



Sand and Gravel Extraction at Barford

Barford & Wasperton villagers require your support!

Most of you will already know that Smiths Concrete have lodged planning application with Warwickshire County Council. If they get permission, they plan to excavate 1.8 million tons of sand and gravel from 220 acres of rich farmland just 350 yards downwind of our villages over the next 10 to 15 years.

If this quarry goes ahead, the dust from the site could be as dangerous than asbestos.

Please remember the A429 gets so busy! Which roads are they likely to use to get around this?

So please do read through as it is likely to affect us all if it goes ahead.

Their application is available for you to read and to which you can register your individual objections. Officially, you have until and including February 2nd to do this but late objections may well be considered.

The following are the main issues that concern us and on which you may wish to base your written or online representations.

- 1. Air Quality/Dust Pollution** – Release of toxic airborne particles and risk of permanent ill health such as Silicosis and COPD.
- 2. Permanent Loss** of ‘Best and Most Versatile’ fertile land impacting food security
- 3. Hydrology** – disturbance to water table and river water quality
- 4. Ecology** – disturbance to local plants and animals. We have endangered species of birds living here such as Corn Buntings.
- 5. Noise pollution** – 400 HGV movements on and off site per day plus excavation machinery emitting atmospheric diesel pollutants.
- 6. Light pollution.** Smiths state 7am to 7pm working, five and a half days a week with artificial light in winter.
- 7. Damage to landscape.** Wasperton and Barford is the gateway to Cotswolds – itself registered as an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- 8. Traffic congestion** and risk of accidents on A429 where Smiths HGV’s will enter and exit a few yards beyond southern limit of Barford bypass. This will increase traffic

through High Street and Church street making access to school and residents more perilous.

9. Restoration. Smiths have committed to replace excavated sand and gravel with ‘inert’ fill which is usually waste building material. Most of this is now recycled so Smiths may well struggle to source it. What alternative? Once permission granted damage already done. WCC would not be able to enforce condition.

10. Heritage. Wasperton Farm and Holloway Farm are heritage sites, both stand on quarry site.

11. There is no longer any need for this quarry. WCC current assessment of need is 6.5 million tons. The combined output of Warwickshire’s planned six sites including Wasperton is 7.5 million tons. In addition Dunton quarry in north Warwickshire has just got planning permission to produce 2 to 4 million tons from recycled aggregate increasing the supply to 9.5/11.5 million tons. Further there is real mounting evidence that the local housing need has been overestimated by more than 25%. Housing need has constantly been cited to justify the mining of virgin sand and gravel here in Barford.

12. The carbon footprint and biodiversity loss by mining this site is directly contradicting the new policies adopted by WCC

13. Too close to our residential area. Your MP, Matt Western, has been trying to limit sand and gravel quarries being developed any closer than 1000 meters from residential areas. This in turn was born as a result of published global research that we have done. Matt has the support of several other cross party MP’s around the country. A momentum is building.

14. Repeat Application. Pioneer Aggregates applied for planning to mine sand and gravel on this same exact site in 1987. After several years of fighting by village residents and after several appeals in law courts, eventually in 1992 the then highest court in the land, The Supreme Court, refused planning permission to quarry on the basis that it was ‘Best and Most Versatile Land’.

Hopefully this information will support your objections if you feel this quarry shouldn’t happen. This evidence has been compiled from published material on the WCC mineral planning portal, Smiths Concrete, Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Royal Society of Medicine library and Wardell Armstrong.

The more of you that object the more impact we will have with the planning committee. Last time we asked you to object at an earlier stage in the campaign 880 of you objected which was a significant achievement. We hope you can beat that target now we have more residents in our villages.

Please remember use your own words and avoid emotive language. It has more effect with the planning committee.

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 162, January 2023

Parish Council Report...

The latest meeting was held on 4th Jan 2023. Agenda items included financial review and the setting of PC budgets for 2023/24 period; funding for the Parish Plan; planning consents; Elms Farm Solar community benefit fund; and an update on the Upper Lighthorne healthcare provision.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1st March 2023 in the Village Hall. As a reminder, members of the public are invited to attend and raise suggestions which improve our local community and any matters of concern.

Funding for the NP&A Parish Plan

Andrew Marshall and Jim Thornton attended the parish council meeting to provide an update on the NP&A Parish Plan and to request funding support for the Parish Plan survey. The parish councillors appreciate the efforts being made by all members and contributors to the Parish Plan, this is a great opportunity for all parishioners to reflect and make suggestions to further improve our community. The PC were unanimous in agreeing to increase the overall 2023/24 budget submission to support the Parish Plan. There are sufficient funds currently available in the PC accounts to cover the initial steps of the plan.

Village Clock

You may have missed the regular chimes of our village clock! There is a fault with the internal mechanism, and the PC are currently discussing with the Cumbrian Clock Company about conducting repairs, so we can once again be awoken by our schoolhouse chimes!

Upper Lighthorne Healthcare Provision

Thank you for everyone who completed the survey. A meeting is scheduled on 20th Jan 2023 between SDC, NHS Integrated Care Board, Sir Jeremy Wright, and South Warwickshire Health Matters (representing 22 Parish Councils) to discuss the provision of GP and other health services as part of the new 3,000 house development at Upper Lighthorne. Based upon survey results, there is an overriding consensus that Upper Lighthorne should have its own GP practice and health facility, which will relief pressure on existing medical centres. This united view will be strongly represented at the above meeting.

Prospective Councillor Events

With the elections coming up in May funding is secured

Sand and Gravel Extraction Threat at Barford! See back page

from Stratford on Avon District Council for two ‘Prospective Councillor’ events. These events are for members of the public who are considering becoming Parish Councillors. Similar events in previous election years have been very successful.

Monday 30 January 2023. 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm
Light buffet from 6.00 pm. The Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam.

Thursday 26 January 2023
6.15pm - 8.15pm; Light buffet from 5.45pm
Elizabeth House, Church St, Stratford-upon-Avon
See <https://www.walc.org.uk/events/upcoming/elections-2023> for more information.

NEXT ISSUE:

In our next update, we will be covering the South Warwickshire Local Plan, Wellesbourne Airfield and Innovation Campus, and the Local Emergency Plan.

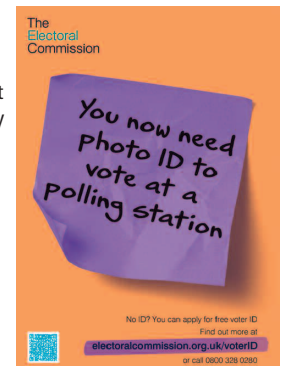
IMPORTANT. PLEASE NOTE

From 4th May 2023 onwards, electors wishing to vote at polling stations will have to show an acceptable form of photo ID. Full details of the new requirement are available on the SDC website here:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/voter-id-at-polling-stations.cfm>

This gives details on what types of photo ID are acceptable and what electors should do if they don’t have one.

From next Monday 16th January, anyone without suitable Voter ID can apply online for a new Voter Authority Certificate via the Gov.uk website. This does not apply to postal votes.



theWI **Report**

December was a really busy month for our WI...

...with a very successful and well-attended **coffee and craft morning**, festive wreath making workshop and a lovely meal out for 30 of us at the Malt Shovel, Gaydon. We were delighted to share the proceeds of our craft morning by making donations of £200 per charity to Talk Dementia, Wellesbourne, Leamington Night Shelter and the Helping Hands Charity, Esther Project in Leamington.

We started 2023 by welcoming village regulars to our 'first Saturday of the month' coffee morning in the Village Hall followed by our **monthly members' meeting** where the speaker was Wendy Moore of Johnson's Coaches. Wendy took us through the establishment of the company in 1909, taking agricultural produce from Henley in Arden to Birmingham Market, to the present day with a fleet of 65 luxury coaches travelling all over Europe with their

loyal customers. A really interesting presentation which provoked many questions.

Saturday 5 February is our **Community Coffee Morning** in the village hall then on Thursday 9 February at our members meeting we're looking forward to hearing from **guest speaker Janet Mobbs** with a topical light-hearted look at the women who 'do science' including ourselves: **'Everyone's a scientist!'**

In March we'll be welcoming **Penny Varley and her beautiful ceramics** then in April we start our new membership year. We now have 36 members and plenty of room for more.

Why not come along and give WI a try? We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30pm – 10pm in Ashorne Village Hall. Contact Trish by phone for a chat or email: npandawi@gmail.com if you want to find out more:

Trish Handsley 01926 651978 Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI: Npandawi@gmail.com Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashornewi

Emily's Blog News from your Medical Practice, Hastings House



So I thought to end the year I would do a roundup of 2022...

It's been a year of change and a gradual return to a somewhat more normal way of life following the Covid Pandemic. Of which I sincerely hope we never see the likes of again!

Our new phone system was installed in March and has made a massive difference to the reception staff. I hope that you as patients have found it an improvement. One of the things that we find hugely interesting is that we can actually get phone call figures. So in the 6 months between April and September we had an average of 7904 inbound calls a month with an average call queue time of 1 minute and 49 seconds.

On top of the incoming calls, we receive approximately 1426 eConsults per month. We understand that not everyone has access to the internet but it is still one of the best ways to get an appointment with the Doctor and is an amazing tool for medication reviews and sick notes etc.

At the beginning of the year the PCN introduced a Wellbeing team. If you came to our Community Flu event, you may

have been accosted by them to have your height, weight and blood pressure taken! They come under the headings of Health and Wellbeing Coach, Social Prescriber and Care Coordinator but do not let their titles put you off. They are there to support our patients with their general wellbeing above and beyond what the Doctors can do.

Friends of Hastings House was born and they have started to raise funds. Their first raffle raised over £400. Their aim is to fund things at the surgery that the NHS won't pay for. A lot of you will know Wendy Waters and her position here at the surgery is funded by them. They are looking for volunteers and I am the liaison between the surgery and the Friends of Hastings House, so if you would like to volunteer please give me a shout.

Our First Hot Topic Evening was held in May and had a fantastic turn out and response, unfortunately due to covid and illness the next ones had to be cancelled, but watch this space for the future.

We supported several charities throughout the year, including Breast Cancer Now and Jeans for Genes. Raising over £200!! Look out for us in our Christmas jumpers this month, fundraising for Save the Children.

Sadly we saw Martin Whittaker retire last month but we will have two new Doctors joining us soon.

Items for the next edition of VHN...

If you have news or views (that are printable) along with our regular contributors – please send (including pictures) to: Chris Thornton on jimandchris@gmail.com by 15th March.



Before the first real light the Song Thrushes and Robins start to sing. I heard a couple of Blackbirds singing in December and their contract doesn't start until mid-February. Collared Doves, Wood Pigeons, Stock Doves and Great Tits are all singing in this very changeable weather. There's a big Starling murmuration going on each evening up above the rooftops between ASDA and the Tachbrook Road, possibly thousands of birds, moving like shoals of fish, waiting for that last bit of light before diving into the trees to roost for the night.

Meanwhile, down on the garden floor Snowdrops have pushed through and are prepping to open. Primroses were open by mid-January and the Daffs are on their way. Hazel Catkins, the male pollen carriers, are swaying in the breeze getting ready to 'pollen up', waiting to pollinate the

tiny red stars of the female flowers on the same twigs. They'll be Hazel nuts in Autumn.

Two Honey Bees have dashed passed me enjoying a mild spell, feeding on Heather and Mahonia. Hope they are ready to dash back in again at the next cold spell.

There's been a Muntjac Deer calling around the cottages for a couple of weeks. They do call them 'barking deer' - you can see why. A drawn out single bark repeated several times both in the night and early morning.

Now, a neighbour of ours, over at the big house, found a wandering Hedgehog during the big freeze we had. It should have been well tucked away cozily hibernating. May be it had been disturbed. Anyway, she supplied food under a Hedgehog house which it took to readily. Fingers crossed she's saved its life and it will get through the rest of the Winter.

This time of year seems to be 'Raven time'. There's usually a pair flying and calling around here often to the annoyance of the Carrion Crows who seem to think they are top of the Crow family. That's until the larger Raven flies by. We now regularly get five Ravens flying together and calling, going between Ashorne and Morton Morrell as they pass over us. In December there were sixteen Ravens. As the youngsters take two years to mature they often hang around in groups annoying their elders... a bit like teenagers!

St George's Newbold Pacey



Knit or crochet for our Remembrance Day Poppy Cascade

Calling all knitters and crochet-fiends: To celebrate Remembrance Day this year, skilled needlewoman Pam Cook,

our PCC Secretary, is planning to create a cascade of poppies at the church and hopes to recruit anyone interested in knitting or crocheting some of the thousands of poppies needed for the display. It may sound a bit early but the sheer volume of poppies required to create an impressive show makes it vital to launch the project in good time. For more information and for the crochet and knitting patterns to make your own poppies, please contact Pam on: 01926-651508

Sponsor a chair at Newbold Pacey Church

We hope to replace more of our old chairs with the smart, blue, upholstered ones and we need just a couple more orders to be able to commission the next batch. If you are interested in sponsoring a chair to commemorate a special event, or in memory of a loved one, please email newboldstgeorge@gmail.com They make a useful and much-appreciated memorial. Chairs cost around £100, which includes a plaque with your inscription.

Village Hall News...

INVITATION Village Hut AGM on 15th February 2023 at 7.00pm.

Refreshments available.

At this meeting we will discuss the annual report from the Chair and the annual financial report from the Treasurer as well as nominating members to serve on the Management Committee for the coming year.

This AGM will be followed by a meeting of the new committee when one of the main items on the agenda will be a review of the hire charges for the hall.

Looking forward to seeing you. Mary Cobb, Secretary

The Burns Night supper was held in the Pub on Saturday January 21 and we are grateful to Ben and his team for this opportunity to work together.

The Events Committee is planning a number of spring events and will be sending out details soon, Including...

Village walk and meal. Sunday 12 February Walk from 10.30 outside the village hall (Dogs and kids welcome) Approx 3 miles. Lunch (2 courses) to be served from 1pm. Cost £6. Bring your own drinks. Please contact Jane if you would like to attend the lunch 07900924580 or 01926651521

