

Nuneaton Roadshow: 3rd March 2006

Attendees: 6 individuals and 1 officer of Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Chris Saint (Chair)
Suzanne Osborn (Warwickshire County Council)
Jim Davies (Warwickshire County Council)
Mikka Styles (Arup)

1. There was an opportunity to have some refreshments and browse the documents and flyers relating to primarily the Minerals consultation, but also the Waste consultation.
2. The meeting was opened by Councillor Chris Saint (Cabinet member with responsibility for planning issues) at 6:15pm
3. Suzanne Osborn gave a brief presentation on the Minerals Development Framework consultation process
4. Jim Davies gave a presentation on the Minerals Development Framework itself.
5. Then there was an opportunity for questions and answers. Some of the answers were provided on the night whereas other questions were deferred and our considered answers are included in the table below:

Questions	Answers
1. How can we influence regional or national strategies?	Warwickshire County Council (WCC) keeps abreast of changes in national planning guidance and respond to national consultations. To get involved in such consultations please go to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's (ODPM) website at www.odpm.gov.uk/planning and click on the link to consultation papers. Regional policy is the responsibility of the West Midlands Regional Assembly (www.wmra.gov.uk) and some of our County Councillors represent us at regional level e.g. Councillor Chris Saint sits on the Board of the Regional Planning Partnership.
2. Does Warwickshire have any minerals that are in particularly high demand?	Yes, the rock which is extracted around Mancetter is an ancient rock with a very high Polished Stone Value (PSV) which makes it particularly useful to ensure skid resistance on the most pressurised roadsurfaces.
3. Given the urbanisation of Nuneaton & Bedworth, is there any possibility for extraction in the Green Belt?	National planning guidance is not as restrictive against mineral extraction in the Green Belt as it is towards other forms of development, "Minerals

	<p>can be worked only where they are found. Their extraction is a temporary activity. Mineral extraction need not be inappropriate development: it need not conflict with the purposes of including land in Green Belts, provided that high environmental standards are maintained and that the site is well restored.” (Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, March 2001)</p> <p>In answer to the question, yes, extraction in the Green Belt is a possibility.</p>
<p>4. One of the attendees wanted to know whether there would be an opportunity in the Minerals Development Framework to ensure that during restoration the rock-face is maintained in the interest of mountaineering pursuits without filling it in with water?</p>	<p>This is very much a possibility and could perhaps be achieved particularly in consultation with Sport England who is keen to see restoration of mineral sites used in the interest of recreation and leisure, but this has to be considered in the light of health and safety factors.</p>
<p>5. Another attendee was keen for water sports to feature more prominently in restoration activities.</p>	<p>Again this is something that we could cater for in the Minerals Development Framework in conjunction with Sport England.</p>
<p>6. There was a question about how much void space is becoming available for waste disposal?</p>	<p>WCC has not received any current applications, so there is no new void space. The point was also made that just because you have a void does not mean that the void can be filled – it still needs a valid planning permission for this use.</p>
<p>7. Is the extraction at Judkins really finished?</p>	<p>There are still some deposits, but they are hard to get at and extraction last occurred during 1995. This indicates that it is probably not economically viable to resume extraction at Judkins.</p> <p>The site at Jeas & Boons however, (although not currently operating) has a huge reserve with planning permission, so the likelihood is that this will be developed.</p>
<p>8. Could industry over-extract without being controlled?</p>	<p>Extraction is carried out in accordance with market demand. If there is no market for the minerals extracted then there is no incentive</p>

	<p>for operators to carry out expensive extraction – stock-piling is not in their interest. If there is a market for the minerals this would imply there is an increasing need for the extraction to take place. Any danger of vast quantities of minerals being extracted in Warwickshire to meet national needs is irrelevant with regard to sand & gravel extraction, because its value in commercial terms makes it uneconomic to transport over large distances.</p> <p>In the event of massive over-extraction this would be monitored by the West Midlands Regional Aggregates Working Party and appropriate action would then be taken.</p>
<p>9. How long has recycling been taking place? Is there a way of increasing the recycling activity?</p>	<p>It has always been economically better to recycle and re-use waste on site during demolition and subsequent construction activities.</p> <p>Recycling has been encouraged through the Landfill Tax, which dissuades operators from landfilling the waste they produce.</p> <p>It would be good if the Borough Council were encouraged to impose conditions on large-scale applications to re-use demolition waste on site.</p>
<p>10. Is incinerator ash counted as minerals or waste?</p>	<p>It has been technically defined as waste by the Environment Agency, but links will be made from the Waste Development Framework to the Minerals Development Framework.</p>
<p>11. Can any aspect of the use of coal be controlled?</p>	<p>Very hard to enforce end-use conditions. Would have to be an economic constraint and this would be very difficult for WCC to enforce.</p>
<p>12. Will discussions from debates be taken on board even after the deadline date for the formal consultation i.e 3rd April?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>13. How are you going to do the Sustainability Appraisal?</p>	<p>This will be carried out in accordance with an approved methodology agreed between WCC and the four</p>

	<p>environmental bodies i.e. Environment Agency, Countryside Agency, English Heritage and English Nature.</p> <p>Before consulting on the Minerals Core Strategy – Issues & Options paper each option will be evaluated against a number of sustainability objectives approved by the environmental bodies.</p>
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6. Cllr Saint formally closed the meeting at 8 pm.