



August 2012

## The fate of the Woodford Aerodrome Site is up for Consultation!

The "Woodford Garden Village" Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be going out for a 6-week consultation between 3<sup>rd</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012. You can download a copy [here](#). The SPD, once finalised and approved, is the document against which planning applications will be assessed.

It is apparent that this document has been drafted with the express purpose of supporting the proposals put forward at the exhibitions in Woodford and Poynton at the end of May. This is not surprising since the company responsible for the coordination and drafting of the SPD was Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, who are consultants for the developers and landowners.

The timetable for the consultation and adoption of the SPD is detailed further on in this Newsletter.

## Woodford Community Council "Woodford United" Working Group

The June WCC Newsletter announced the formation of the Woodford United Working Group to harness the expertise, skills and energy of Woodford residents in representing the local community in its resistance to the proposals of SMBC and Harrow Estates/Redrow to build 950 houses on the ex-BAE Woodford Aerodrome site. Its inaugural meeting was held on 20th June, when a number of sub-groups were set up to address specific issues relating to the development proposals. Since then a meeting has been held every two weeks to coordinate the work of various operating task groups.

Woodford United members include two ex-Chief Town Planners, four practising architects, legal support and a range of other professionals. It is working closely with local MP, Mark Hunter, and local ward councillors, Bryan Leck, Brian Bagnall and Paul Bellis, as well as with representatives of the other local councils bordering onto the Aerodrome site.



A Woodford United working group meeting

Three immediate priorities were identified:

- Identifying and quantifying the opinions of Woodford residents on the SMBC - Harrow/Redrow proposals for the construction of 950 homes in "Woodford Garden Village".
- Researching into, and, if appropriate, challenging, the legality of the impending Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), a draft of which has now been published by SMBC.
- Critiquing that draft SPD to enable powerful, clear feedback to SMBC during the 6-week consultation period.

### What the residents of Woodford really think about 950 homes

The first initiative has resulted in a questionnaire being delivered to every house in Woodford, followed by visits from Woodford United volunteers to collect them and discuss the proposed development. This process is still in progress and the results will be analysed carefully. However, it is already apparent that there has been an excellent response, particularly when one considers that it is holiday time. To date some 50% of households have completed the questionnaire, with more than 94% of them opposing the proposal for 950 homes.

In addition to the primary concern that 950 houses are far too many, there are related concerns about the impact on traffic, infrastructure (schools, doctors, public transport, etc) and the lack of employment opportunities.

Through the questionnaire, Woodford Community Council has been given a clear mandate to represent residents in future discussions on the developments. There has also been an excellent response to our request for donations to a fighting fund and we are very grateful for this support.

Visit the Woodford United web page at: <http://www.woodfordcommunity.co.uk/woodford-united.htm>

You can also visit us on FaceBook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Woodford-United/314367161988923>

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## Exhibition time - not two, but four!

SMBC are holding two exhibitions as part of the SPD Consultation process. These will be held in the large hall of the Woodford Centre on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September from 3.00pm until 8.00pm** and on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00am until 3.00pm**. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet SMBC officials and discuss the proposals. We also understand that there will be an opportunity to make inputs there into the Consultation process.

At the same times Woodford United will be holding parallel exhibitions to explore the many concerns we have uncovered in the SPD, particularly the significant deviations from the very important Stockport Core Strategy.



You are invited to visit the Woodford United Exhibition in the small hall of the Woodford Centre first. Our exhibition will open 30 minutes before the SMBC exhibition. This will give residents and other attendees the opportunity to view the Woodford United Exhibition Panels, meet members of the team and discuss the outcomes and issues from our investigations. Hopefully this will stimulate questions for your visit to the SMBC Exhibition in the large hall and enable you to submit appropriate comments to the Consultation process.

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## Timetable for Consultation and Adoption of the SPD

- **Thursday 30th August 2012:** It will be on the Agenda of the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee where it is the process for approval that will be discussed rather than the content. This meeting will take place at the Bramhall Village Hall, Melbourne Road, Bramhall, commencing at 6.30pm. This is a public meeting and it will be an opportunity for residents to attend and demonstrate the strength of their feelings towards the proposals.
- **Monday 3rd September 2012:** Start of six-week consultation period. There will certainly be the option for interested parties to submit their opinions on-line. We will be publicising the appropriate links and offering assistance when the details of the Consultation are known.
- **Friday 7th September 2012 3pm - 8pm:** Stockport Council is holding a public event and exhibition in the Woodford Centre Large Hall to publicise the SPD Consultation. We understand that there will be a standard response form available then for attendees to input their comments into the SPD Consultation process.

At the same time Woodford United will be holding a parallel event in the Woodford Centre Small Hall to present the findings of the Woodford Residents' survey and to put forward Woodford United's comments and counter-proposals. We would encourage you to visit this event first before the Stockport Council event.

- **Saturday 29th September 2012 10am - 3pm:** Stockport Council is holding a second public event in the Woodford Centre Large Hall, which we have been informed will be identical to the first event . Woodford United will again hold a parallel event in the Small Hall.
  
- **Thursday 11th October 2012:** The draft SPD will be presented to the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee meeting at the Woodford Centre, commencing at 6.30pm. The content of the SPD will be discussed at this meeting. Once again this will be a public meeting and we will be encouraging residents to attend.
  
- **Monday 15th October 2012:** Conclusion of the six-week Consultation period. Following the closure of the Consultation, Stockport Council has announced that the timetable for the SPD Approval Process will be:
  - **Thursday 22nd November 2012:** Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee.
  
  - **Thursday 29th November 2012:** Stockport Council's Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee.
  
  - **Thursday 6th December 2012:** Stockport Council's Planning and Highways Committee.
  
  - **Monday 17th December 2012:** Stockport Council's Executive Committee.

Although it has been indicated that this is a joint SPD between Stockport and Cheshire East Council, there do not appear to be any parallel public events being held in Poynton. We are not aware that a timetable for consultation and approval has yet been issued by Cheshire East Council.

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## Happy Diamond Jubilee to the Avro Vulcan!

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> August is the Sixtieth Anniversary of the first test flight of the Avro Vulcan VX770 piloted by Roly Falk flying solo from the Woodford Aerodrome. It became the backbone of Great Britain's airborne nuclear capability during the cold war. Designed by Roy Chadwick and Stuart Davis, 134 production Vulcans were built in Woodford between 1956 and 1965 at an original unit cost of £750,000 each in 1956. Five returned to Woodford for modifications to their bomb bays prior to taking part in Operation Black Buck in the Falklands War in 1982. They were retired from service in March 1984.



Why not visit the Avro Heritage Centre at Woodford Aerodrome. Visits can be arranged by contacting the Heritage Centre on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10.30am and 3.00pm on 0161 440 0487. Website: [www.avroheritage.com](http://www.avroheritage.com)

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It is vitally important to all the communities surrounding Woodford airfield that our views carry weight and that we can react promptly to changing events. For this, we need as many as possible to be signed up for the community newsletter. If a friend or an organization has forwarded this newsflash to you, please ensure that you continue to receive copies of all future newsflashes and newsletters by subscribing [here](#).

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