

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2011/2012

SINCE OUR AGM OF THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2011 THE COMMITTEE HELD 2 REGULAR MEETINGS.

NO NEWSLETTERS WERE PRODUCED DURING THE PAST YEAR AS THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY REGARDING QUARRY OR OTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES RELATING TO THE PARISH.

1. PROGRESS OF EXTRACTION AND RESTORATION OF MARSH FARM QUARRY

THE QUANTITY OF FILL RECEIVED IN 2011 WAS ONLY 35-38,000 TONNES A CONSIDERABLE SHORTFALL FROM THE 60, 000 TONNES REQUIRED PER ANNUM. THE INFILL WAS BEING USED TO CONSTRUCT NEW SILT PONDS AND THIS MEANT THAT OTHER AREAS DESIGNATED FOR RESTORATION WERE LEFT UNCOMPLETED.

THE SHORTFALL IN INFILL HAS BEEN BLAMED ON THE DIP IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PLUS COMPETITION FROM AN ILLEGAL SITE IN LONG MARSTON.

THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A CHANGE IN THE CEMEX MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AT MARSH FARM WITH THE DEPARTURE OF TONY ROWLEY THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. HE HAS BEEN THE COMMITTEES MAIN LINK AND CONTACT SINCE OUR ORGANISATION WAS SET UP 3 YEARS AGO.

2. PROGRESS OF EXTRACTION AT NORTH OF BROOM LANE

AS YOU ARE AWARE EXTRACTION COMMENCED IN JANUARY 2011 AND THE INFORMATION WE HAVE TO DATE SHOWS THAT RESTORATION HAS BEEN STEADY WITH HALF OF THE FIRST FIELD NOW RESTORED. THE SECOND FIELD HAD BEEN STRIPPED BUT SOME ARCHAEOLOGY FEATURES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED AND WORK HAD BEEN STOPPED. THIS OF COURSE MEANT SOME FINANCIAL LOSS TO CEMEX AND WAS NOT WHAT THEY WANTED OR EXPECTED. THIS WAS REPORTED TO THE LIAISON COMMITTEE IN JANUARY 2012 BUT SINCE THEN WORK HAS RECOMMENCED IN THE SECOND FIELD.

3. MARSH FARM LIAISON COMMITTEE

LIAM MAUDE OUR SECRETARY ATTENDED 2 MEETINGS. CHRIS BEAMISH ATTENDED A SITE VISIT. JEREMY GASCOIGNE ATTENDED ONE MEETING AND MYSELF AS CHAIRMAN ATTENDED ONE MEETING.

DUE TO THE MANAGEMENT CHANGES AT CEMEX IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE FURTHER MEETINGS WHICH HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF FRUSTRATION FOR THE CLERK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AND THE LIAISON COMMITTEE AS THERE APPEARS TO BE A LACK OF INTEREST IN THE SITE NOW THAT TONY ROWLEY HAS LEFT THE COMPANY.

4. UPDATE ON WARWICKSHIRE WASTE CORE STRATEGY

IN NOVEMBER 2011 OUR COMMITTEE WROTE TO WCC GENERALLY SUPPORTING IN PRINCIPLE THE PARISH COUNCILS POINT OF VIEW REGARDING THE VISION STATEMENT, KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE DRAFT CORE STRATEGY POLICIES AND THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES.

OUR COMMITTEE FULLY ENDORSES THE PARISH COUNCILS COMMENTS .PARTICULARLY THE ISSUES OF POSSIBLE NEW WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES WITHIN OUR PARISH, WHICH

PREDOMINANTLY IS CONSIDERED HIGH VALUE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND SHOULD BE PROTECTED AT ALL TIMES.

IRONICALLY, IN APRIL 2012 WE WERE INFORMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW ISSUED A NEW PLANNING POLICY IN THE FORM OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF).

THE NPPF REPLACES THE MAJORITY OF THE PLANNING POLICY STATEMENTS AND GUIDANCE NOTES ON WHICH THE CORE STRATEGY PUBLICATION DOCUMENT IS BASED.

HOWEVER, THE CURRENT PUBLICATION DOCUMENT REMAINS IN PLACE UNTIL THE NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS PUBLISHED IN LATE 2013.

5. MINERALS CORE STRATEGY

THIS IS CURRENTLY ON THE BACK-BURNER FOR THE TIME BEING. THE CURRENT PLAN IN FORCE IS THE LOCAL MINERALS PLAN.

6. SALFORD PRIORS FETE 25TH JUNE 2011

SWEA SET UP A SMALL GAZEBO AT THE FETE AND SOLD SOME GENERAL BRIC A BRAC, SMALL ITEMS OF JEWELLERY, BOOKS AND SWEETS RAISING A TOTAL OF £84.00.

SOME SUPPORT FOR SWEA WAS FORTHCOMING ON THE DAY BUT UNFORTUNATELY DESPITE ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN DONATIONS TO SUPPORT OUR ORGANISATION THE RESPONSE WAS VERY POOR.

7. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WIND FARMS SEEM TO BE A BIG ISSUE IN SOME AREAS AND THE COMMITTEE HAVE DECIDED TO OPPOSE PLANS TO BUILD FIVE WIND TURBINES AND A CONTROL TOWER ON BURTON DASSET COUNTRY PARK. IN OUR OPINION IT IS IN A VERY SENSITIVE AREA OF NATURAL BEAUTY AND WOULD DESTROY THE VIEWS AND THE AMENITY OF THE PARK. WE HAVE THEREFORE WRITTEN TO SDC OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSALS.

WE APPRECIATE THAT WITH MORE PROPOSALS LIKELY TO EMERGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY, WE NEED TO BE MORE INFORMED ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, THE VISUAL INTRUSION ON THE LANDSCAPE, NOISE, THE EFFECT ON BIRDS, BATS AND OTHER WILDLIFE AND THE BENEFITS RELATING TO THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY THEY PRODUCE.

There is a site that you can visit to sign up to if you feel strongly about opposing these sites.
<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/22958>

8.. LIAM MAUDE OUR SECRETARY OR THE CHAIRMAN CAN PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILED CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO ANY OF THE ISSUES SHOWN ABOVE SHOULD MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISH TO ENGAGE OR BE INVOLVED IN A PARTICULAR TOPIC OR ISSUE.

FINALLY, MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US SINCE OUR FORMATION.