

HHAG NEWSLETTER NUMBER 8 (2ND JULY 2009)

The Fighting Fund Special!!

Hello Everyone,

As promised yesterday, this edition of the newsletter is devoted to money!

I hope to tell you what we have been spending our money on, what we have achieved with the money spent so far, where the funds have come from so far and what you can do to help keep our fighting fund topped up

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SPENDING OUR MONEY ON

The main costs so far have been legal costs. One of the first things we did, as a group, was to investigate specialist solicitors who had experience of handling these situations. We looked at several different companies, all of whom were perfectly good, but at least one of them was based in the City of London and was extremely expensive. Of the final two contenders, we went with Pitmans of Reading. They are familiar with this type of case and already carry out commercial work for one of our members, so the relationship is already established. Pitmans were kind enough to offer us discounted rates, due to the fact that we are a non-profit organization (and were clearly in a bit of a pickle!) So, we think we have spent our money on legal assistance as wisely and prudently as possible.

Our partner at Pitmans is Phil Smith who knows a lot about this area of the law. So far, some of the tasks he has undertaken have been:

- Attending the public meeting at the British Legion Hall and putting as many awkward questions as possible to the “top table”.
- Researching the history of the site and the covenants that were put on it by the original owners and passed on to the recent vendors, Messrs Aldridge and Taylor.
- Seeking counsel’s formal opinion on where we stood in terms of using those covenants to obtain eviction of the travellers.
- Submitting a comprehensive and detailed objection to the retrospective planning application on behalf of HHAG (see attached document).
- Guiding us on how to formulate a Freedom of Information request to WDC regarding the rationale behind obtaining a status quo injunction on the site, rather than an absolute injunction.
- Keeping a watching brief on WDC to shadow their actions and ensure that all possible legal routes are being followed by the council.
- Giving us ad-hoc advice on the legal viability of various ideas that we come up with.

So, as you can see, we've been very busy on the legal front and, of course, even at discounted rates, this all costs a lot of money.

OTHER COSTS

Some of the costs I can't go into here, as we want to keep our strategy and tactics out of the public domain. But, I can tell you that we have spent small amounts on posting out the public letter and getting advice from various specialists.

We try to keep our costs to a minimum. All the core members have used their own private and commercial facilities from day one to make sure that we need as little money as possible. But ultimately, the legal bills do stack up and need to be paid each month.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

All the core members (we all live within a half a mile or so of the site) have contributed substantial sums of money to "the pot".

We realise that we are the most personally affected by the site, at this stage, so it's up to us to take ultimate responsibility for seeing that the bills get paid.

But, many of you have asked whether a fighting fund is set up and what you can do to make contributions. So, here's the information:

BANK ACCOUNT

The full postal address of the bank is: Lloyds TSB, Market Square, Princes Risborough, HP27 0AS,

Account Name: Hemley Hill Action Group
Account Number: 00678223

You can pay money in over the counter by cash or cheque or, if you want to make a payment by internet, the bank sort code is: 30 96 86.

Or you can send a cheque, made payable to Hemley Hill Action Group to the usual address: HHAG, PO Box 136, Princes Risborough, HP27 7AH.

STANDING ORDERS

Nowadays, many of us make payments to our favourite charities or deserving causes by standing order. We have checked with Lloyds that we are able to do that, so I attach a Standing Order Form, for those of you who wish to use it to make regular payments to the fighting fund. Of course, if you have internet banking, then you can just set it up directly with your own bank.

Well, that's my two pages up! I try to keep these newsletters short and sweet. Thanks for your continued support and Please, Please, Please send us any money you can, no matter how small, to keep the fight going.

Kind regards,



BOB STREET, HHAG

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.