

North Hill Bedhampton Residents Association

Dear Bedhampton Resident,

SCRATCHFACE LANE DEVELOPMENT

As many of you are aware, the planning consultants proposing to develop the Scratchface Lane Reserve Housing Site are holding a “community consultation” event at Bedhampton Social Hall between 2pm and 8pm on Wednesday 16th June 2010. We believe this is a good opportunity to demonstrate the resolve of local residents against this proposal.

We intend to organise a peaceful Residents Representation in the form of two small teams on the pavement at both ends of the building in high-visibility waistcoats, displaying non-offensive placards stating our objections. Each team will also be equipped with petition forms calling for the council to refuse any future planning proposals and to remove this piece of unsuitable land from the reserve housing site list.

In addition, we are also asking for a co-ordinated presence at **6pm** sharp and would very much appreciate as many of you attending as possible. The media will also be present and this will be another good opportunity to convey our objections.

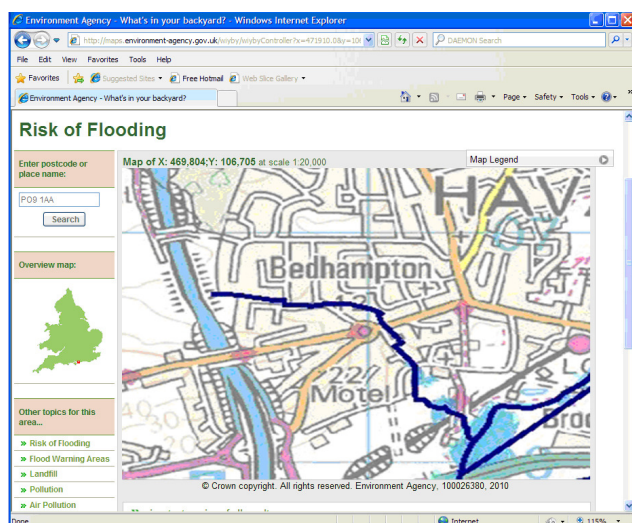
What are our objections? Is this just another case of “not in my backyard”?

No, there are many reasons this site is unsuitable to be included on the reserve housing site list, one example coming from the Council’s own “Policy Statement on Flood and Coastal Defence” where the site is one of several singled out for particular attention as;

“a critical ordinary watercourse – i.e. a watercourse which the Council has agreed with the Environment Agency to be critical because it has the potential to put at risk from flooding large numbers of people and property”.

... A statement that does not fit well with their current objective;

“discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding”.



The Environment Agency’s Flood Map showing the Bedhampton Stream running through the development site

Another key concern with this site is access; its general placement and proximity to the A3(M) motorway means the site currently has no vehicular access. The proposal to demolish two existing bungalows to provide a single point of access will effectively direct the vast majority of traffic down a single route to the Maylands/Bedhampton Road roundabout, a junction well-known locally for its “difficult” access onto the main road.

The proposal developers themselves admitted at the recent council forum that there is potential for an overspill of car parking into neighbouring roads, adding, to the dismay of all present in the public area, that this could act as a “traffic calming” initiative. A flippant remark perhaps indicative of their attitude to the concerns of local residents.

The Havant Borough Council Development Consultation Forum website link below lists many examples of why this reserve housing site is unsuitable for development, this, in addition to a recent admission from a Bedhampton Councillor that;

“All Bedhampton County/Borough Councillors are strongly against this proposal”

The cumulative concerns make it difficult to understand why this site is still being considered as suitable.

<http://www.havant.gov.uk/havant-10713>

If you feel you can spend two hours of your time as part of the peaceful residents’ representation, please indicate in the table below when you would be willing to participate, and return this page to Jim Graham (Chairman – NHBRA) at the address below as soon as possible. To facilitate two teams of three people constantly at the location will require a total of 18 volunteers, we really do need your help. High-visibility waistcoats and Leaflets will be provided to hand-out on the day to members of the public who request additional information.

Alternatively, if you have any additional questions, if you need a lift on the day itself, or if you feel you can contribute in any other capacity, Jim Graham can be contacted on 02392 471191 at 46 Brooklands Road.

	Name	Address	Contact Number
1400 hrs – 1600 hrs			
1600 hrs – 1800 hrs			
1800 hrs – 2000 hrs			

The petition wording will be as follows;

“We, the undersigned, hereby call upon Havant Borough Council and the Environment Agency to REFUSE permission for any planning application to develop the land off “Scratchface Lane” and to REMOVE this site from the Reserve Housing Site list.”

Example placard wording will be plain-speaking and non-offensive;

NO TO SCRATCHFACE LANE DEVELOPMENT
STOP THIS RISK OF INCREASED FLOODING
etc...

(all ideas gratefully received).

1 June 2010