

ANSON TRUST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We would like to thank all those who attended the public exhibition on 12th October.

Almost 300 residents came to express an interest in this exciting new development for Marcham. For residents who were unable to attend, we would like to take this opportunity to share the latest news on the proposals and explain how everyone can get involved in shaping the future for leisure and recreation in Marcham.

The Trust has developed a vision which it hopes will provide first class facilities for the village for the foreseeable future.

These proposals consist of a new, modern community building on the edge of the village, adjacent to Hyde Copse, with playing fields of the highest quality. This will provide facilities to satisfy the needs of the existing users and also offer a wider range of social and sporting functions (both indoor and outdoor), for a larger number of people, than the current facilities. Moving facilities to a new location within walking distance of the village centre means there will be much more space in which to develop a wide range of activities to meet the needs of generations to come. The new development will also utilise modern energy conservation techniques which will help to improve the economic viability of the scheme.

All of this will be made possible through new homes on the Anson Field. As well as funding the new facility, the housing will help deliver a significant endowment for the Anson Trust to continue its charitable work and invest in the new facilities for years to come.

The exhibition did highlight some concerns about the housing and the Trust would like to reassure villagers that the sensitive design of this development is of paramount importance. Around 45 homes are proposed, which means that at least half of the existing recreational ground will be retained and used to form an open green space and play area, open to all residents of Marcham. At least 40% of the new homes will be affordable, and the Trust is looking into the possibility of managing these on behalf of the village so priority is given to Marcham residents.

The Trust is keen to involve the community from this early stage. Thanks to the great turn out at the exhibition this two-way process has already begun. We are listening

If you represent a local pressure group, let us know your point of view

Neighbourhood Policing is coming to Your Area

Let us know what issues most affect you by attending the public meeting

- Tell us what would really make a difference to how safe you feel
- Let us know which issues you want us to tackle first
- Get involved and help us find the right solutions
- Meet your local Officers

**Thursday 9th November 2006
7pm at Marcham Primary School**

This meeting has been organised by your Neighbourhood Action Group which includes representatives from local parish and district councils, Housing Associations, Thames Valley Police, Neighbourhood Watch, the youth service, schools in the area, other community groups and local residents.

A Neighbourhood Action Group is a problem solving group that will work with the community to address the issues you identify and communicate the results to our communities.



to the views and opinions of the local community and we will endeavour to take these on board as the plans evolve. We will require the input of local villagers to ensure that the plans meet the needs of the existing community. It is for this reason that the Trust would like to encourage all residents to attend forthcoming meetings to discuss the proposals. It is hoped there will be more detailed plans to share with the community in the coming weeks and dates for forthcoming public meetings will be posted on the website (www.ansontrust.co.uk).

In the meantime, to find our more information, please call Samantha Donaldson on 020 7357 6606, or email samantha@localdialogue.com.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE ARTHUR ANSON MEMORIAL TRUST LIMITED.

RAP

Statement by the Reservoir Affected Parishes (RAP) Group

Thames Water wants to build a massive new reservoir in this area, primarily to supply London. The plan unveiled on 13 September indicated that they would like a reservoir to be sited on land bounded by Steventon, East Hanney, Marcham and the railway line. It showed a land take area of about 18 sq km – equivalent to about 1200 football pitches – and the reservoir would have a working capacity of about 150 million tonnes of water. Its embankments would be over 80 feet high. This would have a major impact on the surrounding landscape and villages. Construction alone could take at least 8 years.

Thames Water is intending to apply for a Compulsory Works Order in 2008. The application would be considered by Defra. There would be a Public Inquiry, after which a decision would be made by the

Secretary of State. A Compulsory Works Order means that the usual requirement to negotiate planning gains via a Section 106 Agreement would not exist. However it is highly likely that Thames Water would be required to provide sailing, fishing, walking and nature reserve facilities.

The Reservoir Affected Parishes (RAP) Group, consisting of representatives of all the local Parish Councils, believes that all possible alternatives should be thoroughly assessed, and the results published, before such a project goes ahead. These include a much greater emphasis on reducing leakage and encouraging householders and industry to reduce consumption.

RAP believes that a project of this enormity – the estimated cost is £1 billion – is difficult to justify while leakage rates remain so high. Thames Water loses 320 million tonnes a year. This is more than twice the capacity of the proposed reservoir and equivalent to about three times the leakage rate of the other water companies. Yet OFWAT, the water industry regulator, is only calling for Thames Water to reduce its leakage rate by 17% by 2010. For the last six years Thames Water has missed its leakage reduction targets.

This is by no means a 'done deal'. The Environment Agency and OFWAT will need to be satisfied.

YOUR VIEWS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

THIS IS THE START OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS - MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN TO YOUR PARISH COUNCIL.

Contact: RAP, PO Box 266, Abingdon OX14 4RJ

RAP represents the parishes of Ardington & Lockinge, Garford, Drayton, East & West Hanney, Frilford, East Hendred, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay.