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### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday ???

The No2PurpleHaze campaign is one year old this week. Birthdays are normally a reason for celebration. In the case of the campaign, however, the team has been reflecting on what a great shame it is that after twelve month's hard graft we are still working together with our many supporters to overturn HCC's bad decisions about the Purple Haze site.



Let's hope sincerely for a good outcome to the Public Hearing to be held in June 2012 so that we don't have to record another campaign birthday!

So, what have we been doing to achieve our aims since we last shared campaign news?

### Change of FoRF Chairman: Ray Wells has resigned

Ray Wells - FoRF Chair - has decided that, for personal reasons, he is no longer able to fulfil the role of Chair. This has been a second blow for the campaign team as it follows the resignation of Tony Kell late last year, also one of the well respected Founding Officers.

Ray, along with Tony, shared many great ideas for publicising the campaign and was a leading light in setting up the Writers Group who lobbied the Great & the Good making a number of valuable contacts along the way who have helped the campaign.

Ray's tireless approach to making sure Blue Haze operates safely & correctly and also towards publicising the likely damage of HCC's ill-advised proposals on Moors Valley Country Park is sadly missed.

We feel sure you will wish to join us in thanking Ray for his hard work & commitment and also in wishing him and his family the very best for the future.

Sarah Sumner will take on the role of Chair which means we now need a replacement Vice Chair. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please let us know by emailing [info@forf.org.uk](mailto:info@forf.org.uk).

### FoRF Logo & Newsletter Format

Thanks to the generous support of our very good friends in local businesses [Supermonkey Creative](#) (creative media designers) & [2Able](#) (website gurus) we now have –

- A new logo for the Friends of Ringwood Forest (FoRF) organisation which is distinct from the well known and often used No2PurpleHaze logo – see the heading above
- An updated method of sending out the Newsletter that will allow us to share news with you more quickly & frequently than we have been doing recently, and
- A new email address for all your email enquiries – [info@forf.org.uk](mailto:info@forf.org.uk) – although the old address will remain available

These changes reflect the shift in our focus to taking a wider interest in all matters affecting Ringwood Forest whether they impact inhabitants & neighbours, the flora, fauna & their habitats, the quarry/landfill sites or its many recreational visitors regardless of whether they are locally, nationally or internationally based.

### Blue Haze: IBA Applications

The Environment Agency told us, and any supporters who had contacted them direct concerning Blue Haze issues, about applications to formalise the IBA processing permit and to develop an onsite leachate treatment plant.

Our concerns about both applications have been submitted to the Environment Agency. A copy of the FoRF response (2 pages only) is available from our [News web page](#).

### HCC's Submission to the Planning Inspectorate

We have analysed HCC's responses to the Soundness Consultation comments concerning the Purple Haze site proposals.

In our opinion –

- At least 75% of their return responses to our submissions simply say we'll have to wait until the planning application stage to get the clarification



we're looking for. We don't believe this is good enough.

- Some of the answers are pure waffle and don't make any sense
- It is incredibly frustrating that where we stated specific alternatives or impacts that we felt were not considered in the extensive documentation, HCC responded by saying that policy x covered these themes. The point we were trying to make in most cases was that the broad themes in the policies were insufficiently detailed in our opinion. We've read the policies and know where to find them, so we found the attitude of HCC's responses more than a little patronizing. They didn't really listen to what we were asking.

The 11 page analysis is an easy & worthwhile read - if only as a timely reminder of all the reasons why we are doing what we are doing. Copies are available from [info@forf.org.uk](mailto:info@forf.org.uk).

### HCC's Submission Notification: Members' Anger

Thank you to everyone who told us, and HCC, about how difficult it would be to access the documentation HCC has submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. We all agreed their approach wasn't good enough.

We are raising the issue with HCC and have also asked Verwood Town Council what they can do to help local residents who are either not internet connected or who cannot travel to Southampton because there is no direct public transport available from Verwood. We will let you know what Verwood Town Council decides to do.

### HCC Press Comments on Purple Haze Boundary

People who attended the HCC Extraordinary Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October last year believed that the site boundary would be moved 800m away from Verwood. This view was reported afterwards in the Press.

When analysing HCC's Submission to the Planning Inspectorate - see the previous news item - we noted the boundary was unchanged. As a result we contacted the Press. When the related article was published in

the [Echo](#) it included comments from HCC that it was not their intention to re-draw the boundary as this would afford greatest protection to the site.

We still believe the boundary should be re-drawn and we have lobbied Verwood Town Council to take action. They agreed at their April 2012 Full Council meeting that a letter should be sent to HCC challenging their recent press statements. We will let you know the outcome.

### Preparing for the Public Hearing: Help Needed

The Planning Inspector has published a list of questions which will drive the Public Hearing that takes place between the 5<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

We need to prepare for the Hearing and research our responses to the above questions where they affect the Purple Haze site proposals directly.

Please email us at [info@forf.org.uk](mailto:info@forf.org.uk) if you are interested in helping to prepare for the Hearing, would like to see the Planning Inspector's questions, want to know more about the Hearing arrangements or if you would like us to arrange transport to the Hearing.

### Learning More about Site Restoration

One of the major concerns we have with HCC's Minerals & Waste Plan is the lack of clarity around restoration of the Purple Haze site after mineral extraction. We were therefore pleased to accept an invitation for a site visit to learn more about restoration progress at Tatchells Landfill near Wareham.

The visit was hosted by Nature After Minerals and Jillian Heather, an Interest Group and Committee member, has provided her view of the visit which you will find at the end of this newsletter.

We are also taking up TARMAC's offer to visit a local site which has been restored after mineral extraction.

END



### Visit to Tatchells Landfill

It was a bright sunny morning when we arrived at the Trigon Landfill site to be welcomed by Liz Harris (RSPB), Adrian Bailey (Viridor's Landfill Aftercare Officer) and Vanessa Bailey (Natural England)

We were initially ushered into the conference room where the discussion centred on our concerns surrounding HCC's processes and decision making and the proposed development at the Purple Haze site and Viridor's natural keenness to present a positive image of their aftercare restoration project at Tatchells.

As one of the leading waste management companies Viridor now has a large and varied portfolio of closed landfill sites in aftercare. The Tatchells closed landfill site was subject to a biodiversity baseline study in 2008 to provide information on the status of the onsite biodiversity value, with regard to priority habitats and species. Based on the high biodiversity value a site biodiversity action plan has been commissioned, which demonstrates how Viridor will maintain the existing biodiversity value and contribute to national and local biodiversity targets.

We were glad it was relatively dry underfoot, and after a short steep climb we reached a fairly flat area rather uneven in places. We were told that the design and

management of the site had changed over time due to changes in regulations.

Original topsoil had been replaced on site and careful reseeded coupled with the existing seed bank was producing results. Equipment to monitor water levels and methane gas were also evident in part of the site.

It was apparent that various areas of the site were in different stages of restoration. There were positive signs that regeneration of lowland heath and marshy grassland were gradually evolving with a number of plant species and reptiles present. What was evident were the timescales involved. Some parts of the site dated from the 1970,s and continued to require careful management.

From the site we looked across to the mothballed quarrying site with rusty structures presumably waiting until the market picks up before the site is reopened. How and if this might affect the restored area we were unsure.

Naturally Viridor will be keen to hand over the site to the landowner as as soon as viable to reduce costs. The council are obliged to monitor aftercare restoration for five years, but after that it seemed to fall on the landowner's willingness to continue to invest and maintain a restored site.