

Green Belt land and the loss of farmland.

We understand that for the next year the joint development company will be undertaking a wide range of assessments on the wildlife, hydrology etc. and that a formal Planning Application will be made in some 15 months time.

We have to remain concerned, as the Council is both the owner of the majority of the land and through its Planning Committee will also be the body deciding on the "legality" of the Application, an Application that the Council has been hoping for, for some 15 years now.

We must be concerned as to how "impartial" the Planning Committee can ever be with its Council's own "scheme"!

That the Council, at its consultations, has been promoting "Enabling Development" (of luxury houses) knowing it is Green Belt land must be a major concern.

The website :- <http://www.hoylakegolfresort.uk/> has many interesting revelations. The Capita Symonds report from 2006 (cost to taxpayer believed £275,000) is a most concerning read given the Council has many other calls on its finance far more important than developing a Golf Resort, e.g. Respite Care at Girtrell Court.

The other threat to the community from Council owned land is the planned "Community" Fire Station at Saughall Massie, that the Community there have made most clear they do not want. This has "gone quiet" for now.

Perhaps the efforts of Margaret Greenwood, the Wirral West MP, will result in more funds so the "merger", as this Fire Service "scheme" is presented, will not be necessary.

Then the taxpayer will be saved the £4m cost of building a new Fire Station, in the name of "economy".

In South Wirral, we learn that Redrow have started to build their highly contentious housing estate on top quality farmland (not Green Belt) at Ledsham. It will be most interesting to see how these "much needed" houses sell, if at all..... It will be a 10 year build programme.

IGas have now stated that the site at Upon by Chester is not suitable for Coal Bed Methane.

Shale gas extraction may still be pursued.

Burton Manor continues to decline. We have written to CW&C asking that they enforce maintenance on the owners (Liverpool City Council)) before it becomes a ruin.

Redrow will be building more of their houses at the Backford Cross end of Great Sutton. The land has been allocated for housing for decades, but is still Greenfield.

Any issues on the Green Belt in the Wirral please email:- planning@wirralsociety.net

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Spring - 2016 www.wirralsociety.net

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WIRRAL MATTERS

NEWS and VIEWS from THE WIRRAL SOCIETY - FOUNDED 1928
THE WIRRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE)

President: Professor John Tarn OBE DL FRIBA FRSA FRHistS FSA



You might ask, "What does the Wirral Society Do?"

In this issue we'll tell you just some of our Current Cases

Supporting Planning Rules and Green Belt Protection

Proposed Golf Resort – Hoylake - see photo above, by Neil Parry, and his full report in the Green Belt column on Page 3

Proposed new Fire Station – Saughall Massie
We find it difficult to accept that £4m has to be spent building a new fire station on this Green Belt site, which is just a mile away from the existing Upton Fire Station, which is planned to be closed.

Photo – Rod Tann – banner reads
'SAVE OUR GREEN BELT
SAY 'NO TO THE FIRESTATION'



Protection of Historic Features & Buildings

Water Feature – Moreton

This interesting feature, by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, has been neglected for many years. Attempts are being made to see it is restored and also Listed as a structure of architectural interest.

Photo – Neil Parry



Hooton Hangars

We are in close touch with the group formed to try and prevent the loss of these important WWI Listed hangars. **Photo - In their heyday**



Eyesores and Litter

Unnecessary Street furniture

We are trying to find out the need for the over-large police camera signage when there are no cameras on the A540. A sign saying 'Welcome to the Wirral Peninsula' would be much more appropriate than the poor welcome that greets visitors to Wirral from North Wales. We have reported this more widespread problem at this location to Cheshire West Council.



Police signage and worn out surfaces on A540 at Two Mills: Photo – Rod Tann

We report incidences of littering – an especial problem is litter on most railway embankments in Birkenhead and elsewhere.

Photo: Park Station, Birkenhead by Rod Tann



Upton Railings

We have suggested the Council should save money by using these useless & visually intrusive railings, nearly a mile of them, to replace railings damaged elsewhere.



Illegal Advertising

Former Champion Factory – Upton. The society has been supporting Wirral Council's efforts to control unauthorised advertising on this site, which now seems to have succeeded. The Society regrets the loss of the tree screen here which softened the effect of these buildings from the road.



The two photos above – Rod Tann

We have been concerned that until recently, there has been no co-ordinated or approved advertising by new businesses, despite the Council's efforts.

Threat to good Agricultural Land

Before development Photo – Neil Parry



2,000 houses at Ledsham

We are concerned when approval is given for massive housing developments on land in food

production, when the priority should be on such development or re-development within the urban area.

Development starts at Ledsham Road, Ledsham: photo by N



Trees

We encourage the planting of more trees and report incidents where protected trees are cut down without permission. We also are represented on the Wirral Tree Wardens Group.



Protected trees cut down, Noctorum

Support for Conservation Area work

Wirral Conservation Area Forum

The Society attends its meetings and provides some financial support.

Hamilton Square photo – Judith Railton



Involvement in proposed Major Developments

'Wirral Waters'

A close interest is taken in how this major project is developing.

To date we have been impressed by what has been achieved and look forward to the Hydraulic Tower being renovated.

New Wirral Metropolitan College building, 12 Quays: photo - Rod Tann



Our Sandstone Heritage

Many of our ageing sandstone walls are in need of repair and damage from accidents is always an issue. Damaged walls are reported wherever owners are known.



Hillbark Road, Frankby – photo, Rod Tann

A series of talks for members each year

The latest – 'Two and a half Centuries of the Liverpool Pilot Service.'

Retired pilot Geoffrey Topp brought alive the skills, dangers and daring of this job.

Look out for the exhibition coming to The Maritime Museum in July

Green Belt Matters

Neil Parry, Green Belt Coordinator

We continue to be engaged with Wirral Council, expressing our concerns at the proposed Hoylake Golf Resort that has gained "new life" since the involvement of Jack Nicklaus and the formation of the "joint development company", we assume with the Council.

Our concerns range from whether this will be of any benefit to Hoylake town, being an "out of town" resort, to the building of houses and a hotel on