

## **Calling all supporters of the Leave The Layers Alone (LTLA) campaign – a bit of urgent help needed please!**

8 May 2019

**Dear LTLA supporter**

Towards the end of last year Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC), influenced by the strong case made by the LTLA campaign, decided NOT to build housing on The Layers. LTLA won this change of mind by SCDC with the help of environmental lawyers Richard Buxton in Cambridge. We now want to hire the same firm to argue our continuing case and objections. The costs are likely to be around £5000, towards which we already have two generous commitments totalling £3000. **We urgently need to raise the difference of £2000 from campaigners as a whole group, thus demonstrating wide-spread support. An average of £5 from every individual LTLA supporter would hit our target but a bit more would be hugely appreciated from a few in order to have a little in hand.**

SCDC's revised Local Plan was published in January 2019. The new Local Plan, though in some respects an improvement on the original, is still susceptible to a renewed (though reduced ) threat to The Layers. Therefore it is still unacceptable to the LTLA Working Group. The revised plan, including the so-called 'Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood' plan, will be analysed by the National Planning Inspectorate in a series of hearings this summer, probably July-August. At these hearings we expect SCDC's decision not to build on The Layers will be challenged by intending developers principally Hopkins Homes and Pigeon who would still like to build on parts of The Layers.

**The aims of the LTLA campaign remain, essentially, unchanged:**

***We aim to preserve the land between Saxmundham and Benhall known as The Layers. This unique landscape has, for centuries, played a vital role for the town, initially as a place to lay up stock before market, as a venue for the Suffolk Show, and latterly as an open space of beauty and recreation for all people nearby. The Layers also played a critical role for the town in the***

*success of the D Day landings in Normandy, providing a site for the testing and development of special purpose armoured vehicles.*

LTLA is supportive of the need to provide more housing in Saxmundham, especially affordable housing, provided it is:

- *a sensible quantum ie up to 600 houses, not 800 as proposed by both the Local Plan and potential developers*
- *planned to avoid coalescence or the joining of Saxmundham to nearby villages*
- *carefully integrated into the town, not lumped on a single site*
- *supported by the necessary infrastructure*
- *sensitively designed as regards impact on the historic areas of our town*
- *supportive of amenities (like the High Street) which already exist.*

These aims are in line with the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan under the auspices of the Town Council.

**PLEASE GIVE US YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR SAVING THE LAYERS. You can pay either by cheque or by bank transfer.**

**By cheque:**

made payable to 'Leave The Layers' and posted to C.Lucas, Clock House, Church Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1ER

**By bank transfer (HSBC):**

account name 'Leave The Layers Alone'

account number 91441469

sort code 40-40-20

**THANK YOU! We will be in touch again after the hearings.**

**Christopher Lucas**

**on behalf of the LEAVE THE LAYERS ALONE Working Group**

**Website: [www.leavethelayersalone.org](http://www.leavethelayersalone.org)**