

Wickford North GREEN ACTION GROUP

Leaflet 7 – April 2008 - this directly affects your neighbourhood

News - Public Inquiry date into development at Barn Hall fixed for 24 June 2008

The Planning Inspectorate have announced the date of their public inquiry into Gleesons Homes Ltd and Gladedale Group Ltd's appeal against Basildon Council's rejection of their Outline Planning Application Ref. 07/00801/OUT to build at Barn Hall. It will be held on 24 June 2008 at the Council's offices in the Basildon Centre in St. Martin's Square, Basildon and may last more than one day. Further details (eg. starting time) will be available nearer the time.

What happens at a Public Inquiry?

Inquiries are open to members of the public and local residents are encouraged to take part. Their local knowledge and opinions can often be a valuable addition to the more formal evidence given by the appellant (Gleesons & Gladedale) and the Council. If you want to see what the appellant and the Council have said in their preliminary evidence, you will be able to see copies of the documents at the Council's offices after 27 May 2008. As for the inquiry itself:

- if you want to speak, please be there when it opens because the Inspector will begin by giving the timetable, go through some routine matters, and ask who will be taking part;
- give your name and address at this stage and say whether you're for or against development;
- the appellant will give a brief opening statement, describing the nature of their development;
- the Council then make their opening statement;
- the Council's witnesses then give their evidence and the appellant cross-examines them;
- the appellant then calls their witnesses and the Council can cross-examine them;
- at this stage, members of the public usually have the opportunity to speak. The Inspector will ask if you are willing to answer questions about your evidence. You do not have to do this but you should not be afraid. The Inspector will not let anyone ask you hostile or unfair questions;
- the inquiry ends with closing speeches by the Council and the appellant.

What happens after the Public Inquiry?

The Inspector will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears. She will make the final decision. So it's central government which will determine the fate of Barn Hall.

New Petition - WNGAG continues to fight this development 100%

Wickford North Green Action Group (WNGAG) are organising a new petition against this outline planning application by Gleesons and Gladedale. It will be part of WNGAG's evidence at the public inquiry. Together with our MP, John Baron, we will present it to Hazel Blears. A new petition is needed because the previous one, which you may have signed in December 2006 was before the planning application was made. It demonstrated the strength of feeling of the local community against the principle of developing Barn Hall but cannot be used in evidence against the specific application made afterwards by the developers. So, please, please:

- sign the new petition when our volunteers call at your house. Everyone present should sign!
- encourage other family members & friends to sign our new on-line petition at www.greenwickfordnorth.org.uk

www.greenwickfordnorth.org.uk is WNGAG's very own website. It's just been updated with a fresh new look and, of course, full news of what's at stake if a mini-town is built at Barn Hall.