



# ***The Thakeham Oak***

October 2008 Edition 44

## ***“Cannon to the right of them, Cannon to the left of them”***

*Tennyson*

*Editorial: Laybrook-What a Waste: A Housing Estate at Abingworth?: Appeal:  
Unauthorised users to go?: Rushfield: Water Lane*

### **Editorial**

Will 2008 be the year when Thakeham's fate is decided for generations to come? We still have the chance to make sure we remain the thriving community we know and love - but we must make our views known! If we just sit back and do nothing, the two firing cannons of a landfill tip and a big housing estate will surely come our way.

Go to the landfill **Exhibition** at the Village Hall, proposed for early November - see the adverts and posters.

Go to the housing **Public Meeting** at the Village Hall - see posters and notice boards for the date we expect to be in late October or November.

For more - see overleaf.

**Coming soon to a hole less than TWO MILES from YOUR House?**



These next 6 months could be one of the busiest and most expensive times that we, the residents of the parish have ever had, fighting against the landfill site to the North and possible housing to the South. It is vital we all make our voices heard. Just attending a meeting spreads a very powerful message which cannot be ignored - if you are prepared to speak up against what is proposed even better!!

Thakeham Village Action, TVA, is here to help the residents of the parish protest against planning applications which are not beneficial to the parish. TVA is going to need your support, both financially and in giving up some of your spare time, to help with campaigns. The constitution of TVA states our aims as the "preservation, protection and enhancement of the character of the Parish of Thakeham in the County of West Sussex and its surrounding areas".

As I write this, I am sure no-one could have been anything but inspired and delighted by the sight and sound of Thakeham recently,

illuminated by a stunning harvest moon. The magical sounds of the countryside at night were led by owls and accompanied by a myriad of unknown voices letting us know this is what we want to protect and preserve.

Let's make sure that our village remains a thriving community, with a continued atmosphere of a country village, which we hold so dear to our hearts.

### **Laybrook: What a Waste!**

It came as no real surprise when Cory Environmental announced in July that it intended to file a planning application for a landfill rubbish tip at Laybrook Brickworks this year.

What may surprise some is how this could affect us if the application succeeds:

- rubbish lorries thundering along our country roads;
- our health harmed - for instance scientific papers indicates that babies born within

**The land outlined below is that which Rydon Homes has agreed to pay a minimum of £3.5 million for less than 15 acres of housing, £5 million for more than 15 acres. At a Government minimum of 12 houses per acre, for 15 acres that's at least 180 houses.**



2km of a landfill site are more likely to have birth defects;

- litter scattered along the roads;  
not to mention air and water pollution, a smell that could be several times worse than the mushroom smell, flocks of seagulls and adding to global warming.

What can we do to stop this appalling prospect?

- Go to Cory's **Exhibition** and let them know what you really think. At the time of writing, this is expected to be held in early November at Thakeham Village Hall.

- When the planning application is filed, Cory said it expects to do this in late November or early December, everybody should write to the County Council. TVA is going to deliver leaflets to every house in Thakeham, as well as Ashington and the surrounding area. The leaflet will give you all the details to make writing your letter or e-mail easy.

- Write to our County Councillor, Pat Arculus, as well - to [patricia.arculus@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.arculus@westsussex.gov.uk) or to County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RQ.

- Help with the campaign. The more people involved, the better our chances of winning!

## **A Housing Estate at Abingworth?**

TVA was founded nine years ago to fight the threat of a housing estate at Abingworth Nursery. It looks as if the threat is back.

We have learnt that the Parish Council has been told the landowners are going to announce proposals for Thakeham's mushroom sites this Autumn. At its September meeting, the Parish Council said they intend to organise a **Public Meeting** to be held sometime soon after the 20th October. Could this announcement result in a planning application?

Rumours are for 150 houses on the playing fields - we understand that most of the rest of the Abingworth Nursery land is so contaminated it would now be too expensive to build elsewhere on the site. And, as history has already told us, allow some houses and the green light is given for more and more.

As we said in the Thakeham Oak of January 2007, soon after Sussex Mushrooms took over from Heveco, in relation to Abingworth Nursery: *"It is our view that we should not accept what is euphemistically called a 'Planning Gain' and which in plain English could be construed as a bribe - albeit above board and without any suggestion of 'bung' or brown paper envelopes. We should not consider the 'offer' of playing fields and a brick built village hall as a reason for us accepting a housing estate. It is against local people's views - 95% of replies to the Parish Plan questionnaire confirms this - and this was a Parish Council questionnaire - not a TVA one where we could be accused of loading the question in our favour. In addition, it is totally unnecessary: grants are available for purchasing and providing such facilities, the District Council's own policies confirm this. We understand a Parish Council subcommittee has looked at the existing options for a playing field and village hall and found them reasonable."* It is only fair to say that, unfortunately, the full Parish Council has decided, to date, not to go along with the subcommittee's proposal.

TVA has a good working relationship with the Parish Council and agrees with their statement "that the views of the local community are paramount in whether any support is given to the progression to a detailed planning application or not". Thakeham has been rejected at every consultation stage as a suitable site for housing estates - we must make sure that continues.

## **Appeal: Can You Help Save Our Community?**

As you will have read, Thakeham is under two enormous threats. If we are to keep our community as we know and love, it demands much effort. For Laybrook, we have already committed funds to print and distribute 5000 leaflets and to hire an expert to study the hydrology. To fight for Abingworth we will need something similar. You can help by sending a donation to TVA. You can help by offering a little of your time. Please fill in the form overleaf or e-mail [thakehamva@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thakehamva@yahoo.co.uk). Together, we can win!

## Unauthorised Users to go?

The enforcement notices served on the unauthorised industrial and commercial activities on both the mushroom sites became effective in the middle of April and they give a period of six months to comply - that is the middle of October. The temporary permission for Sussex Coaches runs out a couple of weeks earlier. If these operations have not ceased by the deadlines then, according to Horsham DC, it will be in a position to prosecute the owners. The HDC officer has assured TVA that everything is in place to ensure that the law is complied with.

## Rushfield - a Partial Success

There was a partial success in overturning the application for industrial use of the Rushfield Nursery packing shed. Whilst we could not persuade our District Councillors that they should refuse the application entirely, the efforts of TVA and local residents did result in significant alterations, particularly that only office use by an approved user was allowed, that access should be from the rear and that unless the building was used within the next three years the permission would lapse. However, for the time being at least, this land is now brownfield previously developed land (PDL) - something that the owners were not slow in pointing out. In the June/July consultation for reserve housing sites, the owners when requesting housing on the site said "... with a larger former packing shed, in respect of which your Authority has recently resolved to grant planning permission for B1 use. The site is therefore PDL." Is this another example

of where the planning laws are being manipulated, with the result that it is the local residents that suffer the consequences.

## Water Lane

The agents for the land off Water Lane have again attempted to get permission for housing by proposing it as a reserve housing site. However the site was not selected for the reserve housing sites consultation. TVA supported this exclusion, but we expect that this land will be put forward for the review of land allocations which has restarted. No doubt this saga will continue.



---

## Thakeham Village Action - Call for DONATIONS and HELP

I wish to make a Donation  I wish to help

I enclose a cheque (payable to TVA) or cash for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Mark Keenan, Copper Beeches, The Street, Thakeham, RH20 3EP  
(1st house on left immediately after the school),  
or if you wish to help you can email [thakehamva@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thakehamva@yahoo.co.uk)