

DRAFT**MARSH FARM LIAISON GROUP**

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 26th. January 2012 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. Maurice Howse, Stratford on Avon District Council.
 Cllr. Mike Brain, Stratford on Avon District Council and Long Marston PC.
 Cllr. Peter Barnes, Warwickshire County Council.
 Mr Shaun Denny, Development Planner, CEMEX.
 Mr Nigel Taylor, Quarry Manager, CEMEX.
 Mr Matthew Williams, Senior Planning Officer, Warwickshire County Council.
 Mr Liam Maude, South Warwickshire Environmental Association.
 Mr John Fenlon, 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 asked members of the group to reflect on the sad death of Cllr. Hedley Langston who had been involved with Marsh Farm quarry for many years.
 The Chairman reported that Sue Broomhead of WCC had taken voluntary redundancy and that Tony Rowley of CEMEX had left the company.

2. Introduction of new members of Group, Bidford, CEMEX and WCC

Mrs Uggerløse reported that a new member from Bidford, Cllr. Rob Williams, had been appointed but was unable to attend on this occasion.
 Mr Denny said that Tony Rowley's direct replacement was John May. However, he was also very familiar with the site and had been involved with Ragley and planning issues for many years. Mr Denny asked that all future communications be sent to both himself and Mr May.
 The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Mike Brain to the meeting as the ward member for Long Marston.

3. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Rob Williams from Bidford PC.

4. Agreement of Minutes of last meeting held on 9th. June 2011.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th. June 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Report from Cllr. M Howse regarding the Long Marston site.

Cllr. Howse said that as Cllr. Brain was the ward member for Long Marston it would be appropriate for him to make the report. Cllr. Brain said there were many different activities on the Long Marston Airfield site and these were controlled under a S106 agreement with Hodges, the owners of the site. Some soil had been received that could have been taken to Marsh Farm but it was not known where it came from. He said that enforcement activities to regularise the S106 agreement were underway with SDC. Cllr. Barnes reported that regulations had changed in September 2011 and the Environment Agency had taken action to stop soil imports as there was not a licence to permit such imports. Mr Williams said that Sue Broomhead had visited the site to check if there were any CC issues but had decided that the activities to consider were mainly under the control of the District Council. Cllr. Wright asked if the company had permission to process materials on the site and Cllr. Brain replied that it was quite difficult to identify the various processes being carried out on the site.

He said that an injunction was being prepared for February to control a number of issues. Mr Williams said that some of what had taken place was a CC matter but these activities had now stopped. Cllr. Brain confirmed that there was no landfill site but materials were required to construct a noise bund. The quantities of material taken in for this purpose had probably been excessive but he believed it was now under more control. He had seen no materials that could have been used at Marsh Farm.

6. Progress of extraction, filling, and restoration of Marsh Farm Quarry including agreed monitoring information.

Mr Taylor said that the quantity of fill received in 2011 was only 35 to 38,000 tonnes, a considerable shortfall from the 60,000 tonnes required. Infill was being used to construct new silt ponds and although it still provided volume it meant that no further restored areas were being completed. There was considerable discussion about how CEMEX sourced infill contracts and members of the Group were concerned that some large contracts such as the new Waitrose site in Stratford were going elsewhere. Mr Denny said that many large companies had national contracts and they could not compete for these. The Group was keen to help CEMEX by providing information regarding upcoming contracts and it was agreed that any available information should be passed on to CEMEX. Cllr. Barnes asked when Ragley would be taking back the 100 acres for sheep but was told that the ground was too rutted and further work would be done in the Spring.

7. Progress of extraction, and restoration of Marsh Farm Quarry extension North of Broom Lane

Mr Taylor reported that good progress was being made and half the first field had been restored. The second field had been stripped but some archaeology features had been discovered, work had been stopped and the finds were being assessed by the County Archaeologist who was seeking advice from English Heritage. The Chairman asked Mr Denny how this would affect progress and was told that CEMEX needed a quick resolution to the problem. There was nothing they could do and the delay could be considerable.

8. Revisions to restoration plans and meetings with Ragley Estates.

The Chairman asked CEMEX to report on the progress of the revised restoration plan incorporating some of the wildlife ponds. Mr Denny said there was not much to report and if it possibly triggered a need for an environmental statement then CEMEX might not be able to do it because of the cost of such a study. Mr Williams said he believed that the proposed changes to the plan would be favourably received. Mr Philpott said it was very disappointing that the proposed changes to the restoration plan appeared to have completely stalled.

9. Update on County Minerals Strategy and enforcement arrangements.

Mr Williams said there was nothing to report as all minerals work was on hold as resources had been diverted to the waste plan. It was hoped that work might restart at the end of the year or early next year. If there was an enforcement issue they would try to investigate but it would be difficult. Cllr. Wright asked how this left the minerals land bank and also mentioned the HS2 project which could require a large quantity of minerals. Mr Williams said the land bank was down to three years and he believed that several new planning applications would be coming forward. Mr Denny said that projects such as HS2 usually relied on borrow pits close to the line. The Chairman expressed the Group's concern that, with no plan, applications could be anywhere and he asked Cllr. Barnes to raise a question in the County Council about the timing for the Minerals Core Strategy to be produced.

10. Dates of future meetings

The Group accepted the following dates for future meetings:

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Thursday 7th. June 2012, Meeting
Thursday 9th. August 2012, Inspection
Thursday 11th. October 2012, Meeting

Thursday 7th. February 2013, Meeting
Thursday 6th. June 2013, Meeting
Thursday 8th. August 2013, Inspection
Thursday 10th. October 2013, Meeting

11. Any other business

Mr Philpott asked who carried out the drainage work at the bottom of Broom Lane and was informed it had been done by WCC. He then proposed to meet with David Elliston and Nigel Taylor to find a long term solution to the problems at this location.

12. Closure of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.