

## **Local People Invited to Shape Future of Bushfield Camp**

A former military site on the southern edge of the city of Winchester, Bushfield Camp still carries the vestiges of its past. The derelict ruins include the camp armoury, blast pens, a firing range and a number of other structures, although the camp has not been in use for over half a century. The site is allocated for employment land in Winchester City Council's Local Plan, with the intention of creating new, high value jobs for Winchester's skilled workforce. Now, the Church Commissioners for England who own the site are keen to involve local residents and businesses in shaping a future that provides the right mix of development for business need and community enjoyment.

As land owners, the Commissioners have begun undertaking informal, early stage discussions with local stakeholders and interested parties including Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council and the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership. They are keen to familiarise themselves fully with local issues and opportunities, and have been carrying out technical studies into the ecology, archaeology, landscape, transport and other aspects of the site to complement these discussions. Their ambition is to develop a proposal for the site which is sympathetic to the environment whilst enhancing the employment offer of the Winchester District.

A trio of consultation events have been arranged this autumn so that local residents and businesses have an early opportunity to feed their thoughts, concerns and suggestions into the process before any plans are prepared. These include a strategic employment workshop with key stakeholders, a workshop for local amenity groups and an open 'drop in' session at which people can meet the Commissioners and their consultants Deloitte in person. Anyone can attend the community drop in session which will take place at the Middle Brook Centre in Middle Brook Street, Winchester, SO23 8DQ, from 2pm to 7pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

John Weir, Head of Strategic Land Investment for the Church Commissioners, said:

“It is exciting to be considering a new lease of life for the Commissioners’ employment site at Bushfield, to realise its potential after it has lain dormant for so many years. No plans have been prepared, and at this stage the focus is on consultation and engagement. There is always concern about new development in any community and we are committed to working collaboratively with local groups and with businesses to ensure the right outcomes for Winchester.”

Cllr Rob Humby, Winchester City Council’s Cabinet Member for Business Partnerships, added:

“With numerous studies now showing that Winchester lacks the right kind of workspace for modern business, Bushfield Camp presents a golden opportunity to attract new and interesting jobs to our city in line with our economic strategy. However, in addition to around 20 hectares of employment land it has the added advantage of offering 23 hectares of open space for public enjoyment. It should be a ‘win win’ for everyone in Winchester.”

For further information about Bushfield Camp log onto [www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/major-sites/bushfield-camp/](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/major-sites/bushfield-camp/)

Notes to editor:

- a) Planning policies relating to the allocation of Bushfield Camp for employment use can be found in the Council’s Submission Local Plan ([Part 2: – Development Management and Site Allocations](#))
- b) For further information about the consultation and engagement programme, or for the project as a whole, contact Matthew Wright at Deloitte, at [ukfacebushfield@deloitte.co.uk](mailto:ukfacebushfield@deloitte.co.uk)