

EDENFIELD COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3 (August 2019)

Planning Inspectors' Independent Examination

The Public Hearings part of the examination, by two Independent Inspectors, of Rossendale Council's housing proposals will start on 24 September 2019. These will last three weeks with 24 sessions and take place at the Council's offices in Bacup. 10 sessions are likely to be especially relevant to Edenfield in particular those dealing with "Approach to site allocations and Green Belt release" and with "Housing site allocations Edenfield, Helmshore, Irwell Vale and Ewood Bridge".

Prior to the Hearings, formal written Hearing Statements need to be submitted which will form the basis of verbal representations made at the Hearings themselves. It is the intention of the Forum to attend, with professional representation, as many as possible of the relevant sessions. The Forum has also had a transport study undertaken so as to be able to comment with authority on the implications of the further 456 houses proposed for Edenfield. This, however, has involved additional costs not originally budgeted for.

The cost of the transport study, written statements and professional representation at the Hearings for all relevant sessions has been estimated at just over £18,000 (inc. £3,000 VAT). Currently the Forum has a shortfall of about £7,000 in funds to cover these costs. Realistically this is the last (and best) chance of challenging the Council's proposals so please consider making a donation towards these costs (see overleaf).



The above shows the area of land the Council wishes to remove from the Green Belt to accommodate their plan for 400 (out of the 456 total) houses i.e. more or less all the land between Market Street and the A56 bypass. Access to this area will be potentially off

Market Street and Blackburn Road, from the bottom of Exchange Street, from the end of Highfield Road/Eden Avenue and via the footpath off Woodlands Road/Oaklands Road.

Construction work is potentially over a period of up to fifteen years. If the former Horse and Jockey site is anything to go by the construction phase will involve disruptions to electricity, gas and telephone services, noise and dust pollution, earth tremors from piling and other ground works, water drainage issues, heavy construction traffic in the village and a large increase in parked vehicles on, or near to, site access roads.

If you wish to assist in opposing the loss of a substantial part of Edenfield's Green Belt and the resulting disruption that construction work will create then please help with a donation towards the costs of professional representation as explained below.

GREEN BELT LAND UNDER THREAT-HOW TO HELP

Donate towards the costs of representation at the Planning Inspectors' Hearings

Much work has been done over the last eighteen months in terms of fundraising events and many generous donations have been received as a result of previous appeals. Sadly the hoped for boost to funds from participating in this year's village fete was thwarted due to the adverse weather conditions.

It really is "NOW OR NEVER" for any final donations as the Forum is seeking to put forward the best possible case against the Council's development proposals for Edenfield. This case being principally, that the Green Belt should be preserved and indeed that there are a significant number of smaller brownfield sites available to be used instead, is best made now to the Independent Planning Inspectors.

FURTHER FUNDS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED so that the Forum can facilitate the appropriate level of professional representation at the forthcoming Public Hearings. In the absence of sufficient funds being generated it will not be possible for the Forum to be professionally represented at all the sessions relevant to Edenfield. This is likely to reduce the effectiveness of the case being made to the Inspectors. Donations can be made in any of the following ways:-

- Cheque made payable to "Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum" delivered/sent to the Treasurer at 123, Market Street, Edenfield, BL0 0JJ.
- Payment direct to the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum account at Nat West Bank Sort Code 01-01-42 Account 26141914.
- Monthly Standing Order paid to the account as above over a fixed period of say 6 months.

Note that in the unlikely event that all funds raised are not spent on representation before the Planning Inspectors any surplus will be used to support the production/development of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan being produced by ECNF in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and which will be the subject of a public consultation and a local referendum.

ECNF was designated on 23 April 2018 by the local planning authority as an authorised Neighbourhood Forum under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011/Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Any personal data collected by ECNF as a result of donations received will be retained solely for this purpose and will not be shared with third parties.

Further information about ECNF is available from its website (www.edenfieldcommunityforum.uk)

16 August 2019