

# Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



August 2019

## Your chance to challenge rail hub plans

Burbage residents are being urged to make their voices heard in the latest round of public consultation events on plans to build a National Rail Freight Interchange close to Burbage Common.

The Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange, proposed by dbsymmetry, would include:

- Industrial and storage/distribution units
- A rail port and lorry park
- Dedicated road access directly from Junction 2 of the M69 and associated highway works
- Landscaping including footpath and cycle links

Burbage Parish Council is unanimous in opposing the plans but is calling on parishioners to add their comments while they have the chance, to step up the fight against what would be the largest development ever to be built in this area.

Several exhibitions outlining the plans are to be staged by DB Symmetry, including one at Burbage Methodist Church on Windsor Street on Saturday August 10 from 10am to 2pm, as part of a public consultation exercise which runs until September 6.

The proposed hub, close to Junction 2 of the M69, to the north-east of Burbage, would include up to 13.71 hectares (about 33 acres) of land for the construction of a rail terminal for the loading and unloading of freight trains.

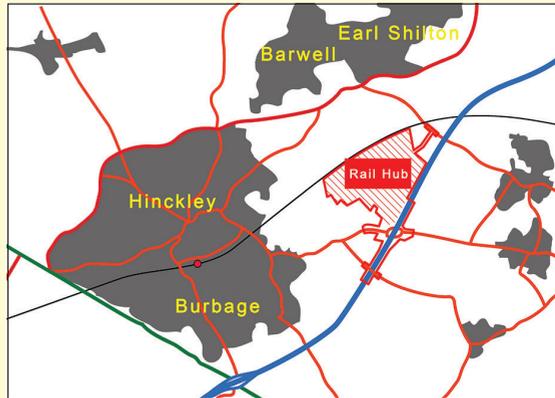
An additional 850,000 square metres (about 9.1 million square feet) would be used for high bay storage and logistics buildings.

The developers, who staged an initial display in Burbage Millennium Hall last year, are currently gauging public opinion on highways issues and options for off-site highways improvements beyond the main proposed Freight Interchange.

Because of its size, the project is classed a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, which requires an application directly to the Government's Planning Inspectorate.

**Meetings for the month ahead** Council and committee meetings are held on Mondays in Burbage Millennium Hall, all starting at 7pm, and are open to any parishioners wishing to attend.

Forthcoming meetings are: Planning Committee on August 5 and 19; Parish Council on September 2.



While all local authorities, including the Parish Council, will be consulted, an appointed panel will examine the proposals on behalf of the Secretary of State, so it is therefore essential that as many residents as possible take the opportunity to put their views forward as well.

Burbage Parish Council Chairman Paul Williams said: "The Council is deeply concerned about the huge environmental impact this will have on Burbage Common and the local area.

"Traffic in our village is already congested and a development of this scale, added to the new DPD site being built along the A5, will only add to traffic in the area.

"One option is to provide a link road from the proposed site to Leicester Road, which, together with tall warehouse buildings to its southern boundary, will effectively turn Burbage Common from a countryside park into urban parkland.

"The Council urges as many people as possible to take part in this consultation and review the detail of the plan."

Details of other public consultation events and information to be presented at them will be available to view on the developer's website [www.hinckleynrfi.co.uk](http://www.hinckleynrfi.co.uk) until September 6 this year.

A further, formal consultation exercise is due to be held towards the end of the year.

## Help us to improve Colts Close recreation ground

Hundreds of households close to Colts Close recreation ground and new homes around Sunloch Close have received letters inviting them to tell the Council what new play and open space provision they would like to see on the site.

The Council is to receive developer contributions (£106 funding) generated by the Sunloch Close development which have been earmarked to pay for new facilities on the Parish Council managed green space.

Approximately £28,000 will be available to spend on equipped children's play space, plus around £12,000 for formal open space provision (which could include sports pitches, fixed courts or multi-functional sports spaces) and another £3,000 for informal play space (which could include paths, picnic tables, bins and planted areas).

A wide range of options has been put forward, including suggestions made by pupils at Hastings High School. Public feedback will help Councillors to determine which

would be the most popular choices.

Dozens of people have already responded but the consultation runs until the end of August so if you live near to or use the site, there is still time to email or write in with your thoughts.

All feedback will be considered by the Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee in September, after which professional play providers will be invited to draw up potential schemes.

Another consultation period at the end of the year will give people a chance to consider shortlisted schemes and their feedback will help Councillors to decide on a preferred contractor by early 2020, with a view to work beginning on site next spring.

All of the new provision would be put on land owned by the Parish Council and not on the sports field owned by Burbage Parish Lands Charity.

## Contact us...

Burbage Parish office at Burbage Millennium Hall, on Britannia Road, is open to the public between 9am and midday, Monday to Friday, for customer service queries and payments including inquiries relating to hall hire, cemetery use and allotments.

Office staff can be contacted on **01455 637533** between 9am and midday on weekdays (after which an answerphone service is in operation) or by emailing [info@burbage-council.co.uk](mailto:info@burbage-council.co.uk)

Much more information can be found on the Parish Council website [www.burbage-council.co.uk](http://www.burbage-council.co.uk)

## Children create des res for mini beasts at village green space

Burbage youngsters have helped to create a new, wildlife-friendly addition to The Horsepool.

Members of the 1st Britannia Cubs have filled a three-storey bug hotel, built by the Council's Estates Manager, with sticks, stones, straw and other salvaged materials to provide a penthouse of insect-attractive accommodation.

There are even some colourful woggles – used for keeping Cubs' neckerchiefs in place – at the top.

It has been installed in place of an outdated information board, which is to be replaced with a new sign.



## Plot holders compete for new memorial award

Allotmenters at the Council's Woodland Avenue site are digging in with extra vigour for a chance to win a new Best Kept Allotment award.

The prize is to be presented in memory of former Project Officer, Pat Armstrong, who was responsible for the administration of the Council's allotment sites, until his sudden death in April last year.

Seventeen plot holders have taken up the challenge to compete for the inaugural award.

Each of their plots will be visited twice, once in the summer and again in the autumn, by a panel comprising three members of the Council's Allotments Working Party along with the manager of and a member of staff from Thurlaston Garden Centre, which supplied Burbage's summer hanging basket plants.

The winner, to be announced at the end of the season, will receive a plaque to display on the best kept plot and a voucher to spend at Thurlaston Garden Centre.