



SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2009/2010

SINCE OUR FIRST PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2009 COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE GONE THROUGH A STEEP LEARNING CURVE OBTAINING FACTS, DOCUMENTS, DRAWINGS AND OTHER INFORMATION TO ASSIST US IN MAKING A BALANCED ASSESSMENT RELATING TO SOME OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES.

WE BELIEVE THAT SOME CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS WHERE WE WERE TOLD THAT FACE TO FACE MEETINGS WERE NOT POSSIBLE.

1. BUDGEONS DAY FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS SET UP A DISPLAY STAND OUTSIDE THE STORE SHOWING DETAILS AND MAPS RELATING TO PROPOSED QUARRY SITES AS SHOWN IN THE STRATEGIC CORE STRATEGY. SOME 65 LOCAL PEOPLE OBJECTED TO ADDITIONAL SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND AGREED TO ADD THEIR NAMES TO OUR DATA BASE LIST WHICH NOW CONSISTS OF SOME 150 SUPPORTERS.

2. EXTENSION TO NORTH BROOM LANE/ MARSH FARM QUARRY.

AN ORIGINAL DATE OF 13TH JANUARY 2010 WAS SET BY STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR NORTH OF BROOM LANE, BUT THE ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY THE THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE SALFORD PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL AND TREATED AS A DELEGATED ITEM, MEANING THAT IT WAS PASSED TO WCC WITHOUT COMMENT FROM SDC.

MEMBERS OF SWEA ATTENDED THE STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING BUT WERE DENIED THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OR MAKE OBJECTIONS TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN SOME LONG AND PROTRACTED CORRESPONDENCE WITH STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS INCLUDING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE ANSWERS WE ARE LOOKING FOR HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFACTORY AND THE OMBUDSMAN HAS NOW TAKEN UP THE CASE ON OUR BEHALF.

OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS, PLUS REPRESENTATIVES FROM SALFORD PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL, BIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL, OUR LOCAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDED THE WCC REGULATORY PLANNING MEETING ON TUESDAY 25TH MAY AT SHIRE HALL TO DISCUSS THE NORTH OF BROOM LANE PLANNING



APPLICATION BY CEMEX. DESPITE THE EXTREMELY PROFESSIONAL WAY ALL THE SPEAKERS PRESENTED THEIR OBJECTIONS RELATING TO THE APPLICATION, THE COMMITTEE VOTED IN FAVOUR OF CEMEX SUBJECT TO STRICTER CONDITIONS AND A TIMESCALE THAT CAN BE MONITORED BY THE NEWLY FORMED LIAISON COMMITTEE.

SOME POSITIVES CAN BE TAKEN FROM OUR INVOLVMENT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

IN SO MUCH THAT SWEA CAN NOW HAVE TWO REPRESENTATIVES ON THE LIAISON COMMITTEE. THIS WILL ENABLE US TO ACTIVELY MONITOR THE CEMEX SITE ACTIVITIES ON A REGULAR BASIS.

I HAVE REQUESTED DETAILS OF THE PLANNING CONSENT AND NEW CONDITIONS FROM SUE BROOMHEAD THE SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER AT WCC AND SHE HAS INFORMED ME THAT AS THE APPLICATION NOW REQUIRES A REVISION TO THE LEGAL AGREEMENT THE APPROVAL AND PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SOME TIME.

3. MEETING WITH CEMEX AND TOUR OF MARSH FARM QUARRY

THREE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE MET WITH TONY ROWLEY, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ESTATES MANAGER CEMEX, ON 11TH MARCH AND WERE GIVEN A GUIDED TOUR OF MARSH FARM QUARRY. WE WERE EXTREMELY SHOCKED TO SEE SUCH AN EYESORE AND THE LACK OF RESTORATION, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF THEIR CLAIM TO THE PRESS THAT IT WAS 50% RESTORED. TONY ROWLEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS A QUOTE FROM THEIR PRESS OFFICE AND SHOULD HAVE REFERRED TO REINSTATEMENT, NOT RESTORATION.

WHILST A SMALL AMOUNT OF RESTORATION HAS TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY WE DID REQUEST MORE DETAILS FROM CEMEX AT OUR MEETING ON MARCH 11TH. TWO CHASE UP LETTERS HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO TONY ROWLEY AND WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A RESPONSE OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS.

THE TWO LETTERS RECEIVED INCLUDE AN UP-DATED PHASING AND RESTORATION PLAN WHICH SHOWS COMPLETION AS THE END OF 2013. AS OUR COMMITTEE ONLY RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION A FEW DAYS AGO WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO FULLY DISCUSS OR COMMENT ON THE CONTENT, BUT ARE VERY SCEPTICAL OF THESE DATES BASED ON CEMEX'S PREVIOUS HISTORY.

4. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING REGS. 2008. WCC MINERALS CORE STRATEGY

THIS POLICY IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW AND SITES ARE STILL BEING ASSESSED. ALTHOUGH THE FINAL SAND AND GRAVEL APPORTIONMENT



FOR WARWICKSHIRE IS NOT YET KNOWN, THE 1.043 MILLION TONNES PER ANNUM FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2026 COULD INCREASE. THE REGIONAL INTERIM POLICY STATES 1.154 MILLION TONNES.

RESIDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE ISSUES OF QUARRIES IS STILL VERY MUCH IN THE NEWS AND WE NEED TO BE EXTREMELY VIGILANT IN CASE OTHER APPLICATIONS OR PROPOSALS AFFECTING OUR VILLAGES AND COMMUNITIES ARE PUT FORWARD.

5. BROOM FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDED A DROP IN SESSION ORGANISED BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FOR A PROPOSED FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME FOR THE VILLAGE OF BROOM.

6. FLOODING NEAR ROAD JUNCTION AT KINGLEY HILL AND WIXFORD.

MANY LOCALS ARE AWARE THAT A SECTION OF THE ROAD FROM DUNNINGTON TOWARDS ALCESTER NEAR THE WIXFORD TURN IS SUBJECT TO SEVERE FLOODING AFTER HEAVY RAINFALL. THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS IS BECAUSE THE DRAINS ARE BLOCKED AND HAVE NOT BEEN CLEANED OUT. THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN INFORMED.

7. SEPTIC TANKS AT IRONS CROSS/RESIDENTS DISPUTE WITH SEVERN TRENT

THIS ISSUE WAS RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF IRONS CROSS AT A RECENT PARISH MEETING AND OUR ASSOCIATION HAS OFFERED SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO MRS NEW AND MRS BETTERIDGE WHO ARE LIAISING WITH SEVERN TRENT/ SALFORD PARISH COUNCIL.

8. CLA GAMES AT RAGLEY HALL 23-25TH JULY

A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND INFORMATIVE MEETING WITH MR NICK-BROOKS WARD, HEAD OF OPERATIONS FOR CLA GAME FAIR WAS HELD AT RAGLEY HALL ON 9TH APRIL.

MR BROOKS-WARD HAS AGREED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION AT OUR AGM.



9. POLICY ON POLY-TUNNELS

IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL RESIDENTS CONCERNS REGARDING THE PROLIFERATION OF POLY-TUNNELS IN THE AREA WE WROTE TO SDC REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF THEIR POLICY AND PLANNING LAW .

AFTER SENDING A CHASE UP LETTER WE DID EVENTUALLY RECEIVE A RESPONSE ON A GENERALISED BASIS. AT THIS STAGE WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE MASS OF TUNNELS IN AND AROUND THIS AREA HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION OR INDEED NEED IT, BUT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION IN MORE DETAIL.

10. IN APRIL THREE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE HELD A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING WITH MR ALAN GRANGER THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF RAGLEY ESTATES.

OUR MAIN CONCERNS WERE THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN RAGLEY AND LOCAL RESIDENTS OVER PLANS FOR MORE QUARRYING IN THE AREA. LOCAL VIEWS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN IGNORED AND THERE IS DEEP SUSPICION REGARDING THE SECRECY OF THE LIAISON MEETINGS RELATING TO MARSH FARM.

RAGLEY ESTATE NEEDS THE INCOME FROM QUARRYING AS AGRICULTURE/ FARMING DOES NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PROFIT TO SUSTAIN THE ESTATE.

MR GRANGER STATED THAT THEY INTEND TO ADDRESS THE COMMUNICATION ISSUES BY THE INTRODUCTION OF A RAGLEY ESTATE MATTERS NEWSLETTER. SOME OF YOU WILL HAVE ALREADY SEEN THIS.

11. THE SECRETARY OR MYSELF 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, THE PARISH COUNCIL AND IN PARTICULAR, PETER BARNES WHO HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY ON OUR BEHALF AT COUNTY LEVEL HELPING US THROUGH THE MINEFIELD OF LEGISLATION SINCE OUR FORMATION LAST YEAR.

MANY OTHER ADVISORS AND PARISHIONERS HAVE ASSISTED US WITH SPECIALIST INFORMATION AND ADVICE AND AGAIN WE WISH TO ADD OUR THANKS FOR ALL THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

JOHN FENLON - CHAIRMAN