

Brantham HOGS Newsletter



Introduction from Alex Toms, Chairman

Like many local residents I care about my local community. I got involved with Brantham HOGS (Hands Off our Greenfield Space) because I want to protect our village and the environment my children will grow up in. I am proud to say I live in Brantham and I wasn't surprised when it was voted Babergh's Village of The Year in 2013 and runner up for the overall title of Suffolk's Village Of The Year. Brantham also won the Suffolk County Council 'Open Space' award in 2014. Personally speaking, I would like to keep our open spaces.

Who are HOGS?

We are an action group formed by residents who are against the proposal by the St Francis Group (SFG) to build hundreds of homes on our beautiful Greenfield spaces. We want to see the Factory Lane Brownfield site developed rather than our picturesque countryside. Our objectives are to:

- Lobby politicians and councilors.
- Raise funds to put up a legal challenge if Babergh District Council Planning Committee approves the plans.
- Engage with residents to raise awareness of the proposed development.
- Assist residents and provide advice on how they can object to the mindless destruction of our countryside.
- Work with the community and local authorities to ensure the Brownfield site is developed in the most appropriate way.



Did you know?

Babergh Council have met their housing quota. It would seem they are effectively bailing SFG out by allowing them to propose the building of over 300 houses on food producing Greenfield land. We would question whether SFG have got their sums wrong and have realised they took on too much with the contaminated Brownfield site.

SFG propose to build light industrial units on the Brownfield site 'to order'. There is over 1 million square feet of light industrial space available to rent or purchase within 10 miles of Brantham. Babergh Council have little evidence to suggest there is a demand for these units and we fear we will be left with a half finished Brownfield development and concreted green fields.

School places in the area are very limited. In 2015/16 Brooklands Primary School is expected to be at 95% capacity without the addition of 300+ houses. East Bergholt High School is predicted to be at 103% capacity. How would you feel about not being able to get a place in a local school for your children?

Recent Activity

Members of Brantham HOGS attended the St Francis Group (SFG) exhibition at the leisure centre recently. Residents we spoke to who were departing the exhibition were, not surprisingly, overwhelmingly against development.

HOGS are now online thanks to Ted our web designer who has given up his free time to build the website. You can join HOGS by filling in the contact form on the site www.branthamhogs.co.uk.

We have recently written to the Governments Valuations Office Agency (VOA) regarding the viability study they are producing. This study effectively determines if the proposal to build on Brownfield and/or Greenfield is financially viable. We are very concerned that the VOA is using figures supplied by the developer SFG.



Plans for this month....

We are talking with the Essex, Beds & Herts Conservation Officer for the RSPB, to discuss the environmental impact of the proposed development.

We have received our sample HOGS placards from the printers. If you would like to receive a weather proof placard - 59cm x 42cm - from our next bulk order then please contact us (see below) by the 31st March.

We plan to contact Babergh District Council planning committee members to seek their opinion of the proposed development and ask if they are for or against unnecessary building on the Greenfield site.

Can you help?

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND DISPLAY THE POSTER DELIVERED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER
Would you like to help HOGS? We particularly need assistance with planning law, fundraising, general research & lobbying – if you think you could help in any way then get in touch as follows:

branthamhogs@hotmail.com • branthamhogs.co.uk • post box at Bakes & Blossoms

