

Public Participation – Cabinet 23 January 2023

1. Question from Philip Eades

Following the response to my Question to Cabinet of 1 November 2022, the following question to the PFH for Finance, Commercial and Capital Strategy arises:

Given that the Council eventually decided to credit to over 15,000 Council tax accounts directly the sum of £150 how much did the policy of not automatically crediting all 121,000 eligible Council Taxpayers accounts cost the Council in administration time, letters, bank payments and any other associated costs?

2. Question from Alistair Chisholm, Dorchester Town Council

What sites in Dorset were considered and evaluated for the siting of a “garden village” other than the area north of Dorchester referred to as “Dor 13” in the Dorset Local Plan?

3. Question/Statement from Arthur Schaefer

Question :

With regards to the proposed increase in council tax on “second homes”, will there be any exemption from this surcharge, for retirement properties which are age restricted and warden controlled?

Statement:

Our flat (in Lyme Regis) is not a second home to us – it’s our only UK home. Although we spend a large portion of time at our flat, in Lyme Regis, we are forced to declare it as a <second home> because of the greater portion of time we spend in France.

We wish to clarify that this type of property cannot be used as a holiday let and it is not sublet.

Our council tax is band D and we pay full rate with no discounts.

The Property also has a service fee of in excess of £4000 per annum.

If the 100% increase in council tax is imposed we would, like others in our situation, be left with no alternative but to sell our home.

I consider this proposal is extremely unfair, our long term retirement plan would be ruined and overall it would not be of benefit to anyone in the local community

4. Question/Statement from Andrew Holt on behalf of Alderholt Parish Council

I understand we should be submitting questions to Dorset Council as they appear to be in favour of supporting the Hampshire Councils idea of extending the quarry into Alderholt and would like to request answers to the following questions please so I and Alderholt residents can try and understand why Dorset Council appear to be backing this plan.

- What has changed since this site was considered as a Planning Application in June 1995 and recommended for refusal 92/NFDC/050721 application withdrawn), following it being an “omission site” in the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan of 1993? Subsequently this site was not included in the previous HCC Minerals and Waste Plan of 2013. it should also be noted that a greater number of dwellings now front directly onto or lie within a few meters of Harbridge Drove and Hillbury Road, notably at Drove End Farm, Braemoor, the Bungalow, Primrose Cottage, Hill Crest, new dwellings at Bleak Hill Farm, Christmas Rose Cottage and Daffodil Cottage. All of these properties lie within the first 1.2Km south of the proposed site access and will be adversely impacted by the daily HGV. Please explain why Dorset Council have not complained about this proposed plan.
- This rural area on the extreme edge of the HCC authority area abuts the village of Alderholt and is very close to important biodiversity sites (as listed extensively on page 61 of the HCC M&W Proposal Study for the site and page 25 of the Ecological Statement). Why is this site even being proposed?
- Loss of good quality agricultural land grades 3a and 3b within the site – “a significant quantity of best and most versatile agricultural land, a national resource for the future”: of particular importance due the Climate Change Emergency, and the need for food security, again why is this site even being proposed
- Negative impact on Alderholt Dorset residents who are outside the accountable HCC area, with respect to excessive increased noise brought about by the extraction, processing and transportation, together with associated vibration, dust and air pollution. EDDC clearly objected to the 1995 application on the grounds of the “likely detriment to amenity that will caused to the adjacent residential neighbourhood and outlying individual dwellings” at para 5.6 of the officer’s report on PA 050721. My father of 84 suffers from Asthma along with I am sure a number of people in the village, please confirm how this will affect their health and what claim and medical plans will be put in place to protect the health and well-being of these people if this plan was given the green light.
- The 1995 application proposed the use of lower weight capacity HGVs, compared to today where the gravel HGVs have a weight in excess of 32

tonnes with the associated increase in vibration and noise. Page 64 of the Site Proposal Study quotes 110 twoway HGV movements per day. Such increased road usage will impact heavily on Dorset's roads. Given that with this new project there will be in excess of 90 lorry journeys a day on a road where in some cases two cars can't pass each other without slowing down or feeling threatened and in danger when a lorry is coming towards you can I please ask again why this plan is even being considered. The roads leading to Alderholt are poorly maintained by Hampshire Council and will not take this capacity of traffic and will result in accidents which Dorset Council & Hampshire Council will be responsible for if this plan goes to the next stage, please confirm if this has been looked at and what plans have been put in place.

- It is noted on page 62 of the site Proposal Study under landscape character, that the remaining parts of the Avon Valley that are intact ie that below the ridge at Midgham Farm, are becoming more important and that this is considered to be a highly sensitive area (water meadows) with regard to ecological interest and biodiversity. You would hope that with the green issues of today this would of been looked at before the proposed plan had been put forward, please explain why this has not been taken into consideration.
- In the 1995 refused application 057021, the officer's report majors on the ecology in para 10.11.1&2 and the extensive hydrology issues under section 10.13 where the numerable springs are mentioned alongside the potential removal of water storage within the gravel aquifer. This is of a concern considering the increasing pressure on water supplies with global warming and climate change as per last summer (2022). Please confirm if this has been taken into consideration, we appear to be building on local flood plain land which is flooding local towns and this polluted water is not being stored.
- The concerns raised in representations relating to impact on the groundwater are noted. The EA conclude that overall, the effects of the proposed extension on water resources is insignificant, and although there could be significant impacts on water quality, these can be mitigated for. Long term impacts on groundwater levels and stream flows are also ruled as not considered to be significant, but all the same it is proposed that monitoring will be undertaken, and mitigation measures implemented if required. However, given the scale and duration of the proposed extension any dewatering raises concerns that adequate monitoring and mitigation measures may not be in place for the protection of groundwater, surface water and private wells. The Applicant will need to apply for a Water Resources Abstraction Licence for the proposed Transfer for any dewatering is to be carried out from the excavation void(s) and conditions will be imposed to require review of the ground water monitoring data and a Monitoring Strategy based on that review. Please confirm how Dorset Council will be supporting this and what will be put in place when it is found the water quality and peoples health is being affected.

- This proposal will affect the “Quality of Life” particularly as the machinery is to be located at the northern edge of the site closest to Alderholt, so having a severe negative impact on Alderholt residents. This plan will affect the whole of Alderholt and along with the planned building projects which are in the pipeline Alderholt will become a dangerous place to travel in and out of and will be heavily impacted by traffic, pollution, loss of habitat and health risks. Why are Dorset Council not supporting our case, we all pay our taxes and would expect Dorset Council to fight our case.

These are just a few of the points which have been raised by Alderholt Parish Council and we are all very concerned where this is heading and feeling that we are not supported by Dorset Council. The smaller plan of June 1995 was rejected for strong reasons and here we are in 2023 and suppositely in a position where we care more for the planet, nature and the people on it and here we are with a this plan in a bigger scale sitting on the table.

5. Question from Julie-Ann Hawkins

1. How does Dorset County Council make an informed comment at this consultation stage of Hampshire County Council Mineral and Waste Plan, when there is very little detail and supporting reports with regard to many aspects which will impact residents in Alderholt

and

2. Are Dorset County Council going to support the residents of Alderholt in terms of maintaining and protecting our environment and family's health and well being?

6. Question from Kathryn Green

How can DCC evaluate the impact of the excavation sites Midgham Farm and Cobley Wood - together with the hazardous infill at Bleak Hill with the well-being of residents in Alderholt?

Under the HCC Mineral and Waste Plan Partial Update is advised under Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity, and well-being that “Minerals and waste development should not cause adverse public health and safety impacts, and unacceptable adverse amenity impacts on well-being. Minerals and waste development should not: release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards); have an unacceptable impact on human health or well-being; cause unacceptable noise, dust, lighting, vibration or odour; have an unacceptable impact on air quality; have an unacceptable visual impact;

Yet all of these are within the sites of Midgham Farm, Cobley Wood and Bleak Hill? How can you mitigate DCC sleepwalking into this environmental disaster for residents?

Here are several photos taken over this past weekend, of flooding at Drove End, surface water flooding at our property from the Midgham Farm site, and finally our beautiful view from the main windows of our house over the proposed consultation site of Midgham Farm.



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7. Question/Statement from Martin Smith

How can DCC evaluate the impact of the excavation sites Midgham Farm and Cobley Wood together with the hazardous infill at Bleak Hill with the well-being of residents in Alderholt? Under the HCC Mineral and Waste Plan Partial Update is advised under Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity, and well-being that **“Minerals and waste development should not cause adverse public health and safety impacts, and unacceptable adverse amenity impacts on well-being. Minerals and waste development should not:**

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- **have an unacceptable impact on human health or well-being;**
- **cause unacceptable noise, dust, lighting, vibration or odour;**
- **have an unacceptable impact on air quality;**
- **have an unacceptable visual impact;**
- Yet all of these are within the sites of Midgham Farm, Cobley Wood and Bleak Hill? How can you mitigate DCC sleepwalking into this environmental disaster for residents?

8. Question from Georgina Harvey

It is noted in the Officers Recommendation Report for this meeting that observations on the impacts of the extraction site at Midgham Farm should be noted however, that how would DCC enforce the requirement for traffic servicing this site (apart from specific local deliveries) should come from and return to the south, and avoid travelling through or alongside Alderholt?

9. Question from Chris Green

What reassurances would DCC foresee being implemented and in what manner enforced regarding the comment "Dorset Council would want to be reassured that should Midgham Farm be allocated, the existing allocated extension at Hamer Warren will be completed before Midgham Farm is developed and there would be no simultaneous working of the Bleak Hill extension and the proposed Midgham Farm or Cobley Wood sites"?

10. Question from Jon Lucas

I live at Spring Cottage, Hillbury Road, Alderholt. SP6 3BH.

My home is adjacent to the site and I will be very badly affected. I am retired and enjoy my garden and relative tranquility. Noise, dust, pollution and knowledge that nature is being destroyed will have an impact on my wellbeing and my enjoyment of local amenities. I am partially sighted and have to walk to Ibsley to catch the bus. The huge lorries will deter me from this and effectively trap me in my home.

My question

I believe a huge, noisy polluting machine is heading towards us and will destroy countryside, footpaths, habitats, tranquility and the very essence of our village. It will affect the wellbeing of most of the villagers. I understand that hundreds have objected to HCC. Will DCC apply the 'handbrake' and Object, at least for now, until it has gathered the views of the residents who need the DCC to protect them and act in the best interests of the village.

11. Question/Statement from Ian Kynaston

My statement is:

My name is Ian Kynaston, a resident of Alderholt for over 30 years. I would implore the Council to oppose the proposed Midgham Farm gravel pit development. The reasons for rejecting it are clearer now than they were in 1995 - damage to the environment, including the risk of polluting the river Avon; noise and dust pollution affecting Alderholt residents; and the risk to users of Hillbury Road (where the site entrance will be) of 100 plus daily HGV journeys - a road wholly unsuited to heavy HGV usage and prone to flooding.

My question is:

Given the unquestionable negative impact on Alderholt (environmental damage, noise and air pollution, road safety) of the proposed Midgham Farm gravel pit, why is Dorset Council unwilling to follow the principled example of its predecessor East Dorset District Council in 1995 by opposing Hampshire Council's proposal?