

PRESTON COMMUNITY GROUP

Re: PROPOSED COMMUNITY FACILITIES

We continue to undertake our research and offer ‘the other side of the story’. In this connection we have analysed the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) and added our own comments. These can be found on the Preston village website.

However, we highlight three key areas for further comment:

1. **TRAFFIC** – this continues to be the number one concern and any new facilities erected on Althams Field will undoubtedly increase traffic volume. With an entrance onto School Lane the increased volume of traffic will affect the whole village and particularly residents of School Lane, Crunnells Green and Back Lane leading to the Primary School.
2. **LOCATION** – Althams Field is NOT in the village. It is outside the designated Settlement Boundary. The recently produced Neighbourhood Plan as agreed by NHDC defines the field as Green Belt. Protection of this Green Belt is of paramount importance as any development will open the floodgates to further affordable housing and expand the village in an area of outstanding natural beauty. **ANY VOTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ALTHAMS FIELD IS A VOTE FOR DESTRUCTION OF GREEN BELT.**
3. **VIABILITY** – before any concrete proposals can be developed, the Community needs to be assured that opening a shop/café is viable. To date, no credible business plan has been produced. The last village shop closed in 1996 as it was not viable. There has been no suggestion in the intervening period that a shop is required or proof that it could be viable. A fully detailed and realistic business plan is a prerequisite before any decisions can be made.

YOUR VOTE WILL DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF THIS BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE FOR YEARS TO COME.