

## **STOP PRESS - The Common Field**

We have just heard that the Secretary of State has decided NOT to 'call in' the application for an extension to the Reigate Road quarry involving the extraction of sand from the Common Field.

Her reason for not calling it in was that the applicant (J.J. Franks) had put forward very special circumstances, which in his view outweighed the harm caused by the development. The Secretary of State also noted that "there is currently a shortfall in the landbank for sand in Surrey" (levels which the Government set) "and that this site would make a contribution to that shortfall more than local importance". This means that this application will not be subject to a public inquiry.

So, just like Surrey County Council, the Government does not listen to the people.

Ian Wilson, Chairman

*Parish Magazine*  
*Betchworth - March 2008*