



Minutes of the Extraordinary Planning Committee meeting for New Milton Town Council, held on Friday 19 August 2022 at 6.00pm at the New Milton Memorial Centre, Whitefield Road.

Councillors:

Chairman	p	S J Clarke
Vice Chairman		R A Reid
p K E Craze	p	S P Davies
p D E Hawkins	p	D Samber
B Murrow		D N Tungate
H Wallis-Dowling		

In attendance: Cllrs G R Blunden, A D O’Sullivan and C Ward.
County Cllrs F Carpenter and M Kendal.

Officer: Theresa Elliott, Assistant Town Clerk

There were 77 members of the public present.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced representatives from New Milton Sand and Ballast - Rob Flower (Managing Director), Darren Hazell (Development and Compliance Director), Suzanne Wright (Head of Marketing) and Nick Dunn (Environment Consultant, Land and Mineral Management)

Hampshire County Council - Lisa Kirby- Hawkes (Development Planning Manager - Minerals and Waste) and Amie Heath (Monitoring and Enforcement Officer).

19 people spoke, several of which represented the group ‘Residents Against Gravel Extraction’ plus Mr Jackson from the Residents Association. The majority of speakers were against the proposal. Their comments can be found on the Hampshire County Council webpage as per link

<https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2022/0338>

The issues raised are summarised as follows –

Site not within County Council Preferred Sites List – Several spoke on the fact that the site was not contained in the list. (Policy 20 states that sites identified outside of the list could be considered if the authority were outside of their landbank requirements. This is the case at the September 2021 Local Aggregate Assessment) The applicant would need to satisfy one or several of four points within the policy to be successful. Lisa Kirby Hawkes (County Council) stated that the authority has a duty to consider the site due to policy 20 (see below).

Dust & Health Impact – A local GP advised that silica can be released into the air from sand and gravel extraction, and this was referred to within a Health and Safety Executive webpage. The information stated that exposure can cause lung disease and cancer, particularly in those already vulnerable such as children and the elderly. The HSE information stated that exposed workers were screened, and she questioned who would screen the resident. She noted there are current studies

within the UK and in Europe on low levels of silica causing an issue. She stated Bournemouth Airport is not an appropriate measure within the documents and suggested there might be future litigation. Further speakers mentioned a case in Derbyshire and information from a US research group. New Forest District Council Environmental Health were yet to comment on the dust impact of the application. Nick Dunn, Environmental Consultant advised that silica is a serious concern for the industry, but sand is considered a large particle whereas silica was from crushed limestone therefore very small. Silica was screened out of the assessment due to its minimal size. Hampshire Officer Lisa Kirby-Hawkes advised policy 10 looks at Protecting Health and Safety, the application would be tested against this and crucial consultants informed such as Public Health England.

There was concern about HGV's kicking up dust as at Downton which is frequently sprayed. The applicant advised this site would have a Dust Management Plan to include issues like this.

Noise – There was concern that the HGV movement would cause disruption to quiet enjoyment of the nearby homes.

Traffic/highway infrastructure – One stated that there was no reason to object, given traffic movements would be the same as now with use of Downton site. Regulators would need to ensure safe delivery of the project, and the applicant was a well-known and respected local employer. It was also noted Hampshire Highways response to the application had not yet been noted. Another speaker stated A337 traffic was considered already busy with the new Aldi store and roundabout changes would not alleviate this. Nick Dunn advised that the HGV movements would be capped by planning condition as at Downton.

Biodiversity – One speaker stated by walking the site it could be considered devoid of wildlife as has spent many years under agricultural management. The restoration part of the application would have a huge positive impact. Another speaker stated the site was teeming with wildlife as the site was a wildlife corridor from forest to coast.

Loss of farmland - Productive farmland, graded 2 having produced wheat and barley this year, will be lost at a time when UK based produce was more important than ever. One speaker questioned the conflicting land level information within documentation. Nick Dunn stated the restoration would be completed using 'inert' infill, being the lowest possible pollutant typically made up of soils and clay. There was concern the arable farmland would not return.

Amenity loss/other – It was considered this market town would be a mining town, with the A337 route with rural impact becoming further industrialised. Negative impact expected to tourism, despite efforts in recent years. The setting of the town needed to come first, for future generations.

The permissive paths were not acceptable as alternatives (County Rights Of Way placed Objection on this point and suggested an alternative) .

Previous appeals had not allowed extraction on the site and this should remain the case. (This site is 30% of the size of previous applications).

The Grade II Listed status of the Ashley Manor Farmhouse was partly assigned on the farmland nature of setting. There was concern about the impact to archaeology yet to be fully assessed.

Those west and south of the site should be concerned about the impact of flooding and erosion by use of unlined drains. (It was stated that the Environment Agency would conduct Hydrological monitoring.)

There was concern about the 'minimal' consultation to residents made by the applicant and others, with no obvious press article. The Chairman stated that the applicant was consulting in April and not June as had been asserted, and newspaper advertising had taken place but it was not a perfect

system. Lisa Kirby-Hawkes advised that the County Council have a Statement of Community Involvement on their website which demonstrates how they interact with the community over such matters.

At 7.20pm, the Chair moved into the formal session.

95. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Murrow, Reid, Tungate and Wallis-Dowling had tendered their apologies.

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

97. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair thanked all speakers.

98. MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of 18 August would be dealt with at the next usual meeting on 1 September.

99. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MINERALS AND WASTE APPLICATION

Application number	HCC/2022/0338
Applicant	New Milton Sand & Ballast
Ward	Becton
Site	Ashley Manor Farm, New Milton
Proposal	Extraction of sand and gravel, restoration using imported materials to agriculture, enhanced ecological interest and public access and roundabout improvements to access the A337.

Members covered aspects such as the report by Jane Newman Planning, the need for the materials, potential change in government policy, positive economic impact on the town, the existing wildlife on site, the ‘surprisingly’ positive operations at Downton, air quality impacts, the applicants’ positive interaction with the town such as sponsoring events, the loss of farmland. Cllr Kendal added that after over 20 years of involvement with the Minerals and Waste Plan at the County Council, gravel was placed by nature and always inconvenient to someone in its extraction. He continued that the New Forest would be wholly farmland if not for the sand and gravel base. He stated he would stay neutral on the subject to ensure he was not precluded from future debate.

After presentation of the plans and debate, members

RECOMMENDED

The following be sent in response –

‘STRONG OBJECTION due to the negative impacts caused by additional noise, dust and loss of current biodiversity levels. There was also great concern about potential future health impact of silica, particularly for those most vulnerable, and the fact this had not been formerly assessed with others under Chapter 5 of the Environmental Statement.’

100. NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on 1 September 2022 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall.

Members of the public should notify of attendance by emailing info@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk no later than 24 hours before the meeting begins.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.52pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

MINUTE	TASK	BY WHOM	BY WHEN
99	Response to HCC	Meeting Clerk	26/09/2022

Distribution:

Town Councillors;
 District Councillors J L Cleary and C V Ward;
 County Councillors F Carpenter, M Kendal and K Mans;
 Press