



# MAPPERLEY

GOLF CLUB

Issue 1  
September 2011

BULLETIN is a newsletter produced by the General Committee to keep the membership of MGC up to date with Gedling Borough Council's development plans and where we stand in relation to the housing proposals and how they affect the Club and Course

## Meeting with GBC

On September 6th, MGC members had their first chance to put their points and questions to senior representatives of Gedling Borough Council (GBC), when we welcomed the Leader, Deputy Leader, Chief Executive and Chief Planning Officer to the clubhouse. For their part, the council representatives explained the borough's housing needs and set that into a national context, and discussed why the development of Mapperley makes good sense from their side, though they stated several times that this is a consultation process. No decision has yet been made and other options are being considered.

new planning rules, there is a presumption in favour of development, and a focus on growth.

### New Course

If the proposal goes forward, GBC are committed to providing MGC with a new course and facilities, and were keen to emphasise that it would be in nobody's interest to develop a facility that failed, or was anything less than very high quality. They suggested that a driving range, and possibly other new facilities to encourage new players and juniors could be introduced.

### Consequences

Nothing was spelt out in detail, although it was suggested that if the MGC development does not go ahead, then there wouldn't be the funds for the Chase Farm development to go forward either, leaving open the possibility that other developments such as an incinerator could be erected on the site. GBC also made the point that if the council cannot offer a credible strategy for housebuilding, then Government planners in London will take on the task, taking it out of the hands of local people.

***They will have been left in no doubt about the depth of feeling and the pride in the club and the course felt by the membership. Many members spoke eloquently and asked searching questions of the council representatives, asking them to justify the possible development of our beautiful course.***

GBC made some important points, both about the course development itself and the implications on the surrounding area. The development of MGC would be considered 'sustainable' under planning rules, in that it already has a good proportion of local services and amenities. Developing MGC would allow the Gedling access road to be built, and provide the financial wherewithal to develop the Chase Farm/Mapperley pit site into housing and a Country Park, even possibly one of the new Queen's Forests planned for the Golden Jubilee.

Greater Nottingham has to develop a plan to build 52,000 houses by 2028, Gedling's share being just over 7000. There are more single person households, and we are all living longer, and there are currently just under 3000 people on the housing waiting list in Gedling. Under the

John Robinson, GBC Chief Executive



BULLETIN



**MAPPERLEY**  
GOLF CLUB

# Questions, questions

Some of the questions asked by members, with a brief précis of the answer given by GBC:

*How was the figure for the number of houses required reached?*

Local authorities now make decisions, based on modelling of government figures. When presenting the figures, they have to be evidence based.

*Why was the plan not included in the Labour party manifesto for the Council elections?*

Because this requirement did not become clear until after the election.

*Where will the club be relocated to if this goes ahead?*

That needs more consideration, GBC don't want to commit this early because it might push up land prices.

*If we lose members through the process, will GBC support the club financially?*

That would need proper scrutiny, but would be considered. The club will need to develop a proper business plan.

*Can our lease be terminated?*

GBC have consulted their lawyers and believe so, if necessary.

*Will money for the new course be ringfenced?*

It will be an element of the council budget for the year in question.

*MGC has made an enormous number of improvements since 1984, when the course was in a poor state. Can we be guaranteed that any new course reflects the current standard of the course?*

Yes, that will be guaranteed.

*How serious an option is this?*

The Council want a serious debate, though they believe that the most sustainable option is MGC.

*Members pushed GBC on this point, suggesting that minds had already been made up. GBC stressed that this was only phase one of a consultation process, and asked that members, if they wanted to add any point to the debate, should contact the Council Leader John Clarke or Deputy Leader Michael Payne directly (though see the panel right). Their details are on the GBC website [www.gedling.gov.uk](http://www.gedling.gov.uk). There are a number of other documents on the website relevant to the process too.*

There were other questions posed, but we hope that this gives a flavour of the debate.

We have paper copies of the presentation made by GBC, please ask a member of the General Committee if you would like to have one.

## Timescale, if development goes ahead:

**Current (initial) consultation expires 3rd October 2011**

### Planning Process:

**Publication of draft consultation Spring 2012**

**Submission of core strategy Summer 2012**

**Public Inquiry Summer 2012**

**Adoption of plan Winter 2012**

**Planning application made 2013?**

**Liaison with City Council**

**Viability/Masterplanning/transport modelling**

**Sort out replacement golf course site**

## What Next?

The Committee's position on the proposals is to maintain a neutral stance until we have concrete proposals and can see the benefits or otherwise to Mapperley Golf Club, and we will engage with the process so that we can maintain a good working relationship with the council. We will work tirelessly to make sure that we achieve the best possible deal for our members and for the future of the club.

The Committee and Directors of MGC have appointed a 'steering committee' to lead the discussions with GBC throughout the process. The group will be meeting with the Council on a monthly basis and will report news and developments back to the membership.

Members are welcome to raise any aspect of the proposals with the steering committee and substantive issues will be forwarded for discussion with GBC.

Members of the group are:

Ken Shaw (Chair)  
Mick Mulhern  
Dan Williams  
Christine Johnson  
John Spencer  
Joe Childs  
Martin Hardwidge