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1 Introduction

Welcome to the first Newsletter we've published since June 2013 when the campaign went into a comparatively "quiet" period. That all changed recently, as you will find out from reading this edition.

We close another year with a degree of uncertainty about the future of the open spaces in Ringwood Forest & Moors Valley Country Park. We remain determined, however, that with your invaluable help & continuing support we shall continue do everything possible to make sure that the right decisions are made.

And so as we look ahead to the challenges a New Year will bring us, we sincerely hope that you and those you care about will enjoy a very happy and peaceful festive season.

2 Hampshire Minerals Plan & Purple Haze (North)

It was with a sense of sad inevitability that despite your hard work and our in-depth submissions on the many problems to be faced by an operator, in September 2013 the Hampshire Authorities adopted their Minerals & Waste Plan and included Purple Haze (North).

The current position is that the lease for both Purple Haze (Hampshire) & Purple Haze South (Dorset) is still for sale and no operator has been appointed. Until an operator is in place, the planning application process cannot begin and with it the necessary and detailed public exploration of what's required to resolve the many uncertainties identified in the Planning

Inspector's Report.

We have secured assurance from Hampshire that FoRF and Verwood Town Council, amongst others, will be notified about any planning applications submitted for Ringwood Forest. Hampshire also said they will tell us when they become aware of the minerals company likely to submit a planning application for Purple Haze.

Be assured that lobbying against Hampshire's plans continues at every opportunity, However, until a planning application process begins, ramping up the public campaign is considered unlikely to change either the landowner's or Hampshire's intentions. Given feedback from supporters, that opinion appears to be widely held.

We're not infallible, however, and are always willing to re-think campaign tactics. Please let us know at info@forf.org.uk if you think we should be doing something else right now and also the activities you would be willing to commit to. If there is sufficient committed support, we will plan accordingly.

3 Dorset's Minerals Plan & Purple Haze (South)

In a recent message to FoRF supporters, and on the campaign's Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/No-2-Purple-Haze/144871228914877?fref=ts>, we advised that Somerley Estate had offered Purple Haze (South)* to Dorset County Council for minerals extraction (building sand) and subsequent restoration. No mention has yet been made of using the site for landfill.

** Purple Haze (South) begins close to the car park area near Bakers Hanging (the Alderholt turn-off), avoiding all but a very small corner of Watchmoor Wood, and then extends in the direction of Verwood along the B3081 to abut the Hampshire allocated site.*

The first step in **Dorset's public consultation on the sites to be considered for their Minerals Plan**, including all sites offered to them together with those previously withdrawn, **will run from 19th December 2013 until 13th February 2014**. The consultation process is forecast to progress until at least the middle of 2015 and possibly beyond.



Public consultation events on Dorset's Minerals Sites will be held, exhibition style, throughout the county including in **Verwood Memorial Hall on Thursday, 16th January 2014 from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm.** Dorset's aim is to gather local community views on the sites to be considered. We are told the sites are not being promoted at this stage.

We encourage everyone who is able to attend these events to do so. It's important that those awkward questions about any of the sites are asked as soon as possible.

Nearer to the event we'll share our list of questions. For example - for Purple Haze (South) we might query the quality & location of the minerals which lie on the same geology as Blue Haze. We know that very little of the soft sand extracted was sold to industry due to its poor quality for building with the bulk being used as back fill at Roeshot . . . and so on.

On the Verwood Town Council Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Verwood-Town-Council/160929110732685?fref=ts> you will find a posting about the Verwood event which includes this summary -

"Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole councils are considering potential new locations for future mineral extraction, to be included within a document called the Mineral Sites Plan. Once adopted, this plan will identify specific sites for mineral extraction within the county. We would like to hear your views on 44 sites that have been suggested by mineral companies, landowners and consultants."

Other channels for public comments will be available. We expect Dorset to provide details when they launch the consultation on 19th December 2013 with local press releases to follow in January 2014.

The little amount of data that has been published so far about Purple Haze (South) can be found at <http://www1.dorsetforyou.com/Council/COMMIS2013.nsf/MIN?OpenView&Count=1000&id=4DCACBDB652043741C7323BC41922927> - Item 8, page 8 (AS24 on location map) & page 38 (site detail).

More detailed technical planning information about Purple Haze (South) and its potential impact on Ringwood Forest/Moors Valley Country Park should

become available later on IF it is included in Dorset's Mineral Plan.

For more general information about Dorset Minerals & Waste Planning please go to <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/mwdf>.

4 Appeal: Fighting Fund & Donations

It's been over two years since we had to make a direct appeal for funds and then we were stunned by your very generous response. It enabled us to pay for vital advice from legal & geology experts, helped by a major one-off contribution from wonderful private sponsors, and also to meet our day to day running costs for the past two years.

Although we have been prudent with your donations, sadly they won't last forever and there's just enough money available to meet only routine costs for the next few months. With the possibility of campaigning on perhaps two fronts in the not too distant future, we hope you agree that it will be important to have a healthy fighting fund.

Times are hard for everyone and financial priorities may well lie elsewhere. However, if over the next couple of months you are able to make a donation, everything you need to know can be found at http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/Fund_Raising.html.

We'll be grateful for any amount you're able to contribute. Thank You.

5 FoRF Accounts & Audit

We have to say a huge & heartfelt "Thank You" to Bob Willmott (FoRF Auditor) who despite a period of unexpected health issues since he volunteered at the AGM has now audited and signed off the FoRF accounts for financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13. Copies of Bob's statements are available here: http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/Documents/FoRF_Accounts_2011-12.pdf http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/Documents/FoRF_Accounts_2012-13.pdf

One item for 2011/12 needs further explanation - "Committee direct expenses £485.84". It does not represent usual personal expenses such as meals, mileage, telephone calls, etc. as FoRF Officers &



Committee Members (all volunteers) have not claimed, with one exception, for any personal costs incurred while on campaign business.

£21.00 was claimed for unavoidable child care expenses. The remaining balance (£464.84) represents initial personal outlay for campaign related materials (stickers, T shirts, paper, printing, etc.) which could not be reimbursed until after sufficient public donations had been made to campaign funds.

Please email us at info@forf.org.uk with any comments or questions about the audited accounts.

6 Blue Haze Landfill : Dust Monitors & Mains Supply

We are chasing the Environment Agency to find out more about the monitors we were promised would be installed near to the B3081 landfill to provide readings about IBA (Incinerator Bottom Ash) dust particles. As soon as we get some definite information we will share it with you.

In the same vein, and in response to last summer's fire, we have chased for a mains water supply to be provided on site. We are expecting to learn more in the New Year.

7 2able & Crane Valley Golf Course Signage Sponsorship

Anyone using Crane Valley golf course will have noticed that our wonderful good friends at 2able, who look after the campaign's online media free of charge, have used their sponsorship of the course guide this year to promote the No2PurpleHaze campaign.

Thank you to everyone at 2able for your support - you are simply brilliant!

You can find out more about 2able, who are internet marketing gurus with a broad commercial portfolio, @ <http://www.2able.co.uk/>

Finally -

8 Committee Vacancies

Could you spare one hour a month (at most) to attend fairly informal meetings with like-minded & friendly

people and also to read/respond to any emails?

Even if you have no previous experience but are keen to help please let us know at info@forf.org.uk. Please include a contact number if you would like us to call you to talk about any related questions or concerns you may have.

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