's Hearing at Franklin's Gardens where we put our points of view to the inspector who will decide whether the proposed Strategy becomes policy. The developers had had their usual glib answers to any objections assuring us that with minor alterations to sliproads and traffic light systems everything will run smoothly and that school and health service provision will be adequate. They are obviously in it for profit and happily gloss over any future problems which won't concern them.

March 27th

We undertook a traffic survey on the Newport Pagnell Road to challenge the developers' figures. Our results showed that PM period traffic has already increased by 22% in the last 6 months.

15th April

We arranged a meeting of all the local Action Groups at the Guildhall to discuss the infrastructure problems and concerns that the proposed developments in Northampton will have for us all. We had guest speakers, Councillors and Parish councils. The press was also present.

What Next?

On May 6th there is the all-important meeting of the Northampton Borough Council Planning Committee, where the fate of the planning application and our fields will be decided. The meeting is at 6pm at the Guildhall. We appreciate that the time is difficult for those who work (this may be deliberate!) but we need as many people as possible to attend to show the Committee that there is strong local opposition to these plans.

Remember, if this development goes ahead it will mean 2 and 3 storey houses on our skyline. The building site will last 10 to 15 years with constant noise and heavy construction traffic on the Newport Pagnell Rd.

We can't fight this alone.

Please be with us on May 6th!

Any further information, please contact Dee Kelk 01604 765 635 or visit savehardingstone.wordpress.com