

# Friends of Ringwood Forest

Newsletter No. 11

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011

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## About Us . . .

The government has decided we do not meet their stringent criteria to register as a Community Interest Company – one requirement being that we do not protest against government/local authority decisions or policies.

The founding officers of the Friends of Ringwood Forest (FoRF) are therefore shaping a Constitution which will establish democratically chosen Officers and an elected Members Committee. We will tell you more in the New Year.

## Club31 . . Monday 5th December @ 6:30 pm

Join us in a friendly, informal atmosphere to hear more about the new structure for FoRF and to discuss ideas for publicity . . . and anything else you would like to know about.

## Soundness . . . our Legal Team

[Bircham Dyson Bell](#) (BDB), Lawyers & Parliamentary Agents, have once again agreed to help us. They have been instructed to give an initial view as to whether we have a credible case to challenge HCC's Plan.

Sponsored funding has been sourced to pay for this initial Phase. Further guidance from BDB through to the Public Examination stage will come at a price and we have been able to cover ONLY the cost of the initial phase so far. We will therefore tell you more about what we can do next after BDB's initial view has been received.

The Soundness Working Group (SWG) has worked hard to identify the campaign's extensive initial evidence which been sent to BDB for review.

Many thanks go to each of the SWG members for their unstinting support.

## Soundness . . . meeting the Councils

Dorset County, East Dorset District & Verwood Town Councils have all accepted the campaign team's invitation to discuss evidence and approach when responding to HCC's Soundness Consultation.

We meet Council representatives on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. We will tell you about the outcome in next week's "Soundness Special".

## Woodland Trust . . . Grant Award

The [Woodland Trust](#) has awarded us a grant of twice the usual amount to help us meet campaign costs.

The grant has been awarded in recognition of our achievements resulting from the efforts of everyone who has actively supported the campaign.

Thank you all so much!!

## Verwood Town Council . . . 2012 Grant Application

We have applied to Verwood Town Council for a grant towards our anticipated running costs for the 2012 financial year. Fingers crossed . . .

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## Non Internet Users . . . are now connected

Dawn Leader, who has taken on the role of champion for our non-digitally connected members, has led a delivery to them of updated information about the campaign. Dawn and her team of volunteer helpers completed the information drop in record time.

**Special thanks therefore go to Mike, Denise, Julie, Andy, Roy, Barbara, Sue, Wendy and Kath.**

Great job & great teamwork everyone!

## Situations Vacant . . .

### Webmaster

Mick Smith, the campaign's webmaster, has decided to hand over the reins for maintaining our website. This is because his family will be extended in the New Year by the arrival of twins and it is also GCSE year for his son.

Mick, whose work on the website has been highly valued, will be a hard act to follow . . . however DO YOU have the technical skills we need? Please let us know – see our contact details are at the foot of this page.

### Press Enquiries

Do you like writing? Are you a budding journalist? Do you have an interest in managing publicity and/or the media?

The campaign needs someone who would like to manage our relationship with the Press, both writing press releases and responding to press enquiries.

Interested? Please contact us soon – details are at the bottom of this page.

Finally –

## East Dorset News . . .

The Winter 2011 edition of East Dorset News has been delivered to many, but not all, postal addresses.

[It is now available online](#). Please go to Page 1 for an item concerning Purple Haze and to Page 6 for news about Moors Valley Country Park.

*Deadline for your newsletter contributions is Thursday.  
Feedback, questions & newsletter ideas:  
[notoph@btinternet.com](mailto:notoph@btinternet.com)*