

**THANK YOU**

We would like to thank everyone who helped us to search for Peter when he went missing, the whole village seemed to come to our aid. It truly was amazing how everyone pulled together for us. Peter was found fit and well, although quite exhausted. Found in Oxford by our neighbours, wondering what all the fuss was about!! Thank you to the police for their time too, PC Blackburn was a great support.

**We really feel we can't express our gratitude enough. Thank you  
NICK AND CAROLINE**

*Dear Editor*

Having attended the Anson Trust Exhibition concerning the proposed development of land on the Anson field, I feel that more questions than answers arise. There was no plan as to where the houses were to be!

At a meeting held approx two years ago we were told by the Anson Trust solicitor that no houses would ever be built on this site. You will appreciate the concern of the residents of the properties around the field about this development

The open spaces are enjoyed by the Cricket Club, Football Club, Dog Walkers and Children. To build on this land would damage the heart of the village to say nothing of depreciating the value of our properties and the beautiful view enjoyed by so many of us.

**CAROLYN WOODLEY**

*Dear Editor*

PROPOSED ANSON FIELD DEVELOPMENT

Our family is both shocked and horrified to read about the Anson Trusts PROPOSAL to build around 45 new homes on the Anson Field. It is my understanding that this field was left in Trust for the benefit and enjoyment of all the villagers, and was never to be built on.

If this proposal were to go ahead, it would rip the heart and soul out of our village – and for what purpose? The Anson Trust say that their financial situation has slowly declined. I wonder; how much the Trust are spending on the production of this glossy brochure we all received, coupled with the costs of ‘samantha@localdialogue.com’? I would like to know who this company are, what their purpose is, and who they actually represent. In addition, what expensive role are they playing in all this? It could be presumed that they are working in conjunction with a builder of new homes. The Institute and land will be developed on in the future and surely this will bring valuable funds to our village. What is the point of ripping up our existing field to lay down another one on the outskirts of the village? What about the disruption, mess, and noise this development would bring?

**Write to MADNews and let others know what you think about current events  
November 2006**

And so close to our primary school. Has anyone thought about the increased traffic levels and the safety of our children going in and out of school?

A year ago, the Anson Trust erected a small fence around the perimeter of the field. Now it is apparent they were simply marking their territory in preparation for this. At more cost! The residents were then graciously offered to ‘buy rear access to the field’ at a cost of £250 each. Rear access to what and where, if these proposals go ahead! Was this offer of access just a sweetener with a sour after taste?

Many villagers use this field, whilst situated in the heart of our village – close to the school and the majority of our homes. And yet you propose to rip it out and try to resituate its heart and soul on the outskirts of the village, were busy roads have to be crossed in order to get to it!

In the Marcham News, only a small section appeared, stating the proposals to provide a new community hall and sports pitches for the village, with no mention of ripping the heart out of our village in the process. May I say, your job of ‘glossing things over’ is second to none!

It was stated on the Anson Trust web site, that they were meeting with Marcham Parish Council in September to discuss the proposals. I can't believe that our Parish Council could support these proposals!

I have, under the Freedom of Information Act, asked the Charities Commission for an original copy of the Anson Trust constitution, to ascertain more information. Under the original Trust conditions, made by the Sisters Anson, can the land actually be sold? Hopefully, the original governing document, and not the one ‘scheme dated 10 May 05’ stated on the extract from the Central Register of Charities, will provide more information.

Although human nature dictates a small element of ‘NIMBY’, we STRONGLY OBJECT on the grounds that it would not be in the interest of our small community to try to move the heart and soul of our village unnecessarily. Surely, money from the development of the Institute and land could be used to improve our existing facilities on the Anson Field without this proposal going ahead.

**PLEASE STOP THIS PROPOSAL BEFORE ANY FURTHER UNNECESSARY EXPENSE IS INCURRED!**

**JEAN WALKER**

*Dear Editor*

The proposals unveiled for the Anson Fields and possible redevelopment of the primary school, are of great interest to me and I am sure they will arouse great debate and scrutiny in Marcham. When I was told of the proposals, a week before

the presentation on the 12th October, I was quite frankly stunned! After some days of calm(er) reflection, I began to look upon these proposals - because that's just what they are at present - with a clearer eye. Marcham must not dismiss these proposals lightly, they must be given a chance to show what they may offer the village in the long term. Marcham will change and grow, as I have written previously in MADNews, this is a chance for Marcham to have a say in the future.

In 1903, the Anson fields were on the edge of the village, so it is not a new idea! The possible movement of the school would need a lot of input from local residents, and I am happy to listen to your views. Be in no doubt, however, that possible opportunities on this scale come along once or twice in a lifetime. Do not be afraid to ask all the questions you may have – its your village.

The reservoir – another proposal – is coming under some very detailed scrutiny at the moment, whilst we are in the stage 1: needs and alternatives. The information provided so far has not led me to believe that a reservoir is needed now or at anytime in the future. What is becoming clearer is that the alternatives could be in force as from today and would lead to much increased savings in the use of water.

We are told that consumption has fallen 10% during the hosepipe ban, and that the Environment Agency have an aspiration that everyone should be on a water meter by 2015, as the UK has the second lowest use of water meters in Western Europe (only Eire has lower metering rates). Alternatives must be given a thorough look, not just a cursory glance.

Some people are already talking about getting a Marcham bypass from planning gain from a reservoir... possible in theory perhaps but we should be content that the selection process is done properly first, and is open to scrutiny.

Finally, the by-pass, or lack of it! Due to the priorities and the selection of projects to fund by the Regional Transport Board – part of SEERA – the A415 will now not be looked at as a major scheme now or probably anytime in the near future. The line of the Marcham by-pass has been retained and protected, and this project is still a possibility. For the time being O.C.C are being asked, again, to look at providing a scheme for Packhorse lane which would include a pavement and single-way working with traffic lights. I am constantly asking David Robertson for these measures, as I feel that Marcham is a special case as it contains an A road which is, I believe, the narrowest two-way stretch in Oxfordshire!

**IAIN BROWN  
COUNTY COUNCILLOR**