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Purple Haze Consultation: UPDATE

Many of you will have received from HCC a message concerning the ***“Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Notice of Publication of Proposed Changes to the Plan”*** and, in some cases, forms to complete as part of the related Planning Inspectorate led Soundness Consultation which **closes at 5:00 pm on 17th December 2012** . . .

. . . and many of you will have also thought, as we did, “Oh no! Not again . . . when will this process ever end?”

In the following paragraphs we have therefore set out:

- where to get more information
- feedback following a meeting held last week at our request with HCC Policy Planning, and
- how we plan to build the FoRF response and when it will be available for you to use, if required, to shape your own and individual responses.

Information sources . . .

Information about this Soundness consultation, details of the changes to be reviewed for their “Soundness”, supporting & updated evidence and response forms are available [online](#).

The Salisbury Journal has published a [related article](#) which provides easy-to-read background information about this latest stage of the democratic process.

Meeting with HCC Policy Planning held 25th October 2012 . . .

HCC Policy Planning came to Verwood last week at FoRF’s request to meet your representatives. We –

- quizzed them closely about the implications of the draft Plan changes on the Purple Haze site allocation proposal
- raised some early questions we have from reading the Plan Change related documents published so far, and
- learnt more about what the Planning Inspector’s eventual Report (to be published next year) might

include/exclude.

The meeting was informative and has helped us to plan how best to build a response to be submitted on your behalf and also helped us focus on what we can ask you to do to help – find out more below.

Importantly, we confirmed:

- The Planning Inspector is looking for responses on the major changes only – as highlighted in the schedule published [online](#)
- We can comment on any new evidence within the documents updated & published [online](#) in association with this consultation
- We cannot, however, rehash any evidence submitted previously
- We can challenge where we believe minor changes have major impact and could make a difference to the Purple Haze proposed allocation. We have already identified a couple of instances where this may be the case
- HCC will respond to any questions raised direct with them by FoRF about the latest set of documents. HCC has already taken away a couple of specific queries we raised concerning new information contained in the above documents
- The Planning Inspector already has “enough information to come to a conclusion”
- The Planning Inspector’s report could require Purple Haze to be excluded from Hampshire’s Plan. However, there is absolutely no indication at this stage that this outcome is at all likely – not good news for the campaign
- If a further Public Examination about the outcome of this Changes Consultation is considered necessary, the Planning Inspector will invite the responders involved to attend between 13th & 15th March 2013 - dates to be confirmed
- The Planning Inspector’s Report is unlikely to be available until at least 6 to 8 weeks after any further Public Examination has been held.

Building the FoRF Response . . .

There is a great deal of reading to do. Questions are likely to arise that will require informed responses from HCC before a FoRF response can be prepared.

We also know that many of you may wish to hold off from responding to HCC until some guidance on what’s important for the Purple Haze site has been provided.



The Campaign Team, all part-time volunteers, has therefore set itself the target of building a response on behalf of FoRF's 2,600 members by 30th November 2012 at the latest.

We will then publish our proposed response online for comment and as a guide for individual responses which all have to be submitted by 17th December 2012.

While the FoRF response is being prepared we will be networking with the campaign's good friends in supporting organisations and will also seek to elicit & influence appropriate responses from Verwood Town, East Dorset District & Dorset County Councils.

Completing this latest Soundness Consultation will be a challenge for us all. We will therefore definitely need your help as outlined in the "Help Required" section below.

As always, if you need help, have any questions or just want to share your thoughts on this latest stage of the process then we'd be very pleased to hear from you – please contact us direct at info@forf.org.uk.

AGM postponed to May 2013

While we were starting to hard plan the already delayed FoRF Annual General Meeting (AGM) we became aware of the latest HCC Soundness Consultation.

Given that the FoRF Committee has limited resources (see below) and because of the sheer size of the latest tasks facing us, we have had no choice but to postpone the AGM until next year. We simply could not do justice to preparing for, and then holding, the AGM whilst getting ready to build a good Soundness response to HCC on your behalf.

We have therefore booked the Memorial Hall, Verwood as the venue for the first FoRF AGM which will now be held on **Thursday 16th May 2013 starting at 7:00 pm and lasting no more than 2 hours** – please make a note of this date in your diaries.

We trust you understand and will therefore support our reasoning for the postponement.

Help Required

There are 3 key areas where we really do need help and would love to hear from anyone who is interested – please email us direct at info@forf.org.uk:

1. **New Committee Members:** we need fresh ideas for managing the campaign.

We are therefore looking for volunteers to join the FoRF Committee. We meet in Verwood on the last Monday of each month at 7:30 pm (not in August) for no more than one hour. In between meetings we manage FoRF's business by a handful of emails.

Would you like to join a small but keen & enthusiastic group of friendly and like-minded people working on the campaign? If so, please do get in touch soon.

2. **Numerical Analysis Skills:** We are puzzled by some of HCC's numbers regarding waste & aggregate forecasts contained within the latest Plan. We don't have the necessary skills to make sense of what HCC is telling us and really could do with someone who is good with numbers to help us.

There is a clearly defined set of numbers to look at and we don't think any detailed knowledge of quarrying or waste management is required. We think there is maybe 6 to 8 hours work involved at most. There are no meetings to attend.

Do you have the skills? Could you spare the time before 30th November 2012? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

3. **Creative Graphics:** We have a couple of ideas for graphics (possibly cartoon style) to illustrate humorously some of the anomalies (in our opinion) within Hampshire's Plan. However, we don't have a creative bone between us nor does the campaign have enough funds to engage & pay a commercial design studio. We'd be working to a deadline of around 23rd November 2012.

Would you or someone you know, be willing to help? If so, please do let us know soon.

All volunteers would be making a direct, tangible and invaluable contribution to the campaign. Thank you!



Plumley Wood

The Tarmac quarrying at Plumley Wood (near Harbridge) got underway during the recent summer months.

As the works are progressing within Ringwood Forest we'd like to hear from anyone who has either been affected directly by the development (adversely or positively) or who has any views at all on what is happening in or around the site.

Is there anything FoRF should be concerned about? Please share any thoughts with us at info@forf.org.uk – thank you.

Your feedback, comments and/or questions will be welcomed by the campaign team – please email us at info@forf.org.uk

Moors Valley – tree works

You may have noticed that trees are being felled within Moors Valley. This is NOT the start of works related to the Purple Haze site. The Forestry Commission have informed us of their plans:

“As we have had previous dialogue, I thought I would just let you know about some current and upcoming forestry works in Ringwood Forest/Moors Valley area. These are routine tree fellings as part of our agreed Forest Design Plans for the woods. Your group and contacts may be interested to know what is happening and where to find out more information?”

There is currently a small team of hand-cutters working in the area just off the B3081, felling some Bishops pine. This work is due to take around 3 weeks. It will only take place Monday-Friday. Following this, harvesting machinery will be onsite. We will be advertising a public demonstration event when the machine arrives to explain the works and answer any questions.

In the meantime, a plan of the work areas and design plans are available to view in the Visitor Information area at Moors Valley Country Park.

I hope that this information is useful to you. Please do feel free to circulate it to those who may be interested.”

http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/Documents/Newsletters/MVCP_FellingPOSTER_Nov12.pdf