



The Parachute Regimental Association Aldershot Branch Newsletter

03/2010

Charity Number 1125551

Mar 2010

Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will take place on **Friday 5th March at 2000hrs in Malta Barracks.**

Bar Opening Times

The bar is open on Friday evenings **8pm till midnight** and Sunday afternoon from **3pm till 8pm**. A free Pool Table, Bar nibbles, Television for all sporting events and a good atmosphere await you. Please note that fresh ground coffee is available for those who have to drive or would like an alternative drink. The Chairman would like to thank those members who braved the elements and used the bar over the past few weeks.

Branch Ties

Branch ties are available for purchase over the bar or from the Treasurer or Secretary at a price of £10.

Help for Heroes Wristbands

Please note that we have a supply of Help for Heroes wristbands on sale behind the bar at a cost of £2 each.

New Members

There was one new member last month, Steve West who is ex 3 Para.

Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Branch Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 9th April 2010. This will be followed by the April Monthly Meeting. Please try and attend the Annual General Meeting. All committee members have to be re-elected at the AGM. If any member would like to apply for a position on the committee please contact the secretary.

Airborne March Arnhem

This years Airborne March will take place from Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th September. The coaches will leave Browning Barracks early on the Thursday morning and return at 1700hrs on the Sunday. This years cost will be finalised after Tony Trown has been to Holland to speak to Harskamp staff to find out what price they will charge us for the accommodation and meals. This is our 27 year of attending the Airborne March and along with the Aldershot Branch PRA we also take serving soldiers, Army Cadets, Air Training Cadets and many friends. The total last year was just under 300 people. The cost for the first trip was £47 and last year we charged £120 which we feel is excellent value for money. Although we expect an increase from Harskamp and the coach company we will try and keep the final cost to within £120-£130. Please note that as we are staying in an army barracks the sleeping arrangements are eight men to a room and eight ladies to a room, sorry no sharing! If any member would like to attend this years march or would like further information please contact the secretary. We require a

£50 deposit to secure your place. Please make cheques payable to “**Arnhem 10**”.

Aldershot Branch Website

The Aldershot Branch have been working on a Branch website and I am pleased to inform you that the website is now live. The website will be updated on a regular basis and if you would like to see further information or can think of any improvements please contact the secretary who will pass on your comments to our webmaster Dave Rashbrook. The Chairman would like to thank Dave for all his hard work in getting the website up and running. The website address is **www.aldershotpra.com**

Rebuild of Aldershot Military Town

Over ten years ago the Government sold the land that the Aldershot Military Town stood on for redevelopment. It is proposed that 5,500 houses are built on the site. I have heard that developers are prepared to move in and start to demolish the barracks. As a matter of interest I thought I would let you have a look at the building plans for the site. Starting at Browning Barracks you will see that they have put in a 17 berth marina off of the Basingstoke Canal. Alison's Road that used to go under the Farnborough Road (A325) now joins at the same level and the slip roads on the north and southbound lanes have been removed. On the Montgomery Lines site they have added a new road that joins the Farnborough Road opposite Potter's International Hotel. Traffic lights will be installed at both junctions to assist entry and exit to the new estate. A lot of people were led to believe that the old 4 Division Headquarters building was a listed building and would be saved. This unfortunately is not true. I have been informed that the only part of the building that is listed is the ornate staircase inside. The plans are to demolish the building leaving the staircase and build a new building around it. The only existing landmarks that will be left are the lion on the plinth, the observatory and Maida Gym all are in Queens Avenue. Browning Barracks, Montgomery Lines, Buller barracks, Duchess of Kent Barracks, the Garrison Sergeants Mess, Clayton Barracks and Thornhill Barracks will all go. The Cambridge Hospital and Union Buildings will be renovated into luxury flats. The only military left south of the Basingstoke Canal will be from the two churches on the Queens Avenue along to St Omer Barracks. The St Omer Barracks skyline has changed with the recent demolition of the ACC Tower building. There are no plans for a new secondary school but two new junior schools are planned for the site. With 11,000 people and that is not counting children it will be extremely difficult getting into and out of the new estate as there will only be five entry and exit roads. The building work is being spread over many years with 200-300 houses being built every year. The end date for the build is expected to be in the year 2026. I also noticed that when the electricity board recently laid a new power cable along the Farnborough Road they put a spur off into the site occupied by the football pitches just down from the Royal Garrison Church. I can only assume that the Government intend to sell off the football pitches for further development. See the maps on pages 4-6 for further information.

Airborne 70

I have received many requests from members asking if we are running a coach to Colchester for the 70th Anniversary celebrations. It is the intention of the Branch to run a coach or coaches if we have enough applications. We are waiting for the Itinerary and further information about the event so that we can apply for tickets and arrange the timings. Information will appear in future newsletters.

Battle Guide

Bob Hilton has kindly handed the following two pamphlets to the Branch and I have placed them in the book case. The first is the Battle Guide which is an insight into the Battlefield Tours that take place throughout the year. This critique helps to evaluate the tours mentioned.

1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron

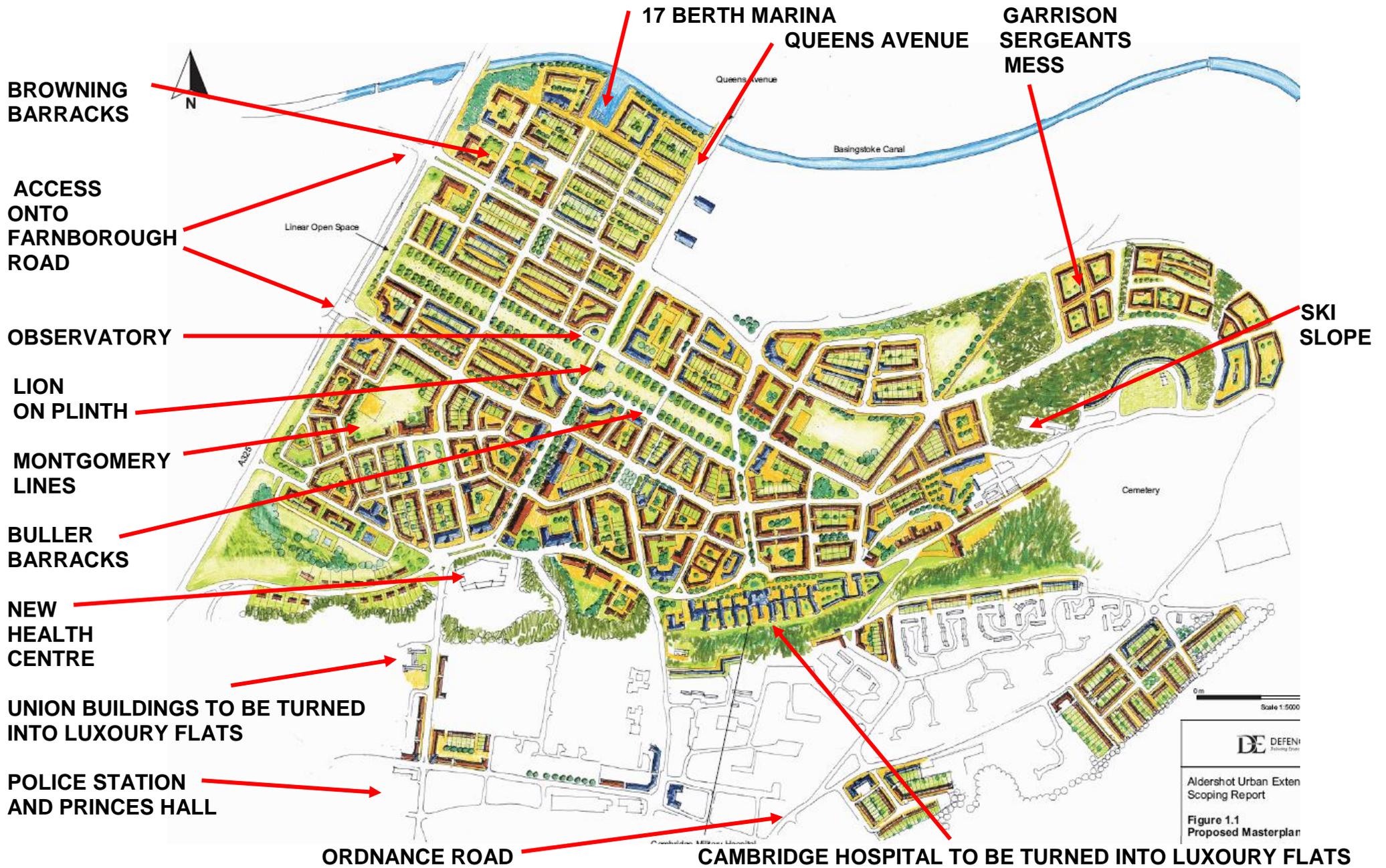
The second pamphlet is from the 1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron & Parachute Squadron RAC Association. The pamphlet is the Newsletter No 69 January 2010 Edition. I recommend that all members who use the bar to have a read of both pamphlets.

Aldershot Army Show

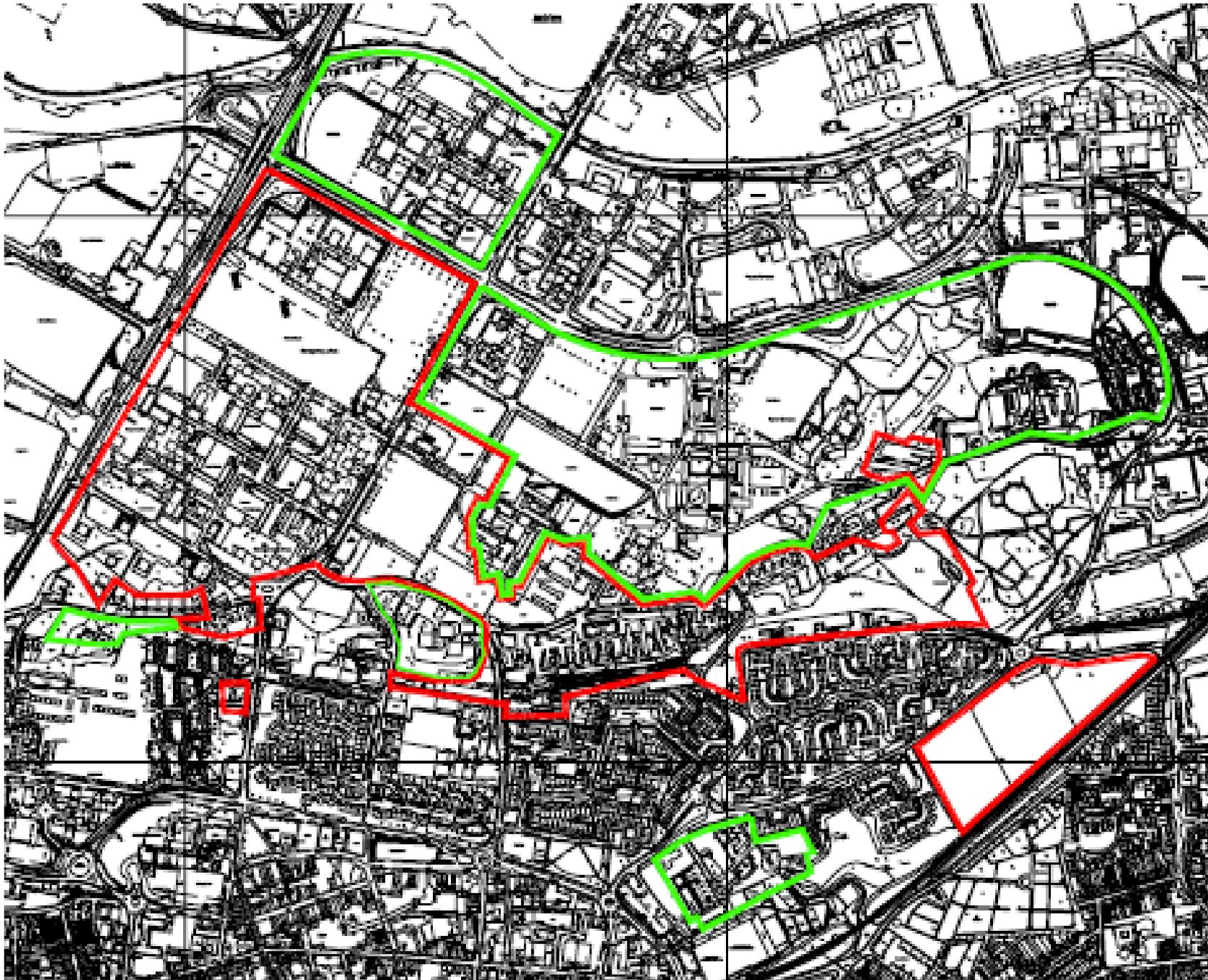
It has been confirmed in the local newspapers that the Aldershot Army Show has been cancelled this year due to cost savings. This is the first time that the show has been cancelled and is a sad reflection on our current problems.

Stuart

THE PROPOSED REBUILD OF THE ALDERSHOT MILITARY TOWN







KEY

RELEASE 1

RELEASE 2