

The logo for Theydon Bois Action Group features the text 'Theydon Bois' in a teal, sans-serif font above 'Action Group' in a larger, orange, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a light green triangle that points downwards.

Theydon Bois Action Group

PROTECTING THE VILLAGE OF THEYDON BOIS

Chairman's Report 2010

Since the last AGM in October 2009 we have covered a number of village issues, many of which could have seriously compromised the green belt of Theydon Bois. High of our agenda was the situation involving the two proposed Gypsy & Traveller sites in Theydon Bois. In order to ensure that we gave Theydon Bois the best possible chance to be deselected for a number of valid reasons, both in the interests of Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community we joined forces with a number of Epping Forest residents groups, including South Theydon Bois Residents Association and sought legal assistance advice from industry professionals, particularly those operating within the environmental, noise acoustics and planning environment. TBAG had been instrumental in researching and writing the response to the Consultation with professional advice provided by STBRA, that was endorsed by Theydon Bois Rural Preservation Society, Theydon Bois Parish Council and 800 local residents.

In December 2009 with the assistance of many TBAG members and supported by a professional auctioneer who happens to live in the village, we ran a very successful Christmas Auction which raised around £7,600. This figure, in addition to the money raised at the previous fundraising dinner held in September 2009 enabled us to contribute towards the finances for any legal challenges required in our endeavours to protect our village and green belt from overdevelopment.

As a group, we have actively monitored developments at Blunts Farm and the Old Foresters site and have liaised regularly with the Enforcement Officers and other members of EFDC. We have also pressurised Epping Forest District Council into action concerning plans for a proposed Commuter Car Park as well as a proposed planning application from Diverse Care to operate from the Old Foresters site.

In December 2009, we lost our dear friend and staunch supporter of TBAG, Mr Jim Axon. Jim's in-depth knowledge as well as his love for the village will be sorely missed.

2010 has been a busy time for us. We have written many letters, both to Eleanor Laing, officers and members of EFDC, and more recently to Essex Wildlife Trust to clarify the situation on a Local Wildlife Site (LoWS) which was designated as brownfield, rather than green belt. We are pleased to report that we have now succeeded in getting the 'brownfield' label lifted by Epping Forest District Council.

In May of this year, we organised a Question Time at the Village Hall. We invited the prospective District Councillors along for a question and answering session, with particular emphasis on the Gypsy & Traveller situation and how it would have potentially impacted on the Epping Forest area. We had an excellent turnout of around 80 residents, including Eleanor Laing.

We have also been active in communicating our concerns regarding the Epping Forest Sustainability Appraisal & Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report where Theydon Bois

had been characterised as having a low-moderate sensitivity to change. TBAG led the charge on this on behalf of the village but we await further confirmation.

Also this year, many residents alerted us to land banking scams in our area, resulting in certain websites and companies offering pieces of land for sale at Blunts Farm, with the view that perhaps the District Council would allow planning permission on the green belt in years to come. This has again been reported to Trading Standards.

In the summer of this year, we invited both Sue Warren and Diane Gillespie to join the Executive Committee and both have been active and passionate supporters of many projects.

This year, we also reviewed our Constitution and this is available on the TBAG website.

Our website continues to attract a steady flow of unique visitors and our stats tell us that between January and September 2010, we received 1,180 visits.

At this juncture, I would like to thank everyone who regularly turns out at our TBAG meetings, as well as our very active Executive Committee. All work undertaken by TBAG members is done on a purely voluntary basis and to each and every one of you, thank you for your support.

In terms of our financial status, according to our up-to-date date accounts, as our position is:

Current account: £2,268.66

Interest account: £10,002.89

Full details in relation to our accounts are available on our website. Any monies held in the TBAG bank accounts are retained to meet the objectives of our Constitution.

In closing, and after 3.5 years, I have decided to step down as Chairman of Theydon Bois Action Group. I will still remain an active supporter of TBAG as I have done since its inception in 2005 but the time has come to hand over the reins to another worthy member.

Thank you for all your support.

Sue Sowerby
Chairman's Report – TBAG AGM
5^h October 2010