**NORTH LUFFENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL VILLAGERS**

**1 MILITARY WORKING DOG REGIMENT - BRIEFING AND CONSULTATION**

**WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2015**

**BACKGROUND**

As part of the Army Rebasing Programme, it is planned that by Mid-2017, 1 Military Working Dog Regiment (1 MWG Regt) will have completed their move from Germany to St George’s Barracks, North Luffenham to join 104 Military Working Dog Squadron that are currently located on the South side of the Barracks. Over the next two years, the number of dogs based within the Barracks is planned to rise from the current 64 to a maximum of 376, though in reality the number is likely to be about 300 dogs, all of which will be kenneled on the South side of the Barracks, some 500 metres from the North Luffenham village boundary. The plan entails development of the existing unit offices, new kenneling and associated support services, including the provision of suitable secure training and exercise areas. The current Regular Army Squadron will be joined by the Regimental Headquarters this Summer, and a further 2 x Military Working Dog Squadrons will follow. If funding is available, there is an aspiration for one of these Squadrons, with 88 dogs, to move to St George’s Barracks during the Summer of 2015. If this happens, temporary kenneling will be provided in specialist adapted ISO containers. In due course, 2 x Reserve Military Working Dog Squadrons will be created as an integral part of the Regiment.

Inevitably, such a development has the potential to result in a significant increase in noise pollution and the Parish Council have been working closely with Rutland County Council and the military planning staff to ensure that the impact upon the village is effectively managed by good planning and the use of sound absorbing materials and other environmental measures.

**PROPOSED PUBLIC BRIEFING/CONSULTATION – 11 FEB 15**

As part of the consultation process 1 Military Working Dog Regiment are planning a Community Engagement Event at St George’s Barracks on the evening of **Wednesday 11th February 2015**. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of what the Regiment does and to present proposals for the new Technical Accommodation and Kennel Complex prior to the submission of the planning application. Further consultation will take place between Rutland County Council, Parish Councils and Military planning staff before detailed plans are submitted in line with the formal planning process in Mid March.

There is no doubt that a six-fold increase in the number of dogs located close to the village will have the potential to create a significant environmental impact, it is therefore important that we all have a chance to hear the proposals and to be able to express any reservations or concerns that you may have directly to those involved in the development and planning process. You are therefore invited to attend the awareness raising and consultation meetings to be held in the Officers Mess, St George’s Barracks (the large stand-alone building on South Side of Edith Weston Road) on 11th February. To ensure that everyone has a chance to hear the presentations, there will be 2 x identical back-to-back sessions – to be held at **5pm** and then again at **6.30pm**. Please allow at least 15 minutes to get access, Parking etc. (Photo ID may be required).

**This is an important part of the consultation process and the Parish Council would urge you to attend. Should you need help with transport please call Paul Cummings (01780 720124).**