



From Ashton Vale Heritage Group

13/01/10

Firstly since the last meeting with BPF we were so grateful to the people who came to The Council in support of us. Thank you.

We are hoping to be informed within a week by The Council Legal department the outcome of a seventeen month criminal investigation into the destruction of 500 meters of protected Hedgerow at Ashton Vale. Ashton Vale Heritage Group has persistently contacted Bristol City Council to be informed of the outcome.

The decision by The Planning Committee with regard to the stadium application was very disappointing, but not unexpected. We remain determined to overturn it. I am sure there are many (probably some amongst you today) who think we are fighting a losing battle, but if motivation has anything to do with success then we remain highly motivated.

The decision by North Somerset Council to unanimously reject the application on at least five different counts was very welcome. It demonstrated courage by The Councillors who were not convinced that the Planning Officers had made the correct recommendation and had the courage to reject it. The Councillors clearly did not intend to be forced into making a decision which they did not agree would bring any benefit to their residents or locality and where they felt serious questions had been overlooked.

Ashton Vale Heritage Group are currently in the process of responding to the South Bristol Link proposal and remain against the poor decision to consider a BRT route across Ashton Vale Fields when the overwhelming majority of Bristol residents would prefer tram/rail investment. The BRT proposal offers nothing of any value to people in Ashton Vale who are saying clearly enough is enough.

The application for Village Green Status is progressing and requires a great deal of work and thorough research. This Inquiry is being rushed through at great (some might say unprecedented) speed and we are supporting local residents in managing this.

It is interesting that the proposed Sainsbury's store which is much larger than that proposed by Tesco, will potentially create worse local transport and environment problems. There is, as yet, no guarantee that the current Sainsbury's site will be used for housing and, in our view, is more likely to be used for yet another superstore, which will add to the congestion and transport problems in this area, which to date none of the proposals have addressed.

We apologise for not being able to attend today due to another commitment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ashton Vale Heritage Group