

Envirowatch

South Warwickshire Environmental Association

(Chairman: John Fenlon 01789772182, Secretary: Liam Maude 01789765295)

1. COUNCIL REGULATORY MEETING NORTH of BROOM LANE (NoBL) REPRESENTATION

On Tuesday 25th May several Committee Members plus representatives from Salford Priors Parish Council, Bidford Parish Council, our local District Councillor Daren Pemberton, plus several members of the Public attended the WCC Regulatory Meeting at Shire Hall to lodge our objections to the above application.

Despite all the objections the WCC Regulatory Committee voted in favour of CEMEX and Planning consent was granted, subject to certain conditions and a time scale that can be monitored by the newly structured Quarry Liaison Committee. We are still waiting for the Official copies of the minutes of the meeting and the conditions attached to the Planning Consent from WCC and will keep you informed of progress.

Sand and Gravel will therefore be extracted for this site once the official legal documents have been signed by all parties.

Two members of SWEA have been appointed as representatives on the Quarry Liaison Committee and attended the first meeting held on 20th June at Salford Priors Memorial Hall.

2. OMBUDSMAN

Some considerable correspondence has taken place between the Committee and the Ombudsman's office relating to our dis-satisfaction with SDC response to the withdrawal of the NoBL Planning Application from the Agenda of the Planning Meeting, held on 13th January 2010. This decision was taken by the then Salford Parish Council Chairman who considered it could be delegated to the Planning Officers, despite the fact that he had not discussed this with the full Parish Council who had objected strongly against the application.

We are less than satisfied with the initial response from the Ombudsman and have informed them that it is our intention to pursue this matter further, and have contacted our newly elected MP Nadhim Zahawi requesting a meeting to discuss the possibility of a Judicial Review.

3. SALFORD PRIORS FETE.

A few of our Members set up a small display unit at the Fete highlighting some of the issues that we are concerned about within the local area, and we were able to engage with several members of the public who support our aims and aspirations against the spread and proliferation of additional quarries in the surrounding villages.

John Fenlon

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No doubt some if not all of you will have heard about the Country Landowners Association Game Fair taking place in the Ragley Hall grounds from Friday 23rd through to Sunday 25th July. Having previously visited this show myself (at Blenheim) I can tell you that it is largest show of its type in Europe and is very well supported. Nick Brooks-Ward the Head of Operations for the Game Fair kindly came to our AGM and gave a very precise presentation to all present. To summarise his talk - the Game Fair attracts upwards of 150,000 visitors over three days, 1000 exhibitors, and 20,000 vehicles per day. It also injects into the local economy around £10 million and puts this lovely area on the radar of a lot of people who have not visited previously. With regard to the traffic volumes - take note that it will obviously be extremely busy around Ragley itself and the SURROUNDING AREA particularly as the show opens, and again towards the end of the day.

Main access routes for the show are the A435 from Studley, A46 from Stratford, A422 from Worcester, and the B4088 from Evesham through Norton, Harvington and Dunnington. At peak times there may well be a one way system in operation around the Ragley estate from Arrow to Dunnington and around to Weethley and back to Arrow via the Ridgeway You will be well advised to delay any vehicle movements you have to make until mid-morning or be out very early! The Game Fair Organisers have tried to plan for all traffic bottlenecks but inevitably there are bound to be some, and they have in fact spent in excess of £100,000 alone on traffic management, to minimise disruption. Local signs will be put in place advising visitors that 'No access to Game Fair' but no doubt there will always be a few who know better to try and get into the show more quickly. It is only for three days, every three years, and the injection to the local economy is worth the inconvenience.

Lindsay Wright

		
MARSH FARM, RAGLEY		
PROPOSED RESTORATION SCHEDULE		
PHASE	COMMENTS	ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE
R1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infilling ongoing to formation level• Soils to be replaced	End 2010
R2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infilling to commence 2011	End 2011
R3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infilling to commence 2012	End 2012
Previous landfill area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soils to be replaced 2012	End 2012
Current lagoons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be capped• Soils to be replaced 2013	End 2013

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

A great deal of time has been invested by each member of the SWEA committee since the inaugural meeting of the organisation in order to gain an understanding of the issues and procedures surrounding the complex planning regulations. Good progress has been made to date by the committee members. It is vitally important for this organisation to represent the views of the local community and attempt to communicate this in a structured and coherent way to the representatives making the planning decisions. With this in mind, we are looking for volunteers to help fight the current plans in the Minerals Core Strategy paper.

If you have expertise in any of the following areas please do contact us:

Planning & development Legal Marketing & publicity

In addition, please contact us if you want to help in any other way, volunteers are always needed for leaflet distribution, for example. Your comments would also be appreciated. SWEA was set up to represent local residents, if you don't feel the organisation is representing your views as you would like please do contact any of the committee members.

HELP! FIGHTING FUND REQUIRED.

During the first six months the organisation has concentrated on collecting a significant amount of data and correspondence from a variety of different sources to establish the current position of the existing and proposed quarry workings in the area. We started with none of this information and through persistence and a great deal of hard work now feel we have a clear understanding of the issues as they currently stand.

The confirmation that the extension to the existing Marsh Farm site is to go ahead is disappointing but does lead us to the conclusion that future extensions will be applied for once the land has been worked at north of Broom Lane. Despite the current economic climate, the pressure from both the construction industry and Warwickshire County Council to extract more sand and gravel in the area will only increase. When this happens, which it inevitably will, SWEA will require a fighting fund to promote its opposition to the proposed developments.

Donations are always welcome, please make cheques payable to "South Warwickshire Environmental Association" and send to the address below. Additionally, if you have any ideas for future fund raising please contact me:

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