

MHEP-09-04-13 HW1 (2) PICTURE BY HELEN WHITCOMBE



**CAMPSITE WRANGLE** The site in Little Abington that is set to be sold

# Campsite charity is established

**BY JACK TAPPIN**

jack.tappin@haverhillecho.com  
@JackTappin

**A charity has been set up with the intention of running Little Abington Campsite as campaigners continue to battle raise the cash needed to buy the site.**

Reg Cullum, 73, from Sawston, is one of the trustees of the Abington Woods Foundation, which is appealing for donations as it aims to buy the site and run it in partnership with Little Abington Parish Council.

"The plan is to be able to purchase the site and, moving on from that, to open it up as a community venue for those organisations that have a keen interest in promoting young people to good citizenship, such as Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, Scouts and Guides, and so on," he said.

able. We've had lots of support already and the residents of the Abingtons are willing us to carry on with the campaign."

The value of the site is estimated between £270,000 and £275,000. Cambridgeshire Scouts plans to sell the entire site, established in 1932, and invest in a new central site as they say the Abington campsite had become unsustainable.

However, their controversial decision sparked a backlash from the Scouting community and Abingtons residents with a petition to save the site attracting 2,000 signatures, and after the site was listed as a community interest residents and the Friends of Abington Campsite group triggered a right to buy in May.

That gave them six months to raise the funds and submit an offer for the site, during which time Cambridgeshire Scouts could not sell it to anyone else.

and Gt. St. Andrew's, Newbury.  
"We plan to keep it as  
campsite with more facilities,  
such as enabling those who  
help young vulnerable and  
disabled people to use the site.

"We want to appeal to more  
groups, and the idea with Ab-  
ington is to accommodate  
each through existing facili-  
ties or consider how we can  
adapt and improve buildings  
to accommodate people.

"Within our midst we have  
a chap from business manage-  
ment who has gone through  
the whole process and he had  
indicated that if the interest  
that's already being shown  
comes to fruition then the  
campsite is more than sustain-

The county Scout organi-  
sation had already received  
planning permission from  
South Cambridgeshire Dis-  
trict Council for a number  
of bungalows on the site and  
originally said it would rein-  
vest the cash raised back into  
restoring the site, yet then de-  
cided to instead sell the whole  
site. However, being outside  
the village envelope means  
planning permission for fur-  
ther development on the site  
would likely be refused.

To make donations contact  
abingtonwoodsfoundation@  
gmail.com or by post Treasur-  
er for FACS, c/o 132, Cromwell  
Road, Cambridge, CB1 3EG