

# Save Jealott's Hill Newsletter

8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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## New Year's Update

Good afternoon everyone and a slightly belated Happy New Year to you all.

Welcome to the first of our updates from the working group fighting the Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) plan for Jealott's Hill.

Our Group currently consists of the following members:

Jane Lumley of Jealott's Hill, Richard Lumley, Jane's long suffering husband, Richard Stok of Warfield, Rebecca Murphy from Hayley Green who some of you will know as the local CPRE representative, Charlie Griffiths also of Jealott's Hill a relatively recent resident of the Jealott's Hill and myself, Patrick(Pat) Kennedy. My wife and I have lived in Warfield since we moved back here from Germany in 1997 but I had lived here from 1983 to 1986 previously.

Following the Warfield Parish Council meeting at Woodhurst on 4th December 2019 we started to formalise the group as it became clear that this is going to be a long battle.

To start this campaign we needed to convene a meeting of our own which we did in Meadow Vale School on December 16th and since then we have been busily engaged in a wide range of activities. Thanks to all of you who attended and signed the visitor lists because this has helped us grow our member base. It was only about 3 weeks ago but somehow it seems so much longer.

During the Christmas New Year period we have been very busy and it looks like 2020 will not offer much respite. Here are some bullet points.

### PROGRESS SO FAR

We have started a Petition against the plan which passed the 3,000 signatures mark yesterday. If you have not already signed it please do so urgently and whatever you do talk to everyone you meet about the issue and encourage them to sign up also. The link will be at the end of this email.

We are building our mailing base on the NORPAG2019 Facebook page and this will be a useful source of information for you all going forward. Once again, PLEASE encourage interested friends and neighbours to join our mailing list. They can do this by emailing Save Jealott's Hill HQ at [register@savejealottshill.com](mailto:register@savejealottshill.com) and we will add the contact details to our database. We are fully GDPR compliant so you can be 100% reassured that your details will not be sold or shared with anyone.

We now own a website domain and this will become the shop window for all detailed information related to the campaign.

We are acquiring a Twitter handle at the moment and this will become a source of quick news and updates so we will give you the link to follow when this is set up.

We have adopted the name "**Save Jealott's Hill**" for this campaign and all sites and other forms of communication will be under this title. The NORPAG Facebook page will change to that style shortly but we will not lose the NORPAG identity completely nor the "heritage" it has built since its creation. Having adopted the name we are now in the process of getting flyers printed and also banners for roadside display and thanks to everyone who have already volunteered to display one on their property. Anyone else interested please contact me on [patrick@savejealottshill.com](mailto:patrick@savejealottshill.com). We need more sites.

We have been working with local residents associations outside our area, specifically Holyport, Oakley Green & Fifield and Maidens Green all of whom are in the Windsor & Maidenhead Borough but who will be badly affected by increased traffic flow and air pollution associated with this plan. We will continue to expand this reach as appropriate.

We are in contact with the RBWM Climate Emergency Coalition who are very interested in supporting us for all the environmental protection reasons we know about.

We have seen a VERY detailed response from both the Planning and the Traffic Departments of Maidenhead Council which was very negative towards the Bracknell plan we will continue to build on this relationship.

Opposition to the Plan came in from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), of which I am a member and, following on from that, Rebecca Murphy, their local representative, joined the working group. See news below in the DATES FOR YOUR DIARY section about a CPRE event in support of the campaign planned for Woodhurst School on 24th January to which some representatives of the Council are invited so let's see who has the courage to show up and let's give them a nice warm welcome if they do.

We have submitted a detailed application to CPRE for support in this campaign. This can include funding, access to specialist resources and advice from their outside experts. They are a Charity dedicated to protecting the beauty and integrity of our priceless countryside and the campaign is very fortunate to have their support.

We are working on preparations for a legal challenge once the next phase of the plan cycle is reached. We are assuming, for now, that the Council will pass the Jealott's Hill Development Plan in substantially the same form as it is now and it will then go out for a Planning Inspectorate Review. We will be lobbying to make this review a Public Hearing and you can expect there to be a lot of interest in this from Syngenta and their builder "partners". The campaign plans to fight this plan at the inspector hearings and beyond into the courts if necessary. This all costs money so we need to see if we can raise enough money to retain exceptional legal advice and the best available planning and traffic consultancies to advise us on your behalf, represent us and provide expert evidence against the Plan. We are already looking at potential legal representation whose names we have and we have been successful in securing some very welcome donations towards the cost of a preliminary legal opinion. We

are also looking at Planning & Transport experts to advise us. We cannot really say how we are going to attack the Plan at this stage because we need to see the next iteration of the plan before we can do that effectively as a challenge will be based on the Plan assumptions and justifications and also on the procedures used by the Council being incorrect in some way. You will hear a lot more about this in later issues of our Newsletter but be assured we are busy at this while being careful with the money so we don't waste funds on legal opinions which must then be rewritten at additional cost when the next version of the Plan appears.

I mentioned the Planning Cycle in the previous paragraph. The Draft Plan version which was the subject of the Consultation which closed on 6th December set out a "Next Steps" schedule as follows:

1. Further Publication Stage Consultation (February/March 2020)
2. Considerations of Representations (April/May 2020)
3. Submission of the Plan and Representations (June/July 2020)
4. Examination by the Planning Inspectorate (Autumn 2020)
5. Inspector's Report (Autumn 2020)
6. Adoption of the Final Plan (January 2021)

"Gosh this is all going to take a while" I hear you say and you are correct BUT the general view is that even this is an aggressive timeline and that it will take longer.

So we need to be patient and pace ourselves otherwise we will run out of energy and, more importantly, of funds. That said silence from the activists is not good either so from this point on you will be hearing from us every 2 weeks or so with updates. This will be initially by email and later will include Twitter news flashes.

### **CPRE EVENT ON 24th JANUARY IN WARFIELD**

An amazing event is planned at the Woodhurst School on Sopwith Road for the evening of January 24th at 7:30pm. Thanks to the efforts of the Berkshire branch of Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and our local CPRE representative, the indefatigable Rebecca Murphy, the CPRE will hold a public meeting in connection with the Jealott's Hill plan. The meeting will be attended by the noted campaigner and Chair of the London Green Belt Council, Richard Knox-Johnston and he will discuss the issues involved in campaigns such as ours. He is a noted and very successful leader of cases against some of the more ill advised developments and as Vice President of CPRE Kent has been involved in some recent very high profile victories against draft plans and at planning permission appeals. This could be a once in a lifetime chance to hear one of the "greats" of environmental campaigning for Green Belt protection in our back yard. Show your support for our campaign by coming along and giving him and other CPRE representatives a big welcome. We are lobbying CPRE for help and support on all your behalf so lets show them we mean business. We might even have a few representatives from the Council present if they can summon up the courage so keep an eye out for these rare creatures also.

## FUNDING

We are going to need VERY SUBSTANTIAL FUNDING for all this. We are working to secure some funding and we will also launch an online Crowd Funding appeal. To do this effectively and to satisfy donors on the careful use of the money we collect and donations made we need a structure to do this. We are working on a Constitution and proper Governance, Accounting and Treasury Management all of which we need to have just to open a Bank Account. See in ROLE OPPORTUNITIES below some vacancies for volunteers to help in these areas.

## ROLE OPPORTUNITIES

1. We need a Web Designer who can help us on a volunteer basis to quickly develop a website.
2. We need a Social Media person to help us optimise the offers of help we have in driving an online advertising campaign to back up the campaign and fundraising.
3. We need some Professional support in Accounting, Governance and Treasury on an occasional and part time basis to put in place the audit and compliance trails and to audit final accounts.
4. We could do with an "angel" lawyer to have on hand for advice from time to time and to help us with the QC instructions. Really we just need to be told what to do and 99% of the time we are capable of doing it.
5. PR/Media/Fundraising are areas we badly need help. Right now PR and Media is me and I am no expert in this area but I am willing to learn.

Anyone who can or who knows anyone who can please come forward to [patrick@savejealottshill.com](mailto:patrick@savejealottshill.com).

There must be some students out there of some of these areas who want to get experience in a very hands on way and get a social cause engagement paragraph on their future CV. What better than a successful environment based social media campaign. Your daughter or son could be the next Greta Thunberg!

There must be some retired accountants or lawyers out there who need a break from the endless rounds of golf and who fancy a low stress dabble in the real world again so that they can leave the real world in a better state for their children and grandchildren. It will be no fun living in a concreted jungle after we have all gone. Remember we need to take great care of this planet because good planets are hard to find!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

1. BFC Full Council Meetings: 15th January, 26th February, 11th March.
2. CPRE Public Meeting at Woodhurst School, Sopwith Rd, Warfield RG42 6BR On 24th January at 19:30.
3. RBWM Climate Emergency Coalition event at Norden Farm, Maidenhead on 28th January at 19:30. Includes an opportunity to see the environment outlook film 2040. Tickets available from Norden Farm website £8pp.

## THE PETITION

Here is the link to our petition which now stands at almost 3,050 signatures. If you have not signed the please sign and please raise awareness in others who live in the locality.

The main reasons why people have said they signed are:

- Protect the Green Belt.
- Stop the mindless growth of traffic congestion.

These account for almost 80% of the reasons given so lets not lose sight of what motivates people and work to give them the outcome they and all the rest of us want. We need to get to 5,000 signatures by middle of February to be able to hit the Council with a bombshell of Public Opinion so please campaign like crazy for this to be signed by everyone.

<https://www.change.org/p/bracknell-forest-council-save-jeallot-s-hill-green-belt-status/u/25495193>

That's it for now folks. Remember our NEW email [info@savejealottshill.com](mailto:info@savejealottshill.com) if you want to reach us.