



# Friends of Ringwood Forest

## Press Release: Campaign Responds to Hampshire Plan Consultation

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Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Friends of Ringwood Forest (FoRF), a community led action group, has been leading the No2purplehaze campaign since April 2011 to stop Hampshire from developing part of Moors Valley Country Park & Forest as a quarry and landfill site (Purple Haze).

Their evidence demonstrating why the Purple Haze site should be excluded from Hampshire's draft Minerals & Waste Plan was reviewed in depth by the Planning Inspector during the Public Examination held in June 2012. Despite the campaign's strenuous arguments to exclude the site, supported notably by East Dorset District Council & the RSPB, and to their great disappointment, Purple Haze was still included when Hampshire recently published modifications to their Plan for further public consultation.

This latest public consultation, which closes on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – see [http://consult.hants.gov.uk/portal/pdpp/hmwp/hampshire\\_minerals\\_waste\\_plan\\_-\\_post\\_hearings\\_consultation](http://consult.hants.gov.uk/portal/pdpp/hmwp/hampshire_minerals_waste_plan_-_post_hearings_consultation), also invites comments from the public on how the Hampshire Plan fits with the latest government guidance on aggregates planning – the Department for Communities and Local Government document 'Guidance on the Managed Aggregate Supply System', October 2012, referred to as the "DCLG Guidelines – October 2012" ([online here](#)).

Supported by industry expertise, the FoRF campaign team – who as volunteers will agree they are not themselves planning, quarrying or landfill experts - has thoroughly reviewed and analysed all of Hampshire's Consultation paperwork and also the approach taken to aggregates planning when considering the DCLG Guidelines. As a result, FoRF has found new, conclusive and hard evidence showing clearly that Purple Haze must be excluded from Hampshire's Plan.

A draft response to Hampshire has been published for public scrutiny and comment by the campaign's supporters before FoRF submits their formal response to Hampshire later next month. Comments on its draft response can be sent to the campaign team at [info@forf.org.uk](mailto:info@forf.org.uk) (by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012).

For brief summaries of the campaign's new evidence see FoRF's latest newsletter (No 22) at <http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/news.html>

To review the technical data, the scope of the analysis and depth of the review undertaken by FoRF in order to vigorously challenge Hampshire's Plan assumptions see FoRF's full DRAFT response at [http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/Documents/HMWPMods\\_DCLGConsultationFoRFResponseFINALDRAFT271112.pdf](http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/Documents/HMWPMods_DCLGConsultationFoRFResponseFINALDRAFT271112.pdf)

### **Additional information for editors:**

- "Friends of Ringwood Forest" (FoRF) is the umbrella group with over 2,600 members which runs the No to Purple Haze campaign.



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- Purple Haze is a 70 Hectare site linked with Moors Valley Country Park in terms of bike trails, orienteering courses and footpaths. The land is owned by the Somerley Estate and leased to the Forestry Commission. Hampshire County Council's proposal is to turn this site into a quarry and landfill site.
- Moors Valley Country Park is the third most visited park in England and has been accredited with the Green Flag award.
- Friends of Ringwood Forest Chair for quotes: Sarah Sumner - email [sarahno2ph@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahno2ph@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 01202 828953
- For more information about the campaign please visit [www.no2purplehaze.co.uk](http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk)
- Any pictures available directly from the above website may be used in press publications
- Any queries regarding this press release can be made to the Campaign Office at [info@forf.org.uk](mailto:info@forf.org.uk)

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