

THE WIVENHOE PRESERVATION TRUST



Peter / Revised draft!

August 1985

NEWSLETTER

As no doubt you are aware the results of the Public Inquiry held in January have now been published and we are encouraged in that the Secretary of State, on the recommendation of the Inspector, found in favour of Colchester Borough Council's refusal of planning permission for the use of the marsh land to include open storage of loose bulk commodities. It would be invidious of us to claim that this decision was made solely on the representations made by the Wivenhoe Preservation Trust on behalf of the Wivenhoe Society, Wivenhoe Sailing Club, the Port Action Group and Wivenhoe Town Council but nevertheless we feel that the scales were tipped in our favour as a result of the evidence gathered and presented by our counsel at the inquiry.

Nearly 1,000 of the households and a considerable number of businesses responded to the public appeal and we would like to say a very large THANKYOU to all of you, who by individual donations and support enabled just over £5,750 to be raised and thereby enabled professional advice, evidence and legal representation to be available for the inquiry. An additional £500 was made available by the Wivenhoe Town Council, should it have been needed, thereby making the actual total funds available of £6,271. The total expenditure involved in presenting the case on behalf of residents, inclusive of witnesses attendance expenses amounted to £4,865, thus leaving a surplus of £906. Of this sum, £850 has been placed on deposit, leaving £56 in current account in the name of the Wivenhoe Preservation Trust.

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At a meeting of the organisations behind the appeal, the Wivenhoe Society, the Sailing Club, the Port Action Group and the Wivenhoe Town Council, it was decided that the responsibility for administering the funds so collected should rest with a trust fund specifically created for the purpose of dealing with and appointing legal representation for the January Public Inquiry. At that meeting therefore the Wivenhoe Preservation Trust was formed and four trustees duly appointed; the trustees being Mr. N.A.M. Butler, Cllr. G.D.G. Davies, Cllr. P.M. Hill and Mr. L.E. Horner. A copy of the formal Trust Deed, the Constitution of the Trust and the Register of Members of the Trust is available for inspection at the Council Offices, Wivenhoe.

The objects of the Trust is to improve, preserve and protect for the benefit of the public, the countryside and amenities of the Parish of Wivenhoe in the County of Essex through the provision of funds to be made available to organisations involved in practical works in Wivenhoe.

The Trustees are seeking to obtain charitable status of the Trust from the Charity Commission and there is every indication that, subject to a minor revision in the Trust's Constitution, this will be forthcoming.

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We therefore further seek your help and co-operation in becoming members of the trust, albeit in a non-active capacity. If your interests are the same as ours in endeavouring to keep Wivenhoe and its environment as a nice place in which to live, please do complete the application form on the last page and become a member.

PUBLIC INQUIRY - JANUARY 15th 1985

Inspector: Mr. L. T. B. Kealy, B.Eng, FRTPI, FRSH

"With hindsight it is clear that the planning permission of 6th November 1964 began a train of events which was to bring a great deal of unpleasantness to the attractive small riverside town of Wivenhoe particularly since the town is located at the end of what is, in effect, a cul-de-sac for the purposes of port related traffic. Notwithstanding the fact that the volume of traffic on the B1028 is shown to be within its theoretical capacity one only has to spend a few days in the town to realise the adverse impact of the traffic, and especially the heavy goods vehicles, on life in the town as a result of the danger to other road users, the noise and vibration and the dust and dirt. This has been abundantly demonstrated in the evidence given on behalf of the Wivenhoe Preservation Trust, the Town Council, the Wivenhoe Society, the Wivenhoe Port Action Group and the Wivenhoe Sailing Club. I appreciate that the nuisance is limited, in regards to dwellings to those flanking the B1028 and those in West Street but many of the townspeople, not so directly affected in their homes, naturally visit the town centre and use the B1028. The situation has clearly worsened since the coal miners strike as a result of the heavy increase in coal importation and I would envisage an alleviation when the strike ends.

In my view, therefore, no further development should be permitted in relation to this port which would increase its potential for trading. The appellants, having a valid permission, should seek to exploit it to the full seems to me to be a rational and reasonable commercial objective which cannot be thwarted so long as they keep within the provisions of the relevant legislation controlling their activity eg the Public Health Acts etc.

The above view appears to be supported in the current development plan. The strategic element of that plan, notwithstanding its general strategy of encouraging economic growth and its inclusion of Wivenhoe in the Colchester port complex, states in Policy T22 that "development of small scale port facilities will normally be permitted in the coastal towns and villages provided they are not detrimental to the local amenities and have adequate accessibility". The local plan, notwithstanding its acknowledgement that the quays at Wivenhoe and Rowhedge can accommodate larger vessels than at the Hythe, thus making them attractive for further development, states that expansion could create environmental and traffic problems and in Policy BP37 that "the intensification or expansion of port facilities or associated industrial or warehousing development at Rowhedge and Wivenhoe will normally be resisted".

STOP PRESS NEWS

Report from The Wivenhoe Society

We understand that Wivenhoe Port Ltd is having difficulty in complying with the Department of the Environment's conditions relating to the approval given by the D.o.E. in regard to the erection of the additional warehouse. You may remember the Public Inquiry in July 1983 at which the D.o.E. over-ruled the Borough Council's refusal of planning permission for the warehouse and the conditional approval being given subject to the installation of satisfactory screens covering the warehouse doors and the planting of trees to ameliorate the intrusion on the landscape.

It would now appear that the screens are in shreds and that the present warehouse doors are unsuitable. Additionally, as a result of additional specialised soil brought to the site to allow the ground to be stabilised for the erection of the warehouse this has resulted in poor ground conditions for the planting of trees along the boundary of the warehouse.

The Borough Council has rejected an application by the Company for a variation to the conditions to allow extra time for the conditions to be complied with but have made no decision as regards sending out an enforcement notice. You may have strong feelings on this subject and therefore we do commend your writing to the Borough Planning Committee.

Address your letter to: The Chairman,
 Borough Planning Committee,
 Colchester Borough Council,
 Town Hall,
 Colchester.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The first AGM of the Trust will be held on TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 1985 at 8.00 p.m., venue to be advised. Please make a note in your diary NOW!!

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*William Lovell Hall booked for
the whole week for the Wivenhoe Players!*

We feel that Wivenhoe by its support has shown very strongly that it feels our environment is worth protecting. We also recognise that the first appeal was almost certainly not the only occasion on which it will be necessary to stand up and fight. At the moment the Trust does not need funds but should it be necessary, further funds could be raised by another public appeal. Instead, what we do need is your support and encouragement! To this end we invite you to complete the application form below thereby becoming a "friend" of the Wivenhoe Preservation Trust. There is no subscription, nor is one envisaged at the moment! One misconception we feel we must clear up is that the donations given last year, via the public appeal, in effect "bought" membership of the Trust. This is not so, as at that time the Trust did not exist and moreover there is actually no subscription for membership - therefore, we do need your application form, duly completed, thereby re-newing your support. We have achieved a measure of success! Let's try to achieve more!! Please tear off this page and return the application form to any of the addresses given below.

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To: The Trustees
Wivenhoe Preservation Trust

Date.....

I/We* hereby make formal application to become a friend of the Wivenhoe Preservation Trust.

Signed.....

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Address.....

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* Delete as necessary

Please forward the completed form to one of the following addresses:-

The Council Offices,
High Street,
Wivenhoe.

A. J. Baines, Esq.,
37 Valley Road,
Wivenhoe.

R. Bowen, Esq.,
10 Friars Close,
Wivenhoe.

Mrs. T. Jennings,
52 High Street,
Wivenhoe.

F. Gladden, Esq.,
13 Endean Court,
Wivenhoe.

G. D. G. Davies, Esq.,
42 The Avenue
Wivenhoe.

P. M. Hill, Esq.,
16 Colchester Road,
Wivenhoe.

N. A. M. Butler, Esq.,
1 Rose Lane,
Wivenhoe.