

Cllr. Mrs M. E. Ewart
Chairman
Hughenden Parish Council
Council Offices
The Common
Great Kingshill
High Wycombe
Bucks
HP15 6EN

4th March 2010

Dear Councillor Ewart,

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION PERTAINING TO A PROPOSAL TO BUILD
RESIDENTIAL HOUSING ON AONB GREEN BELT LAND ADJOINING
WARRENDENE ROAD, HUGHENDEN VALLEY.**

For many years, Hughenden Valley Residents Association has been proud of the close and cooperative relationship achieved with the Hughenden Parish Council. Together we have achieved much of significant benefit to the community that both organizations are understandably proud to represent. It is therefore with great disappointment, and much regret, that from recent actions and statements made by Parish Councillors we conclude that this relationship has been unfavourably compromised and the level of mutual trust and respect significantly harmed.

In the first instance, the release of documentation to the community of potentially vital interest to many Hughenden Valley Residents and concerning the proposal for affordable housing in Warrendene Road was undertaken in a manner that has caused great concern and offence within this organisation and members of the community. The elected Executive of the Residents Association, of which I am Chairman, was not consulted or informed in any meaningful way before the general release of this announcement. Our means of finding out was by reading what is in our view a very poorly worded public notice. In fact, this Association had not been acquainted with the subject or contents of this provocative and potentially incendiary flyer but had in good faith, previously agreed to deliver quantities of the leaflet on behalf of the Parish Council to all households in the area covered by Hughenden Valley Residents Association. Thus, we are led to conclude, that the Parish Council regards this Association as nothing more than a convenient local postal service. This is regarded as being dismissive of and most disrespectful of a group of intelligent, hard working and public-spirited local citizens.

Secondly, there has in our opinion, been a totally unacceptable attempt to influence the debate on rural affordable housing on the Hughenden Valley website (www.hughenden.org.uk) authored by a prominent member of the Parish Council. The misuse of such a valuable and powerful communication tool at such an early juncture in this debate is not only regrettable but also probably bordering on a breach of your own rules and regulations. We would therefore ask that you personally ensure there is no repeat of the use of this website to proffer future Parish Council views.

In view of what I have described above, the Hughenden Valley Residents Association, although being greatly concerned by the potential implications, remains for the time being neutral about the release of information regarding the proposal to build housing on AONB agricultural Green Belt land. We have yet to be acquainted with the full facts and we have yet to consult with our membership on how they wish us to proceed on their behalf. This will take the form of the opportunity for residents to make their views known to the Chair of our Planning Sub-Committees and if necessary, express their opinion in writing. Should there be in our view a significant opposition to the Parish Council's plan then this Association will consider organising a public meeting to receive the views and opinions of those concerned and then to declare a course of action agreed by the Association's Executive Committee.

Our professional aim is as always to represent as best as is within our power the interests of those in our Community who have chosen to be members of Hughenden Valley Residents Association. We have therefore taken the necessary measures to ensure that this Association has at its disposal the resources and the wherewithal to oppose any initiative, from whatever source, that is regarded as being a threat to our village, its environment or the best interest of the community as a whole. You may be assured that we will conduct our business responsibly and professionally at all times. Meanwhile, if you would like to discuss this matter with me further I am at your disposal and would welcome the opportunity to repair a relationship, which ought to be above reproach.

Yours faithfully,

Paul A. Cawte.
Chairman, Hughenden Valley Residents Association

cc HVRA Executive Committee
HVRA Planning Sub-committee
Cllr John Gibbs
Cllr David Carroll
Cllr Richard Pushman
Editor, Hughenden News magazine
Webmaster, Hughenden Valley Residents Association website