

# NEWS & VIEWS

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## Villagers say NO to development on Sanders' field

### Village Consultation May 28<sup>th</sup> 2011

Following discussion last year with the Parish Council to consider how the Sanders land in the centre of Bleadon might be best developed, Chris and Mike Sanders invited everyone who lives in Bleadon to give them their views on a scheme to create a village green along with new leisure facilities funded by housing built towards the Bridgwater Road end of the field.

### Participants were asked to indicate their views on the statements below:

<b>Bleadon would benefit from:</b>	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree
A village green for local activities	119	8	156
New sports facilities/Playing fields	103	5	175
A new multi-purpose village hall	71	6	206
Starter Homes	62	6	215
Doctor's surgery	93	12	178
Sheltered housing	68	7	208
Improved employment	62	13	208

If the proposed scheme is built, the multi-purpose village hall, sports field and facilities would be gifted to the villagers of Bleadon for their use and for the use of future generations.

### In principle do you support this scheme?

In principle **support** scheme 58 (20.5%)

Do **not support** scheme 225 (79.5%)

Chris and Mike would like to thank everyone that came to the Coronation Hall for the Consultation.

In all a total of 283 consultation forms were filled in.

Whilst there is a clear element of support for a village green and new sports facilities/playing fields for the village, it is clear that the scheme presented has not won popular support, so Chris and Mike will pursue it no further.



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## Big turn-out to view Sanders' Field plans

Around 300 villagers visited the Coronation Hall to view Mike and Chris Sanders' proposals for development of their field alongside Bridge Road.

Stirred up by some mischievous and misleading flyposting and leaflet drops throughout the village it was clear before the event that feelings over the proposed new homes and recreation facilities were running high.

Sadly, most visitors seemed to have made up their minds before seeing what was on offer. Despite the temptations of new recreation, health and community facilities those opinions couldn't be swayed.



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## Some tough challenges ahead

**There will be some difficult and expensive decisions ahead for the volunteers that manage our village halls and youth centre.**

Both the Coronation Halls and the Youth Centre need some serious upgrading and improvement if they are to continue to offer quality facilities.

The rejection by many residents of the Sanders' proposals for new

community facilities will mean that the management committees of these village assets now need to focus on a viable way forward.

Both organisations are clear about what they want and need to achieve. The challenge is in finding the funding to pay for the badly needed improvements to the structure of all three buildings.

Whilst the Coronation Halls have the benefit of substantial funds in reserve, the cost of improvements is likely to be many times more than is currently available.

The Youth Centre is in a far less comfortable position and will have to work very hard to raise the necessary funds. No doubt a lot of grant application forms lie ahead!