

Friends of Ringwood Forest

Newsletter No. 13

16th December 2011

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Campaign Response to HCC . . . now online

After a hectic few weeks, during which midnight oil burned, teeth were gnashed and hair torn out, the Campaign's Response to HCC was submitted today. It is available online NOW – [just click on this link](#).

If you haven't responded to HCC already, you might consider sending them an endorsement of the campaign's response by emailing: planning.policy@hants.gov.uk

Many people have told us they found the whole Soundness Consultation impenetrable, overwhelming in terms of the documentation and challenging to work through without local authority planning, mining or waste management expertise.

Your views have been shared with HCC. We have also asked to speak with the Planning Inspectorate next year and we will tell them the same thing!

A sincere "Thank You" therefore goes to everyone who persevered and responded to HCC and also to everyone who sent us comments about the draft response – they all helped 😊

. . . and we mustn't forget the campaign's **Soundness Working Group (SWG)** . . .

So, a great big *Warm Toast* to the members of the SWG who have all contributed to the soundness response - Becky, Sarah, Bill, Gerry, Jillian, David, Adam & John. They spent many a long evening on a Monday considering our

response to HCC - "Thank You" for taking the time to read HCC's documentation (all 4,000+ pages of it), to contribute and to advise. Where would we be without you? Cheers!

It's that time of year . . .

. . . when people tend to look back at the year's events and take stock. It's no different for the campaign team & supporters who have been on a rollercoaster ride ever since HCC's plans emerged in late Spring 2011.

Sending our response to HCC today has been the culmination of 8 months' hard graft during which we've . . .

- Gathered over 2,700 supporters together in a common cause
 - Held public meetings - one of which gridlocked Verwood Town Centre
 - Been filmed by BBC South Today
 - Put ribbons along the B3081
 - Wrote over 4,000 letters between us to HCC – an unprecedented & extraordinary response!!
 - Engaged with a top London law firm and with international mineralogy & quarrying consultants
 - Turned out for numerous "awareness" events – often at short notice
 - Plastered the Town with posters, flyers and then with estate agent sponsored boards: "Thank You" Irvings!
 - Wrote asking the "great and the good" and celebrity figures to support the campaign
 - Demonstrated together
 - Gone International with website hits and Facebook views from all continents
- And, *so importantly* -
- **Learnt about your outstanding generosity with both your time and hard earned money in these trying times – Thank You!**

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It's also that time of year . . .

. . . when we remember the great things which special people have done to help us and so we say "Thank You" to . . .

- Jackie, Lynn, Kate, Corwen, Carol, Rosie, Pete, Elaine, Ray, James, Allan and many others who took the campaign's Mobile HQ all over the place and really raised awareness – you are just so brilliant!
- The supporters who walked in the rain together and canvassed the public during Verwood Carnival – you know who you are
- Tony who has managed our funds so carefully and recently handed in the campaign chequebook – many thanks.
- Allie from "Supermonkey" – the creative designer who designed the brilliant pre-paid flyer we distributed in the Summer
- Wendy, and latterly Dawn, who with their volunteer helpers have kept our non-digitally enabled members connected with the campaign – great job!
- Carol who runs the campaign phone line, a true 24/7 service, provided free of charge by theVoiceFactory – you are so helpful & patient, many thanks!
- Mick who quietly and behind the scenes turned our website into an asset that has won praise from visitors – and to Ben, from "2able" who has volunteered recently to take over the reins. Thanks both!
- Our wonderful local business supporters who have donated services and given good advice: [find out more about them all on our website](#)
- And many, many more of you who have simply and selflessly spread the word and helped gain support.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

So much achieved, so many secret talents discovered, so many new friends met and so much to look forward to in the New Year, and so we're taking a short break until around 9th January 2012 . . . rest assured that anything "urgent" will be dealt with until -

Club31 Open House Sessions re-start on 16th January 2012 . . .

. . . when we look forward to meeting up with new and old friends and with, hopefully, renewed "New Year" vigour and enthusiasm as we look towards the new challenges, and opportunities, that will lie ahead for the campaign

And until the -

Next Newsletter is published around 14th January 2012

. . . until which time we will use email to tell you about anything important . . .

Finally -

We would like to wish you, and those you care about, a truly joyful, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a very happy & healthy New Year.

It's therefore "Cheerio for now" until 2012 . . .

With very best and warmest wishes from
The Campaign Team