

LETTERS AND COMMENT



Editor's View

Chris Carter

The gravel extraction expansion plans at Aldborough Hatch, as revealed by the *Recorder* some weeks ago continues to provoke a reaction from neighbours in the area.

Their campaign has drawn support from politicians and most can appreciate where they are coming from.

There was one dissenter in our letters pages, who suggested that it was the price of progress and the protesters needed to grin and bear it. As you can imagine, that didn't go down too well.

The protests could be seen by some as classic Nimbyism and in fact the expansion of the works will be just that – in their back yards.

But for residents who moved to the area to sample a little piece of the country on the outskirts of London you can see how galling it is.

Of course it's not the first time Aldborough Hatch residents have taken up arms against a foe threatening to occupy "their" land.

In the 1990s there was plan to build a horse racing course on Fairlop Plain, promoting a huge protest movement who ultimately saw off the gee-ees at a gallop.

There is no doubt progress is important and change is inevitable, but some things are worth fighting for.

The Green Belt is under threat from a pressure to build more homes, while transport schemes like HS2 have the green lobby up in arms. But there has to be a balance to ensure the tranquil lives of some of our residents are not destroyed.

Being born in the shadow of Epping Forest, I have always vowed to lie in the path of any bulldozers threatening its existence. I know Ron Jeffries and his band will be first in line should the need arise if the gravel trucks loom.