

**Press Release : 4th July 2014**

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# Press Release.

## **Panshanger Country Park East : A Start but not a Finish.**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014 the **Friends of Panshanger Park** hosted Grant Shapps MP on a visit to Panshanger Country Park. Formed in 2013, the Friends represent hundreds of individuals and 14 local organisations. All wanting to ensure a magnificent Country Park is created on the Panshanger estate. Delivering on a 1982 Hertfordshire County Council legal agreement which gave the owners, now Lafarge Tarmac, mineral extraction rights in return for a Country Park with open access for all.

Will Davis Friends of Panshanger & WGC Society committee member “We were pleased to see Country Park East open on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, although some promised areas still remain closed to the public, but we need to see more of the Park open. There is nothing to prevent the West of the Park opening now. Allowing people from Welwyn Garden City and Hertford to walk and cycle through the stunning valley alongside the Mimram. The Northern part of the park around the Panshanger Great Oak and the remaining estate buildings could also be opened, once appropriate fencing for any sensitive areas is put in place”

“We understand Lafarge Tarmac are looking to revise planning conditions at Panshanger. These new conditions may enable importation of inert landfill materials.”

“Should these plans come forward, we would expect them to be accompanied by a detailed set of plans for the Country Park. Including a wide range of visitor facilities and detailed restoration plans for the historic buildings and gardens at Panshanger”



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Kate Harwood, Friends and Herts Garden Trust continues “The condition of the remaining listed buildings and gardens at Panshanger is very poor and has been deteriorating for many years. The Orangery and Conservatory need urgent attention to arrest further decline with plans put in place for restoration and use as part of the visitors’ park experience.”

ENDS

### Local organisations represented by the Friends of Panshanger Park include:

*East Herts Footpaths,*

*Friends of the Mimram,*

*Hertford Civic Society,*

*Herts Garden Trust,*

*Hertingfordbury Conservation Society,*

*Hertingfordbury Parish Council,*

*Hertford & Ware Local History Society,*

*Herts Building Preservation Trust,*

*Herts Local Access Forum,*

*Panshanger People,*

*The Ramblers,*

*Welwyn Garden City Society,*

*Welwyn Planning and Amenity Group,*

*Welwyn Hatfield Cycling Forum.*

