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Gathering pace . . . reviewing the evidence . . . confirming support

. . . has been our theme for the past couple of weeks as we get ready for the Public Hearing on HCC's draft Minerals & Waste Plan which will take place between 6th & 15th June 2012.

Our representation to the Hearing will be the next major milestone in the campaign's story. The Hearing is the crucial decision point on whether or not HCC's ill-advised proposals for the Purple Haze site will go forward.

Details of the Hearing sessions (the Programme), who will be represented, the questions that the Planning Inspector will ask and new, supplementary evidence to the earlier Soundness Consultation is available at the HCC portal (<http://consult.hants.gov.uk/portal/pdpp/>) and for the detail please visit http://consult.hants.gov.uk/portal/pdpp/examination_hearing_documents

Friends of Ringwood Forest (FoRF) will be represented by Sarah Sumner (Chair) and Britt Poyntz (Secretary).

We would really welcome supporters to join us at the Hearing, so if you plan to attend, please do let us know – email info@forf.org.uk.

Evidence about Purple Haze, one of the "contentious" sites, is now collated in a single pack at <http://consult.hants.gov.uk/file/2186253>.

We believe that the Soundness Responses from both East Dorset District Council and Verwood Town Council, which challenge HCC's proposals and the soundness of their draft Plan, should have been included. We have copies available – email us at info@forf.org.uk.

So, what have we learnt from our recent activities?

Please read on to find out more . . .

Dorset County Council – objection withdrawn

We told all FoRF supporters that a campaign petition had been set up following members' reactions to learning that DCC has withdrawn, albeit conditionally, their only solid objection to HCC's proposals – have you signed and shared it yet?

<http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/forf2dcc>.

More information about the petition is available from our News web page -

<http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/news.html>.

We await feedback from related meetings held in County Hall this week. We will let you know more as soon as we can.

We wrote to all DCC Councillors about the reasons behind the petition and also told all MPs with constituents within the DCC & HCC authority boundaries about DCC's actions and the public response.

RSPB Strongly Objects to Purple Haze

Reviewing the new (to us) evidence included in the Hearing documents, and referred to earlier in this newsletter, enabled us to tell our Press Contacts, and other organisations supporting the campaign, that RSPB, Natural England, TARMAC & Quarryplan have all made statements justifying a number of key comments in FoRF's earlier Soundness Response to HCC.

Our opinion is shared in the related Press Release available from our News web page -

<http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/news.html>.

We have also had support from EDDC who, as well as FoRF, have now approached our MP to question why Natural England Soundness responses to HCC should be so at odds with RSPB's submission.

Purple Haze Minerals in doubt

TARMAC's supplementary evidence was of particular interest as it throws into doubt both the quality and quantity of minerals likely to be available from Purple Haze.



Their additional comments support earlier evidence, paid for by FoRF members' generous donations – thank you once again, from the campaign's geology/quarry design consultants GWP.

As TARMAC's latest evidence was new to us, this week we also forwarded additional comments questioning the viability of purple Haze to the Planning Inspector and have also drawn his attention once again to GWP's findings.

Other News . . .

BBC Radio Solent interviewed Sarah Sumner (FoRF Chair) this week about campaign progress. Listen in, from 01:09:00, at http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p00s16j5/Julian_Clegg_22_05_2012/

Campaign Facebook now “Open to ALL” – no account required: our good friends at “2able” helped us open our Facebook pages to everyone - see what people are saying (read only), without having to set up a Facebook account, at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/No-2-Purple-Haze/144871228914877>.

Thank You to: Nick at Dupli-k8 (on the Ebblake Industrial Estate) for turning round urgently required printing in next to no time. Great job!

Thank you from: Angela Inwards to FoRF supporters who sponsored her when she took part in the London Moonwalk 2012. She was very pleased and grateful for the support you gave her.

END