

Save Jealott's Hill Newsletter

22nd January 2020

IT'S WEDNESDAY AND WE ARE ALL OFF TO AMERICA.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/triad/news/2020/01/16/city-county-nearly-approve-3-6-million-incentives.html>



[Greensboro, Guilford County nearly unanimously approve \\$3.6 million in incentive packages to retain Syngenta Crop Protection - Triad Business Journal](#)

With only one elected official among the Greensboro City Council and the Guilford Board of County Commissioners opposed, a combined \$3.6 million in city and county incentive packages was approved ...

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Well now, here's a thing. This is NOT Guildford Surrey but rather a place in North Carolina just north of the city of Greensboro.

This looks remarkably similar to our situation in many ways; a big company holding a council up to ransom with a clear threat to leave if they don't get what they want. And, surprise, surprise it is none other than our friends in Syngenta. And what do they want? Surprise, they want the local council to stump up the money to refurbish and retool their plant there.

The difference, however, is that in our case BFC will have no hold over them and they can take the value of the allocation of the land for development and decide later to go away wherever their parent tells them. In Greensboro the Council pays them nothing UNLESS they stay and there is a clawback if they later decide not to stay.

So why can our Council not do the same?

Well the answer is that we work differently in this country and this kind of money can only come from Central Government and NOT from BFC.

WE SAY that the money to support the retool of the Syngenta operation should come from Westminster if it comes from anywhere other than Syngenta, it should have strings attached also which tie Syngenta to the land for a period into the future, have a claw back clause which comes into force if they do not stay and maintain employment and which means they must pay back a proportion of the money based on the number of years they stay and maintain a level of employment equivalent to today. The money should only be enough to help them refurbish their plant and equipment. It cannot be a big payday which artificially plumps up their balance sheet. Of course we don't know if this is indeed the plan but Syngenta should be prepared give firm guarantees before they get any concession and they should only get a concession on the current "built on" area and NOT on hundreds of acres of green fields in the Green Belt. And, folks, if Syngenta want to develop a Science & Innovation Park of their built area then good, go ahead and if the Westminster Government wants to support them financially to some extent in the interest of Science and Innovation linked jobs and to support their friendship with China, fine, go ahead but work on the basis that all this must make sense, stand on its own eventually from a financial stand point and if the jobs don't come or Syngenta decide to leave or scale down their employment here in the next 20 years then they have to pay money back. Do NOT let them get this money by destroying a valuable patch of Green Belt, take the money and leave future generations here to wrestle with the problem of an isolated development which has no sustainable legitimacy.

If you agree then come along on Friday 24th (this coming Friday, the day after tomorrow) for a couple of hours and have your voices heard.

We will all be at the Woodhurst C of E school from 7:30pm on Friday to hear the case and ask our questions. Will You?

Don't forget to register by email cpreberkshire@btopenworld.com or telephone 01189 306 756

patrick@savejealottshill.com

PS. If you read the article above have a special look for the name of the man who wrote it. It is right at the end.