

# Press Release

## **Loddon Valley Action Group grateful for cross-party support**

LVAG appeal for non-politicising of on-going fight to keep Sandford Farm as a greenfield site.

**Woodley, Berks, 4 March, 2008:**

David Parker chairman of the residents group Loddon valley Action Group (LVAG), who have been fighting developments at Sandford farm over many years said "Phil Challis, as the past chairman of LVAG, set a very strong emphasis on the need to be non-political and I have followed his lead since taking over.

In the past LVAG has been very grateful for the support of the local Liberal Democrat councillors, Theresa May MP (Con) and Jane Griffiths MP (Lab) and we need a full range of support this time around. We are also grateful for the additional support of Rob Wilson MP (Con) in the last fight, however, I have personally become very concerned by way he has been politicising this important issue and fear it may impact this cross party support."

Mr Parker explained, "Firstly he claimed to have had ongoing discussions with LVAG before he had even spoken to us, then he organised a "political" meeting to conflict with a town council plans meeting and has recently been attempting to take all the credit for planning refusals. However, of course, the credit should go to residents who have worked hard with LVAG to stop these never ending development plans"

Mr Parker went onto to say. "I am also concerned that some local Conservative councillors may not be as opposed to development at Sandford farm as they might like to suggest. One Conservative councillor (Baker) said in a letter to the press that Woodley would need to give up "outright opposition" to development at Sandford Farm and accept development of some kind. Also I was so alarmed by the support being provided to the Wokingham Borough Council's Mayor's charity by directors of companies involved with applications at Sandford Farm that I asked for the situation to be reviewed by the standards board. The Standards Board however did not feel that there was a conflict of interests"