



**Notes of a PUBLIC MEETING regarding Hampshire County Council Draft Minerals & Waste Plan consultation, held on Friday 13 January 2023 at 6pm at New Milton Town Hall, Ashley Road, New Milton.**

*In attendance – Cllrs Blunden, Clarke (Chair), K Craze, Davies, Hawkins, Reid, Wallis-Dowling and C Ward. Officer T Elliott.*

*27 members of the public, including representatives from New Milton Residents Association.*

**1) Introduction**

*Cllr Steve Clarke welcomed members of the public and introduced himself. In his position as Planning Chair, he also chaired this meeting, the subject matter being within remit of that committee. He then ran through a few health and safety elements and matters of procedure. Members introduced themselves to the attendees.*

**2) Public speakers to raise issues of concern / support over the inclusion of Ashley Manor Farm within the Draft document (Consultation ends 31 January)**

*There were 11 speakers, issues as listed below*

- Previous appeal inspector comments had reiterated the importance of the open rural character and this was supported in the Neighbourhood Plan*
- The lands status is the highest form of Green Belt and is to reserve a special setting of a place*
- It would desecrate the historic value of downland for agricultural use. 84% of the Ashley Manor site is Class 1 which is rare in the country.*
- Value of footpath through the existing site, providing relief for users by way of openness, beautiful vistas and emersion in wildlife*
- Inappropriate use of land so close to the cemetery, with grieving families exposed to dust and noise during ceremonies*
- Anecdotal evidence of bats roosting in the farmhouse. Angel Lane is one of the few remaining rural lanes*
- Extraction just 1 mile away from cliffs and the heightened risk of erosion*
- Important gateway site to the town for tourists and businesses, extraction will negatively impact both*
- Risks to health and of profound impact to local infrastructure such as schools and GP's*
- The land bank figure is increased over those published in April 2022, at a point when sales have reduced and may continue to do so with the worldwide economic downturn*
- Questions regarding the methods of advertising the consultation, NMRA straw poll and the public meeting as the best method of outreach. (Paper vs electronic).*

**3) Members to form draft comments to the consultation, to be confirmed at the next Planning Committee meeting on 19 January.**

*Members then responded with the following pre-disposed comments*

- *It was encouraging to see the amount of public engagement at the meeting*
- *Profits of one business would not be put above the health of residents nor the environment*
- *No emails received but plenty of verbal interaction with residents, all against the proposals*
- *Other areas in Hampshire of greater rural surroundings have larger sites proposed. Ashley Manor Farm is further away from the town, cannot be assumed as interchangeable from Downton.*
- *Great attempts have been made in recent years to assist the town footfall; this proposal will be detrimental to those efforts.*

*The Chairman thanked all for attending and clarified that they should make individual representation directly to the Hampshire County Council consultation, available until 31 January at*

**[Draft Plan Regulation 18 Consultation \(researchfeedback.net\)](https://researchfeedback.net)**

*He also reminded that anyone wishing to attend the Planning Committee, starting at 6.30pm on Thursday 19 January, **should register by calling 01425 619120 or emailing [theresa.elliott@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:theresa.elliott@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk)***

*The meeting closed at 7.02pm*