

MINUTES

Sulhamstead Parish Council and Ufton Nervet Parish Council

held on Thursday 28th July, 2016 at 7.30pm in Sulhamstead & Ufton Nervet Village Hall
Meeting to discuss response to Minerals and Waste Sites Consultation

Present: Parish Councillors Sulhamstead: Mrs Margaret Baxter (Chair), Mr Ivan Wise, Mr Richard Smith, Ms Teresa Sosna, Mr Roger Ashfield, Mr Chris Souden.
Parish Councilors Ufton Nervet: Mr David Hannington (Chair), Mr Norman Bagshaw

In attendance: Mrs Fiona Jones - Clerk

1. Apologies

Mrs Rosemary Sanders Rose, Mrs Penny Chopping, Mr Geoff Godwin, Mr Dave Brown.

2. West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Sites

A joint meeting of Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet Parish Councils was called to discuss the potential sites within the parishes for the extraction of gravel and sand. The meeting was chaired by Mrs Margaret Baxter.

Three sites had been identified:

- Cowpond Piece (Ufton Nervet)
- Firlands (Ufton Nervet)
- Tidney Bed (Sulhamstead bordering Ufton Nervet)

3. Cowpond Piece

It is estimated that 1.5 million tonnes could be extracted over 10 years. There would be 72 estimated daily vehicle movements and no infilling is proposed. It was noted by Mr Souden that the Pangbourne Pipe from AWE runs through this area. Ms Sosna expressed concern that the development of this site for mineral and gravel extraction would have a negative effect on the environment and it is currently widely used for walking by members of the public. Mr Hannington commented that the area is already prone to flooding. He also stated that the lorries would need to access the site from Camp Road, not Island Farm Road. It was acknowledged that all the area around Cowpond Piece had already been developed for mineral and gravel extraction, and whilst the development was not welcome it was difficult to see how it could not be a viable site.

4. Firlands

It is estimated that 700,000 tonnes could be extracted over a period of 6 – 7 years. Daily vehicle movements were estimated at between 48 – 58, with inert infilling proposed. The councilors agreed that this site was the least preferred option. Access was a big issue as Island Farm is so narrow and the exit onto the A340 for a lorry would be too dangerous. The number of vehicle movements would be very disruptive to residents. Councillor Souden pointed out that during the appeal hearing for the Firlands housing development it had been stated by the developer that the land was not suitable for extraction. The proximity to the proposed new development also made this site totally unsuitable.

5. Tidney Bed

It is estimated that 1.5 million tonnes could be extracted over a period of 10 to 15 years. Daily vehicle movements were estimated at 72, with inert infilling proposed. Councillors queried if this was an area of outstanding natural beauty. Access would need to be directly onto the A4, which is a busy road and an accident black spot. There were a small number of residents who would be affected by noise, such as Tyle Mill.

It was agreed that Mrs Baxter would draft a response to the proposal and circulate to all the councilors for comments. Mrs Baxter would then respond to the consultation on the WBC website by Friday 5 August. **Action: Mrs Baxter**