

## MARSH FARM LIAISON GROUP

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>. February 2011 at 7.30pm at Salford Priors Memorial Hall.**

### **Attendees:**

Cllr. John Stedman, Chairman, Salford Priors Parish Council.  
 Cllr. Lindsay Wright, Salford Priors Parish Council.  
 Cllr. Joy Keeley, Bidford Parish Council.  
 Cllr. Michael Atkins, Bidford Parish Council.  
 Cllr. Hedley Langston, Bidford Parish Council  
 Cllr. Brian Slaughter, Stratford on Avon District Council.  
 Cllr. Peter Barnes, Warwickshire County Council.  
 Mr Tony Rowley, Development Manager, CEMEX.  
 Mr Nigel Taylor, Site Manager, CEMEX.  
 Miss. Sue Broomhead, Senior Planning Officer, Warwickshire County Council.  
 Mr John Fenlon, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.  
 Mr Liam Maude, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.  
 Mrs Elizabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to Bidford Parish Council.  
 Mr Michael Philpott, Clerk to Salford Priors Parish Council.

### **1. Opening of Meeting by Chairman of Salford Priors Parish Council, Cllr. John Stedman**

The Chairman welcomed new members Cllr. Michael Atkins, Bidford PC, and Cllr. Lindsay Wright, Vice-Chairman of Salford Priors PC.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

None received.

### **3. Agreement of Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup>. October 2010.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup>. October 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to a correction to the date of the October 2011 meeting.

### **4. Progress of extraction, filling, and restoration of Marsh Farm Quarry including agreed monitoring information.**

Mr Rowley said that because of the bad weather and lack of reserves there had been no extraction and some operatives had been re-deployed to Ryle Quarry which operated in tandem with Marsh Farm and had also suffered a reduction in output. He said that 16,000 tonnes had been sold from stock at Marsh Farm. In respect of landfill this had also eased up with only 5,000cu.m. being received to the end of December. There were 300,000cu.m. of void remaining and the proposed input rate was about 60,000cu.m. per year. Mr Rowley said that aggregate sales nationally during 2009 had been the lowest since 1965 and sales in 2011 were predicted to be the lowest since 1963. Cllr. Atkins said he understood that restoration had to be completed within five years but the Chairman said this was not correct.

Mr Fenlon asked if the area viewed from the A46 bridge could be restored and screened in the same manner as the view along Broom Lane and Mr Rowley agreed this area would be prioritised when the weather improved.

Cllr. Wright asked if the hedge along Broom Lane could be improved, possible by planting some trees, and Mr Rowley agreed to give this consideration.

### **5. Progress of extraction, and restoration of Marsh Farm Quarry extension North of Broom Lane.**

Mr Rowley said that operations were developing satisfactorily. The road crossing had taken longer than planned because of the weather and extraction had started in the second week of January.

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Stripping of topsoils had enabled the archaeological inspection to proceed but nothing had been found. He anticipated that the area by the A46 might be more interesting from this point of view. Mr Taylor said that fencing of the site was also delayed but was now underway.

Mr Philpott enquired regarding the drainage to Broom Lane. He said that he had hoped the issue would be picked up in the S106 agreement but this had not been done. He also noted that some ditching work had been carried out and this should be co-ordinated with WCC. Mr Rowley agreed that this item should be kept on the agenda and reviewed in the light of heavy rain storms.

Cllr. Wright asked if the times for the road crossing had been adjusted to suit the school times and Mr Rowley confirmed this was the case. Mr Fenlon said he was not aware of any problems in this respect.

Finally, Mr Rowley reported that the local MP, Nadhim Zahawi, was to visit the site following a letter he had written regarding the time to finally restore the site.

### **6. Vehicular access to site, routes and timing.**

Cllr. Wright explained that the access gate to the B4088 was closed until the official opening time of 6.45am. However, lorries had been arriving earlier and queuing onto the road. Mr Rowley said he was aware of the problem and CEMEX were dealing with it.

### **7. Any issues arising from Planning Documents:**

#### **7.1 Planning permission for extension North of Broom Lane.**

Mr Philpott explained that this document had been provided to members of the Liaison Group for their information. There were no questions.

#### **7.2 Deed of variation of Section 52 Agreement.**

Mr Philpott explained that this document had also been provided to members of the Liaison Group for their information. There were no questions.

### **8. Confirmation of mode of operation of Committee**

The Chairman asked the Group if they felt the number of meetings scheduled was excessive. Cllr. Barnes proposed that the meetings as planned should stand in view of the difficulties in setting up the group. This was agreed.

There were no other comments and the document setting out the mode of operation of the group was approved.

### **9. Update on County Minerals Core Strategy**

Sue Broomhead painted a very sorry picture of the state of the Council's Mineral's Strategy. Miss Broomhead said that the analysis of responses received to the Revised Spatial Options document had been completed with a very large number concerning the four sites in the area of Salford, Bidford, and Broom. A pre-publication draft response was in progress. In reply to a question from Mrs Uggerløse she said that work on the waste strategy had been prioritised over the mineral's work. Mr Rowley, in his national role, said that the situation was similar everywhere and regional policies were confused. He said he understood that the Secretary of State, Mr Pickles, was still looking at the concept of regional land banks.

### **10. Dates of future meetings**

Members had earlier considered whether the number of meetings programmed was necessary but agreed that the schedule proposed for the rest of the year should be maintained.

Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> .	June 2011	Meeting
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup> .	August 2011	Inspection
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> .	October 2011	Meeting

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### **11. Any other business.**

Cllr. Barnes asked if there had been any progress on the suggested changes to the restoration proposals for Marsh Farm to leave more water and the ensuing diversity of wildlife. Mr Fenlon referred to the idea of viewing platforms and access from footpaths. He thought turning some of the area into a nature reserve with access for schools would be very beneficial. Mr Rowley said that he had not yet met with Ragley Estates but he certainly favoured this approach on the land owned by CEMEX which also contained the geo-diversity face.

Cllr. Stedman asked when Ragley would be adopting the first phase of the restored area and emphasised how important good restoration was to local opinion. He informed the Group that the land should be restored to Grade 2A and 3 and Mr. Rowley said that soil under-drainage would be put in to ensure a high standard of restoration. As to the timing of Ragley taking back land he said this awaited the meeting with the landowners that was yet to be held.

Cllr. Wright suggested that it would be helpful to have a meeting with CEMEX, Ragley Estates, WCC, and the County ecologist, to discuss the final restoration of Marsh Farm.

### **12. Closure of meeting.**

Cllr. Stedman thanked all members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.