

# Wickford North GREEN ACTION GROUP

*Leaflet 5 – February 2008 - this directly affects your neighbourhood*

**News - Basildon Council's Planning Committee will consider the application for Barn Hall at a Hearing, being held in public in the Main Hall of Bromfords High School, Grange Avenue, Wickford on Tuesday, 12 February 2008 at 7.30pm**

This is our first leaflet since August 2007 when over 300 people formally objected in writing to developers' plans to build on our lovely, green countryside at Barn Hall - a magnificent response! We have been waiting for Basildon Council's Planning Committee to make its decision on the planning application.

That decision will now be made at the 12 February meeting when the Planning Committee consider the recommendation from their planning officers. But the developers have already appealed to central government's Planning Inspectorate in respect of the delay in reaching a decision. It is expected that this appeal, known as a "Non-Determination" appeal, will continue if the Planning Committee's decision is to reject the application to build on Barn Hall.

Wickford North Green Action Group (WNGAG) consider that it is vitally important that the people of Wickford continue to demonstrate their strong objections to any building and their determination to see Barn Hall returned permanently to Green Belt. You can do this by attending the Planning Hearing.

## **What happens at a Planning Hearing?**

It's a council meeting held in public, not a public meeting. Normally it's at the Council's headquarters in Basildon but this application is so important to Wickford people that it's being held at Bromfords School.

It will begin with a presentation by the planning officer. There will then be an opportunity for WNGAG and members of the public to give their views - limited to 3 minutes each! If you wish to speak, you should arrive about 10 minutes before the start and make yourself known to a council officer. Committee members - that is, councillors - will then give their opinions and discuss the issues; after which, the chairperson will sum up and a vote will be taken. The options are to allow, allow with conditions, defer, or reject.

## **A reminder about Gleeson's & Gladedale's proposals for building flats and houses at Barn Hall**

Their initial planning application covers two fields, measuring 4.3 hectares (10.6 acres), bisected by a hedgerow, to the north and east of Station Avenue (& abutting the rear gardens of houses in Guernsey Gardens). It proposes up to 200 new dwellings. Most are flats. Access would be from Station Avenue at the northern end and/or via a new mini-roundabout at the existing Silver Way junction. But the developers do not just own these 10.6 acres. They own most of the 100 acres of green countryside up to and beyond Waverley Crescent. Their proposals are a mere 'stepping stone' to much larger scale development. Have no doubts! They intend to 'concrete over the lot' and build up to 2000 houses and flats at Barn Hall!

**More information is available on-line at [www.basildon.co.uk](http://www.basildon.co.uk) if you have access to the Internet.** Navigate to Planning > Committee Meetings > Development Control & Traffic Management Committee > Browse Meetings & Agendas for this committee > 12 February 2008. All papers for the hearing, including the planning officers' recommendation, should be published here *up to 5 working days before 12 February.*