**ALBRIGHTON DEVELOPMENT ACTION GROUP**
**September - October 2026 Update**

# A REMARKABLE MONTH OF COMMUNITY ACTION

## ALBRIGHTON - GREEN NOT GREY

What an extraordinary month it has been for Albrighton and our surrounding communities. After many months of preparation, fundraising and hard work, the Public Inquiry into Boningale Developments' proposals for up to 800 homes, an 80-bed care home, a secondary school and other development on Green Belt land finally began. The past few weeks have shown our community at its very best. People have walked, baked, donated, tied green ribbons, attended meetings, travelled to Shrewsbury and bravely spoken at the Inquiry. Every contribution has helped.

**A PACKED PUBLIC MEETING – THE FINAL PUSH** The Red House was packed for our final public meeting before the Inquiry, with residents filling the room to hear the latest news and show their support. We were delighted to welcome our MP, Mark Pritchard, and Shropshire Councillor Nigel Lumby. Both praised the strength, organisation and determination of our community campaign.

The evening helped everyone understand how the Inquiry would work, introduced members of our professional team and gave residents an opportunity to ask questions. Most importantly, it brought everyone together for one final show of unity before the Inquiry began. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, the evening also raised just under £1,700 towards our professional and legal costs. It was a packed, positive and highly successful evening and another wonderful example of our community pulling together.

**MUSIC IN THE GARDEN** More than 150 people joined us at Boningale Old Farmhouse for our Music in the Garden afternoon. The garden was filled with music from The Skylarks Flute Duet, Veracini String Quartet, Dolce Nota and our folk singer. Visitors enjoyed homemade cakes, tea, samosas, Pimm's, flowers and plants, all in glorious sunshine. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who came, our wonderful musicians and the many volunteers who helped, the afternoon raised an amazing £2,633.83. For one very special afternoon, Boningale was buzzing!

💰 **FUNDRAISING GAP:**

# £3,800

forecast still needed to pay for our Barrister & Consultants for the Appeal Public Inquiry. This has come down massively from the £10k number last month.
**See how to help below** 👇

**THE GREAT GREEN BELT WALK** Hundreds of supporters gathered for our Great Green Belt Walk around the fields threatened by development. People of all ages joined the 2.8-mile walk, while many others came simply to wave them off and show their support or joined the Afterparty at The Crown with live bands New Statics & Bleeding Hearts. Despite the weather, the atmosphere was determined, friendly and uplifting. The event attracted coverage from BBC Midlands Today and the Shropshire Star and raised a magnificent £3,335.34 through sponsorship, donations, flags, raffle tickets and the auction. It sent a powerful message: these fields are known, walked, farmed and valued by our community. Our green ribbons displayed throughout Albrighton and the surrounding area carried that message too: **Green Belt – Not Grey!**

**TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE – AN EVENING WITH BARRY FRY** Our fundraising continues with An Evening with Barry Fry at the Red House, Albrighton, on Friday 25 September at 7pm. Barry Fry is one of English football's most colourful and entertaining personalities, with plenty of memorable stories from his years managing clubs including Birmingham City, Barnet and Peterborough United. He will be joined by Britain's Got Talent finalist Danny Posthill. Tickets are £40 per person and include a fish-and-chip supper. There will also be a raffle with some excellent prizes. For tickets contact 07733 008215.

**A HISTORY OF ALBRIGHTON WITH JOHN STRETTON** We are delighted to announce that John will be doing a special history talk in November at the Red House. Watch this space for details….

**THE APPEAL PUBLIC INQUIRY - ALBRIGHTON'S VOICE** The opening day of the Inquiry belonged to the community. 37 speakers took part, either in person at the Guildhall, Shrewsbury or during the evening online session. They spoke with knowledge, honesty and a deep understanding of Albrighton and its surrounding community. Speakers and subjects included Mark Pritchard MP who addressed the Inquiry as the Member of Parliament for The Wrekin. Interested Party Speakers names and subjects are published for record below.

## THANK YOU TO ALBRIGHTON'S INTERESTED PARTY SPEAKERS:

- **Peter Illes** – Albrighton and Donington Parish Council
- **David Slatcher** – Boningale Parish Council
- **Charles Green** – CPRE
- **Carl Huntley** – care-home provision
- **Peter Ford** – the impact of closing roads
- **Robert Hodges** – the heritage impact on Lea Hall
- **Sanjiv Jogi** – affordable housing
- **Linda Banks-Farnell** – the A464 roundabout
- **Angela Robertshaw** – the fulfilment of Boningale Developments' proposals
- **Charlie Blakemore** – community cohesion
- **David Corden** – flooding
- **Delphine Lockley** – the impact on The Sheiling
- **Dylan Barker** – foul drainage
- **Gill Miller** – the impact on young people
- **Rick Houghton** – regenerative farming and soil structure
- **Jenny Hood** – ornithology
- **Tony Stirk** – brownfield development first
- **Willowe Keeley** – the impact on horses and riders
- **Lula**, with her words read by Robin Mackworth-Gee – a primary-school-aged child's perspective
- **Lucie Harris** – Albrighton High Street and independent businesses
- **Phil Ogle** – Albrighton Station
- **Mark Pritchard, MP**
- **Zoe Turner** – the impact on Shifnal
- **Pank Patel** – the proposed secondary school
- **Sharon Barker** – Cross Road junction and an undesignated heritage asset
- **Angie Tindall** – medical-centre provision
- **Diana Whalley** – the lived experience of a small market town
- **Dipika Price** – Green Belt
- **Duncan Reeves** – transport
- **James Pritchard** – the sustainability of the location for young working people
- **Jan Asthenidis** – traffic and parking
- **Matt Lakin** – Albrighton's recent and planned development
- **Michael Treble** – the impact on Lea Farm Barns
- **Nicola Richardson** – the impact on disabled and elderly people
- **Alan Henderson** – arboriculture
- **Rachel McEntee** – the impact on Bowling Green Lane and Elm Road
- **Bob Watson** – wildlife
- **John Stretton** – key historical evidence that Albrighton is a designated town

The Inquiry programme covers transport and accessibility, landscape, ecology, planning policy, education, housing-land supply, Green Belt, planning obligations and conditions. Heritage, flooding and drainage are also being considered. Residents have continued to travel to the Guildhall, often sitting for many hours to listen to the evidence. Their presence matters. We have been encouraged to hear that the organisation and professionalism of ADAG's Rule 6 Party submissions have been noticed and respected.

Our excellent legal and planning team have worked extremely hard on behalf of us all. We have great faith in our barrister, Chatura, and our consultants Tom and John who have presented the community's case with strength and clarity.

**THE APPEAL - WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?** During the Inquiry, it was announced that the appeal had been recovered for determination by the Secretary of State Angela Rayner. This means that the Inspector will prepare a report and recommendation, but the final decision will be made by the Secretary of State. It may mean a longer wait, but it also reflects the importance and wider significance of the case. We remain positive and proud of the comprehensive case being put forward on behalf of our community.

💰**WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP** As this article was prepared, an incredible £58,472.28 had been raised, leaving a forecast £3,800 needed to pay the final bills. The response has been astonishing, but we need one last push. If you can contribute, however small the amount, it will be gratefully received.

**Donate By Bank Transfer:**
To 'Albrighton Village Action Group'
Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 30-99-50
Account Number: 38092962

**Easyfundraising:**
tinyurl.com/bdens9uu

**Donate at Just Giving Online:**
https://tinyurl.com/HelpADAGFightAppeal

**By Cheque:** Payable to 'Albrighton Village Action Group'. Posted to: AVAG, c/o Brockley Cottage, Cross Road, Albrighton, WV7 3BJ

**Questions and pledges of support** can be emailed to albrightonvag@gmail.com

**UPDATES AS THEY HAPPEN** 🚨For breaking news and information, go to our Facebook group: 'Albrighton Development Action Group' https://www.facebook.com/groups/990889905998818