

# Binfield Village Protection Society

Established 1975.



## **To All Members, past and present.**

Our AGM is being held on 21<sup>st</sup> October at Newbold College, 8pm. The central theme this year will be the case for or against the opposition to development in Binfield and its surrounding environment. Below is an open letter written by our Chairman and the Committee that sets out the context for our AGM. We sincerely hope you can join us and look forward to a lively discussion

### **Open letter to local residents and supporters of BVPS**

Dear all,

It is with sadness that as Chair of BVPS I write to ask “what do you want from BVPS”? This question has to be asked in light of current events and the local situation.

For over 40 years BVPS has campaigned against and successfully opposed inappropriate development in the Binfield area. Members and residents have identified and enjoyed the uniqueness of our community and its separation from larger adjoining neighbours.

Recently this environment has come under a consolidated attack co-ordinated by Bracknell Forest Council (BFC). The Council’s objective seemingly to obliterate our community through an intensive development and construction programme. Traditionally there has always been development in our community; in-fill housing on brownfield sites, upgrades to existing structures, small sized local developments etc. BVPS has equally supported, commented on and where necessary opposed many of these proposals in accordance with planning laws and policies and with assistance from the Local Authority. This has changed; recent large developments, for example Murrell Hill, Blue Mountain, Amen Corner, Farley Wood, that residents feel are out of keeping with Binfield have been championed and driven by BFC. Through this time the BVPS committee has valiantly kept up to speed with the plans, publicised the issues, challenged the planners at every turn and met local councillors urging them to take up the battle on behalf of constituents.

BVPS is a volunteer run society; no-one works for it full time, and no-one receives any payment for work carried out. The Society is increasingly powerless in the face of the number, size and different nature of the above threats. Whilst under resourced we will continue to work with our professional advisors to oppose the Blue Mountain development. We know many residents see this as a particularly unacceptable proposal given BFCs previous “guarantee” that the public golf course would remain accessible to all. Following

the elections in May the Parish and Borough Councils appear aligned in supporting the Borough's destruction of our golf course, leaving continued opposition to volunteer groups such as BVPS.

We therefore have to ask the question "do local residents want the Society to continue opposing inappropriate development? Or, is it time to recognise Binfield only as a district within the local urban development and ask whether there is a mandate for BVPS to continue?"

This question will be central to our AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 8pm at Newbold College. We hope for a lively debate and welcome all residents whether BVPS members or not, to attend and join in the discussion.

Simon Butcher, Chairman.  
Committee Members,  
September 2015.