

FRIENDS OF WALMERSLEY VILLAGE
COMMUNITY MEETING THURSDAY 26 JULY 2012

- There have been several more attempts to meet with the PCC – all to no avail, until just before this meeting. We have been offered a meeting on 8th August for four members of FOWV to be present. This would appear to have come about following a meeting between FOWV and two ward councillors who offered to approach the church to broker a meeting.
- Letters to the Bishop and Archdeacon - no response other than an acknowledgement.
- Some members of the PCC claim that they have been stopped and threatened in the street and subject to abuse. We don't condone that behaviour, but let me remind them that with responsibility one has accountability and if they are prepared to make major decisions which will affect the community as a whole they must be prepared to stand up and be counted!
- Their reluctance to talk to date can only be considered as delaying tactics. Great Places have already had a number of meetings with the planners as has Redrow Homes. Three bids have been placed on the table Great Places, Redrow, and Henry Moser all allegedly to be considered by the PCC. It appears that the Redrow scheme is not now being considered by the PCC.
- We still have not had the opportunity to discuss our 'Draft Funding Proposals' in detail. Although we did send the PCC a copy and they responded in writing by informing us that some were of interest, others were out of the question because of the legal implications. The inference being that they thought we wanted to take control.
- Please let me put on record - our draft proposals were a discussion document. The field belongs to the church all we want to do is help generate some money without the need to sell the field outright.
- From our previous correspondence sent we have been told that it would be considered at the next PCC Meeting which we believe to be the middle of August.
- We also believe that the PCC have contacted the Neighbourhood Planning Support Team. This support team is part of the 'Campaign for the Protection of Rural England' and is designed to get a neighbourhood plan back on track. An advisor, as far as we are aware, has been to see members of the PCC and it is likely that you will see appropriate signs going up for people to stop using the field.
- Besides all the lobbying and letter writing, we have also listened to what some have said in respect of a Community Purchase Scheme - to buy the land in question outright.

A scheme for the community to purchase the land was explained. This involves donations from us the community, local benefactors eg local businesses/land owners, the sale of a small portion of the field to build 4/5 houses on the tennis court area and gift aid tax relief. This approach would require us to raise around £300,000 from residents of Walmersley Village. Once purchased, we would automatically apply for Village Green status to prevent any further building and preserve the remaining land for Community recreation.

If you are interested in this proposal and would be prepared to make a donation, please complete the Donation Form and return to The Treasurer, FOWV, 873 Burnley Rd. We will only request the donation once we know we have enough Community support for this scheme and any donations made will be returned if we are not able to complete the purchase of the field.

For more information contact us: info@fowv.co.uk

- We have a meeting arranged with our local MP, David Nuttall to lobby his opinion.
- We have now officially set ourselves up as a Company Limited by Guarantee, with designated Directors. Any major decisions that we have to make will be put to the Community at public meetings. One of our main objectives is to make an effort to achieve charitable status, to allow us all the tax benefits, however, the biggest drawback to achieving this, is we need £5000 in the bank!

- Environmentally - we have also discovered that there is not just bats in the belfry! It would appear that there are a number of bats roosting in the properties adjacent to the field. The local Bat Society has been called in.
- We have now put our notice board up outside the General Convenience Store on Walmersley Rd to keep everyone posted with any news.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- Continue to interview for the Village Green Application – if you haven't filled in a questionnaire and would like to do so. LET ME PLEASE STRESS THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT – IT MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE OF STOPPING ANY DEVELOPMENT. LET ME ALSO ENDORSE WE WILL ONLY RESORT TO THIS ACTION IF WE ARE NOT MAKING PROGRESS ELSEWHERE.
- Continue to discuss the issues with the PCC and hopefully build a rapport.
- More importantly watch for when planning permission is submitted and when that does happen we need to write in with our objections. We have already produced a draft objection letter and this is waiting in the wings for when it is needed. In addition to that we will provide a help desk/surgery for people who may require help raising their objections in writing.
- We will continue to fight and look for any loop holes to strengthen our objection. This may lead to further reports in the media, accompanied by more letters from you the community to the church and the Bury Times making your feelings known.
- Establish our charitable status – Let me also share that irrespective of how all this goes we are of the mind to keep the FOWV going with the hope that it can develop into something in the future with a good charitable standing to put Walmersley on the map and more importantly bring the community together.
- We also need volunteers to become Street Representatives – this will allow information to be distributed far easier. If you are interested email: info@fowv.co.uk
- We have also refreshed our web site with a face lift to keep as many people as possible up to speed – including the PCC!

FUNDS

- At the moment we have around £3000 in the bank, so we need to generate funds as soon as possible. How do we intend to do this?
- Tonight we will be promoting a collection – it cost £40 just to hire the hall for tonight's meeting!
- **Thursday 9th August 7.30pm.** We will be having a quiz night in the Walmersley Conservative Club. Tickets only £5 per head and although there is a limit to the amount of tickets we can sell, we need as many of you there as possible. Form your own teams, maximum 8 in a team. Tickets are available from Margaret, at 12 Barnside Close. As well as raising funds, I'm sure we will all have a good time.
- Autumn Event probably at 'The Valley', Burnley Rd.
- Other events – abseil down Peel Tower, raffles etc.
- Please, please, please – we need your support.
- A special thank you to those of you who have already contributed to our Campaign Fund.
- For those who haven't please send your money in we need every penny we can get. Some of you have asked how much are you looking for – we would like to say £100 per household, but realistically we would like whatever you can afford.
- Any funds remaining from the campaign fund will be allocated to a local charity based on a community decision. They will NOT go to the church.
- We will continue to keep you informed of any developments.