

NEIGHBOURS AROUND THE FIELD UPDATE

We have now collated the results of the questionnaire we distributed to the households neighbouring the field in December. We asked if residents were in favour, undecided or against the Anson Trust’s proposals for the Anson Field. Every member of each household was asked to give their opinion and in some cases there was a mixture of responses from the same household. Over 70% of the questionnaires we put through peoples doors were returned to us and the returns are summarised here:

Total head count voting:	96
Those against The Trust’s Proposals:	74 (77%)
Those undecided:	19 (20%)
Those in favour of the proposals:	3 (3%)

We felt it was important to learn the views of all residents around the field, not just those of voting age. Of those who ticked the “under 18” box all but one were against the proposals and the other ticked undecided. Space was also provided for comments. Almost all the residents who returned questionnaires took the opportunity to explain the option (or options) that they had ticked.

We have not yet had the opportunity to discuss these results and your comments with the Anson Trust but plan to do so at the earliest opportunity

BOB ANDERSON 391460

NICK LAWRIE 391540

(For the NAF committee)

Dear Editor

Anson Trust Proposal

Ref Dec 06 edition with articles and questions from the Parish Council to the Anson Trust and the AT’s helpful Q&A, I think there is one proposal which may not have been aired. When the AT are in a position to sell the vacant Institute and car park in about 2011, will sufficient money be raised to pay for a sensible, quality village hall (community centre) on Anson Field?

I appreciate the existing sport and social club’s ageing buildings are in a poor state (NOT due to neglect) and barely adequate for purpose, but are invaluable to many organisations including the relocated Village Café.

It may seem ill-advised to spend money on these building beyond essential maintenance for another four years but it that not preferable to the potential loss of our much loved green space. The existing, well-maintained and well-used sports

grounds appear adequate; 1st class specialist facilities are now available in Abingdon.

I understand AT finances ‘are serious’ (and it still have to maintain the empty Institute) but there is nothing to stop villagers fundraising to meet essential repairs.

Maybe the Ex-Servicemen’s Club would like to participate for it surely must be on the consciences that this complex situation is, in part, due to their intransigence – or have I go the wrong end of the stick? Presumably they envisage sharing the bar facilities in the new village hall.

Original Aims of Anson Trust

In the early 20th century when the Ansons employed estate workers, the provision of alms houses was appropriate. Today, it is the role of housing associations to build low-cost quality housing schemes; it is good new 13 more properties are being built at Longfields. Additionally, the local authority can assist with rent and council tax on rented properties which are now more available.

I think AT is overly ambitious suggesting it also provides (and presumably builds) rented housing with te life-long responsibility for management and maintenance.

The village urgently needs a new multi-functional village hall with adequate parking and safe road access to Anson Field. Keep it simple and funds can be raised. It will be a great pity if Marcham has to wait another four year before this process can begin.

If we lost Anson Field, the School could more next resulting in the heart of the village turning into one large housing estate with little character beyond the lovely original listed area.

GRETA GOULDING

Anson Trust Q&A on pages 7 & 9

Dear Editor

Thames Water Proposed Reservoir

I attended a meeting at the Guildhall in Abingdon on behalf of the parish council to listen to a presentation about the findings of Stage 1 of the consultation and to find out about Stage 2 of the consultation period. The implications of the reservoir being built in this area are far reaching and with out doubt there are positives and negatives to be considered.

I would urge all parishioners to attend the exhibition at Marcham School on Saturday 27th Jan from 9:00am – 9:00 pm where you will be able to study the design implications of the project and formulate your own opinions of the total scheme.

Thames Water are requesting our feedback and I would strongly urge all parishioners to request the bypass for Marcham be an

integral part of the design brief. With the increased housing and the continual traffic growth in the area which will be exasperated by this scheme we have another golden opportunity to have our voices heard. Thames Water will have to build a major entry road into the site and hopefully we can campaign for it to branch off from a southern by pass.

MALCOLM DENTON 01865 391497

Dear Editor

Early January has seen Thames Water start Phase 2 of the consultation process even though the objectives for Phase 1 have not been met. GARD has started its public campaign with a tent just outside Steventon Village hall on the first 2 days of the Thames Water Exhibition. We had many visitors who raised concerns about what Thames Water were saying and indeed were NOT saying.

We understand how people might feel from the style of presentations made by Thames Water to the public why some people might feel the Reservoir is a “Done deal”. It is not. We can all make a difference.

GARD would like to remind all that will be affected by the reservoir, should it go ahead, of the meeting at Steventon Village Hall at 7.30pm on 23rd February. At this meeting we would particularly welcome young people to join us in our efforts to persuade the authorities of how inappropriate this proposed reservoir really is. It is this age group that will bear the burden of its consequences into the future.

GARD looks forward to welcoming all on

Dear Editor

We obviously have a none-too-bright (positively thick actually) car thief in Marcham. During the night of Friday 29 December, someone attempted to steal our old shop van. Our old shop van, I mean, have you seen it?!

As a second thought, we had an idea that maybe it was the radio they were after, the radio that cost peanuts about 30 years ago and now doesn’t even work.

If it is the radio that caught someone’s eye, if they would let us know and we would gladly unlock the passenger door and let them have it. We would of course normally unlock the driver’s door but we can’t anymore as it was damaged!!

JULIA AND DAVID BALL

FREE

Several bags of clean, screw-top jam jars (1lb and smaller) available to any marmalade makers. Collect or I can deliver. Please ring 391489, preferably evenings.

Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events