

# Friends of Ringwood Forest

Newsletter No. 12

8<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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*Ctrl & Click on underlined text to go to email & web addresses or to navigate to other suggested sections of the newsletter.*

## Soundness Consultation Responses . . .

Newsletter no. 9 – copied below - provided ideas on how to search through HCC's Draft Minerals & Waste Plan & supporting documents to find information directly matching your interest areas.



FoRF Newsletter 09  
191111.doc

The additional guidance provided at the end of this newsletter reflects those areas where, in our opinion, responses from lay people, i.e. from non Planning professionals, local authorities, industry experts or the campaign team, are likely to have the greatest impact.

Bearing in mind that we are not all experts, we have now included below for you to use all of the technical issues identified so far by the campaign's Soundness Working Group and where we are finalising our research.

Please feel free to use the response guidance either in part or in total – most helpfully, and preferably, re-phrased in your own words as copying directly will not count. It's the quality of responses, and not the quantity, that will have most effect on this occasion.

We hope the guidance provided below, and the ideas shared previously in Newsletter no. 9, will help to shape any response on the Soundness Consultation you may wish to make to HCC.

**Please remember** – the absolute cut-off for HCC to receive responses is Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011. You must also submit a response if you wish to speak with the Planning Inspector during the Public Examination stage next year.

Should you have any questions, please contact us direct and we will do our best to help. Our contact details may be found at the foot of this page.

Good Luck – and thank you!

## Meeting the Councils on Soundness Responses . . .

Earlier this week we met with Councillors representing Dorset County, East Dorset District & Verwood Town Councils to discuss possible approaches to the Soundness Consultation, our respective likely responses and the evidence gathered to support those responses.

The successful outcome from the frank and open meeting was a collective sharing of key evidence regarding the unsoundness of HCC's Plan. We also gained a greater understanding of how the Councillors are working to ensure that evidence questioning the Soundness of HCC's Plans is raised at the most appropriate local authority level to achieve greatest impact.

The success of our strategy was tested to good effect when Verwood Town Council Finance & General Purposes Committee met on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011, to agree in principle their response to HCC.

The meeting was open to the public, as are most Verwood Town Council meetings, so it was possible to note where evidence ideas

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shared by the campaign team with Councillors on the previous day had made their way into the proposed submission.

Verwood Town Council's final submission to HCC is clearly going to be focussed on opposing a quarry and landfill on the Purple Haze site as set out in HCC's draft Plan.

This should be considered good news for both the campaign and its supporters.

## What happens next?

- We will publish DRAFTS of the campaign's responses to HCC on our website and tell you when they are available for you to read & comment on as we are not experts
- We will also publicise the responses from Dorset County, East Dorset District & Verwood Town Councils as and when they have been finalised and agreed for publication
- We will, in the New Year, recommence planning where and how best to raise awareness of the likely impact of plans for ongoing mineral extraction & waste management on both Ringwood Forest & Moors Valley Country Park.

## Club31 . . . next meeting 16th January 2011

Club31 sessions are taking a short break over the holiday season. We look forward to seeing old & new friends again at 6:30 pm on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

## Found . . .

8<sup>th</sup> December: a "No Quarry, No Dump" estate agent board dumped in woods next to the Ebblake Industrial Estate car park. The support post was not found.

Is this your missing board? To claim/collect it, please contact the Campaign Office – details below. Thank you.

## Next week's Newsletter . . .

. . . will be the final newsletter for 2011.

Our New Year edition is likely to be published in week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Do you have any thoughts about the progress of the campaign or about anything else you'd like to share in next week's newsletter as this year draws to a close?

If so, we'd be very pleased to hear from you. Our contact details may be found at the foot of this page.

Thank you.

*Deadline for your newsletter contributions is Thursday. Feedback, questions & newsletter ideas:*  
[notoph@btinternet.com](mailto:notoph@btinternet.com)

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## Soundness Response Guidance

### Soundness – is the plan legal, robust, deliverable, flexible?

Are there alternative sites that could be more sustainable than Purple Haze? Grooms Farm E, Dunwood Nurseries, Glebe Farm, Post Hill – all add up to 4 million tons of soft sand. They are not in the National Park and do not impact a European or internationally designated site. HCC screened these sites out do you think the reasons for screening these sites out are robust?

The references to why screened out can be found in the ISA Report

<http://consult.hants.gov.uk/file/1996549>

Is the site deliverable? The landowner has no operator, he will be putting the site out to tender subject to planning permission. Will the site be viable with all the mitigation (buffers) and surveys needed?

Is it legal to put a landfill site on a recreational space? The European Landfill Directive says quite clearly they have to be located away from recreational areas.

Should Natural England accept that some important scientific reports i.e., Hydrology Survey be done at the planning application stage? The habitats regulations state quite clearly that scientific evidence must be provided for site mitigation, if not provided the precautionary approach should be used.

<http://consult.hants.gov.uk/file/1996537>

Do you think that the policy for restoration makes the quarry operator provide evidence they have enough resources to fill the void? Does the policy make sure that the operator has the funds and commitment to restore the site?

<http://consult.hants.gov.uk/file/1996559> find: Policy 8

There is no mention of where the soft sand will be washed, will the Environment Agency issue a water extraction license and allow the operator to wash the sand at Purple Haze, increasing hydrological issues, or, will a conveyor be used to go to Blashford, affecting European designated site (River Avon), will Natural England support this? Silt ponds are dangerous, how will they be managed?

The plan states that the northern end of the site will be used to mitigate any impact to Ebblake Bog, they have not given any details of distance (800 metres was verbally mentioned in the full council meeting) or hydrological evidence to support this statement.

<http://consult.hants.gov.uk/file/1996559>

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