

THE HERALD - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To: farnham-herald@tindlenews.co.uk

From: Roger Miller

PROTECT OUR SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

I and many others in Liphook are anxious to protect our part of the South Downs National Park from unnecessary large scale housing development.

Land at Bohunt Manor has fallen into the hands of would-be developers who propose 200 housing units on 30 acres of the National Park. Owned for many years by Sir Adrian and Lady Betty Holman, the modest country estate was created and managed by them as a haven for wildlife and scenic beauty with public and educational access encouraged by the kind couple, and the property was rightly included in the National Park.

The property is not suitable for large scale development for a number of fairly obvious reasons. Land sufficient for Liphook's share of necessary new housing for the foreseeable future, including of course for affordable housing, has already been identified elsewhere in the Parish by the District Council planning experts. The Government's Vision for National Parks does not permit unrestricted housing, as opposed to affordable or employment tied housing, within National Park boundaries. The two fundamental statutory purposes of the National Park require the Authority to protect and enhance the scenic beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and provide opportunity for public access and educational advancements. The scenic views provided by the Bohunt Manor estate are greatly cherished by Liphook residents and its archaeological heritage and rural culture entirely justify National Park status along with scope for educational, public access and enjoyment.

Many residents are tired of propaganda leaflets arriving through letterboxes. Attendance at the recent public consultation events staged by the would-be developers was quite low. On the other hand the public meeting organised by our Parish Council at the Liphook Millennium Centre on 9th July 2013 was crowded out, and the audience overwhelmingly declined the large scale proposal.

I am chairman of the SOS Bohunt Manor Community Action Group which was formed following the public meeting. We have two objectives; to resist the large scale housing proposal and re-create the scenic, ecological and cultural regime begun and intended by Sir Adrian and Lady Betty Holman, in accordance with the statutory purposes of our National Park.

I welcome more people to join us in these objectives. Please contact me via our website www.sosbohuntmanor.co.uk, email: support@sosbohuntmanor.co.uk or write to me. We have plenty of work to do.

Roger Miller
Chairman SOS Bohunt Manor Community Action Group
London Road, Liphook GU30 7AN