

Warwickshire County Council
Planning Strategy Department
Shire Hall
Warwick

30th April 2009

Dear Sirs,

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council's (BoAPC) response to the MINERALS CORE STRATEGY – REVISED SPATIAL OPTIONS consultation.

Members of the Parish Council attended a number of workshops/consultations of the Warwickshire Minerals Development from 2006, and it recalls the following issues being raised and strongly endorsed:

- **BUFFER ZONES** – a MINIMUM of 200metres from any building. This is essential for the well being of the communities whose lives are blighted by the continuous dust – especially in the cases of the very young and elderly, as well as residents with respiratory problems – and the nuisance of noise pollution.
- **TIME ENFORCEMENT** – the time span of an application should be enforced by County Council, with financial penalties enforced – if the developer was given 5 years to excavate, then it SHOULD BE 5 years; not 7 or 10.
- **RESTORATION** – again this should be carried out within a prescribed time and in full consultation and agreement of the local community. In cases of multiple site, and/or extensions, comprehensive restoration should be carried out, and enforced, prior to the next phase of excavation taking place.

BoAPC is extremely disappointed, and concerned, to note that the above issues are not being properly addressed in this consultation.

Another issue it would like to draw attention to is that it would like the use of recycled aggregates to be encouraged. In these days when the world is continuously talking about sustainability, this consultation should be the ideal opportunity to emphasize the use of recycled materials and conserve the source of minerals for the future.

BoAPC is also extremely concerned to note that two of the proposed sites:

- Site 9 – East of A46, Broom
 - Site 10 – Land at Millers Bank, Broom
- Are virtually on the doorstep of settlements with only the width of the River Arrow to separate them

It also notes that they are considered to be extension to Marsh Farm, Dunnington, as is Berry Coppice, Dunnington. This is an important point as the residents of Dunnington and Broom have been experiencing the consequences of sand and gravel extraction in Marsh Farm for a good number of years. Are they to be subjected to more decades of dust, noise, traffic and unsightly sites that resemble more than planet earth?

BoAPC is aware of the importance sand and gravel for the building industry, but believes very strongly that this area has had its fair share of disruption, with no benefit to the local communities.

It also believes County Council should consider the sustainability of minerals in the area and put more emphasis on re-using materials as stated on page 25 of the consultation documents. Care should be taken to husband the sand and gravel for future generations and more effort be made to improve the quality, and quantity, of recycled aggregates.

In respect of the proposed sites, BoAPC objects on the following grounds:

- **Site 9 – East of A46, Broom – Marsh Farm Quarry**
BoAPC is aware that part of this site already has planning consent. However, the proximity of the proposed site to settlements on Kings Lane Broom is against the objectives that states:
 - To have **full** regard for the concern and interests of local communities and protect them from unacceptable environmental effects resulting from mineral developments
 - To minimise the impact of the movement of bulk materials by road on local communities
- **Site 10 – Land at Millers Bank, Broom**
The same objection mentioned above apply to this site, which will have adverse effects on the residents of Millers Bank.
Furthermore, BoAPC understands there is a much used Public Footpath on this site going to Wixford.

Both the above sites will be against Policy Principle 6 – Transport which states that *“sites put forward for allocation must have good access to major roads and demonstrate that there will be no unacceptable adverse impact on communities”*

In addition are the issues of dust and noise which, with the prevailing wind, will have a huge impact on the local community that already suffers from the dust emanating from the current site, which has still to be restored and which remains stubbornly unchanged.

The severe impact on asthma sufferers of the airborne dust particles, which can carry upwards of 900 meters is also of concern, especially for the welfare children, people with respiratory conditions and elderly residents.

Another issue will be the transfer of the sand and gravel to Marsh Farm itself for processing – this will necessitate dumper trucks continuously travelling along the minor road between Broom and Dunnington, which was NOT constructed for this.

Although **Site 7 – Berry Coppice, Dunnington** is in the Parish of Salford Priors, BoAPC would like to make its comments against this site which it find entirely unsuitable:

- Part of the site is ancient woodland
- It will damage the award winning Hillers Farm Shop which attracts not only the local community but visitors from far afield – and includes not only a farm shop, but also a garden centre, tea rooms, gift shop and, in the summer, a model railway for children.
- It is very close to Dunnington Heath Primary – the increase in the traffic of HGVs will be a considerable danger to children and their parents
- The site is on rising ground and will be visible to all residents in Dunnington
- The Dunnington crossroads is an important junction and its dangers can only exacerbated by the increased traffic

Finally Site 8 – North of Broom Lane – the possible developments of this site has been discussed at meetings of the Marsh Farm Liaison Committee, of which BoAPC is part, and, subject to certain conditions being imposed, it would not object to this site being developed. However, as is the case of Salford Priors PC, BoAPC is concerned that further excavations should not start until substantial restoration has taking place on the existing site South of Broom Lane. This restoration is being hampered by the lack of available topsoil, and this lack will affect any other restoration in the area.

BoAPC would also like Site 10 Bidford-on-Avon removed from the Minerals Local Plan (1995). It understands there has been no interest in this site which already has had an application withdrawn due to pertinent issues raised, questioning the viability of the site as well as the many letters of objections from Bidford residents received.

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council, and the residents of Bidford, Broom, Barton and Marlcliff trust you will give very serious consideration to the points raised in this letter of objection

Completed Questionnaire attached hereto for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Uggerløse
Clerk to the Parish Council