

WARWICKSHIRE MINERALS DEVELOPMENT FORUM

24TH March 2006, Manor Hall, Leamington Spa

Warwickshire's Mineral Development Forum held its inaugural meeting on the 24th March 2006. 22 representatives attended and 8 gave their apologies.

Present:

Mike Gerrard

Terry Harrison

ALP Ambrose, representing Brinklow Quarry, KSD Dunton, Cemex, Hornton Stone Quarries and UK Coal, Andy Ambrose

Aggregate Industries UK Ltd., Tim Claxton

Cemex, David Tomlin

The Coal Authority, Bill Denton

Coleman and Company, David Coleman

Countryside Agency, Hazel Fleming

Ennstone Johnstone Ltd., Colin D'Oyley

Environment Agency, Lindsay Mann

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Tony Beysens

Hanson Aggregates, Peter Toon

Lafarge Aggregates Ltd., Gary Staddon

Tarmac Central Ltd., Grahame Fyles

UK Coal Mining Limited & CoalPro, Craig Ball

Warwick District Council, Cllr. Balvinder Gill

Warwickshire County Council, Derek Greedy

Warwickshire County Council, Jasbir Kaur

Warwickshire County Council, Jonathan Parkhouse

Warwickshire County Council, Jon Radley

Warwickshire County Council, Magnus Alexander

Warwickshire County Council, Matthew Williams

Warwickshire County Council, Steven Falk

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group, Ian Fenwick

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group, Martyn Bradley

Cllr. Chris Saint, Warwickshire County Council (WCC), (Chair)

Suzanne Osborn, Senior Planning Officer, WCC

Jim Davies, Planning Officer, WCC

Mikka Styles, Arup

Apologies:

The Coal Authority, Simon Cooke

Confederation of UK Coal Producers (CoalPro), David Brewer

Friends of the Earth – West Midlands, Chris Crean

Government Office for the West Midlands, Ray Colbourne

Minerals, Waste & Environmental Consultancy, Geoff White

Smiths Concrete, Mick Daynes

Warwickshire County Council, David Lowe

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Beth Gardner

1. Presentations:

Cllr. Chris Saint opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. This was followed by a series of presentations. Copies of these presentations are available at:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/41A0722569328C8E8025712400519A89>

- Getting the Process Right, Mikka Styles, Arup
- Why Have A Minerals Development Forum, Suzanne Osborn, Senior Planning Officer, Warwickshire County Council
- Setting the Scene: Planning Minerals Development in Warwickshire, Jim Davies, Planning Officer, Warwickshire County Council

2. Breakout Session:

Two brief discussions took place. To facilitate the process the meeting was divided into three groups. Following these discussions, each group fed back to the meeting their key points.

Discussion 1: What should the Minerals Development Forum achieve?

Group 1

1. Bring interest groups together;
2. Increase the knowledge and understanding between interested groups;

3. Develop ideas to realise the benefits of extraction and after-use;
4. Raise the importance of secondary minerals and restoration in the Minerals Development Framework;
5. Shape minerals policy e.g. decisions on aggregate supply;
6. Debate issues before they go for Public Examination;
7. Increase communication out to all groups;
8. Educate decision-makers (both Councillors and the general public);
9. Be a body of expertise supporting the development of the Minerals Development Framework.

Group 1 was in consensus on all of these aims. Points 2 and 8 were identified as the Forum's key priorities.

Group 2

1. Be an open forum where members are allowed to disagree;
2. Shape minerals policies in Warwickshire;
3. Be informed of what has historically been worked in Warwickshire and what is available;
4. Widen the issues from construction aggregates to other non-aggregate resources, e.g. coal or building stone etc.

Group 2 was in consensus on all of these aims. Priority was given to point 2, followed by point 3.

Group 3

1. Be a flexible group of experts who can draw on other expertise as necessary;
2. Represent a range of backgrounds and viewpoints;
3. Facilitate wider engagement/ facilitate engagement from the bottom up;
4. Regional Aggregates Working Party to be officially part of the group;
5. Manage conflicting views and develop consensus;
6. Facilitate informal dialogue to smooth the passage of the process;
7. Ensure policies are robust;
8. Ensure that there is reference to cross-border issues;
9. Encourage more success-stories such as Kingsbury and Brandon Marsh;
10. Remain focused;
11. Do not 'waste' opportunities;
12. Establish long-term and continuing involvement.

Group 3 agreed that points 3, 5 and 11 were the key priorities of the Forum.

Discussion 2: What issues should the Minerals Development Framework address?

Group 1

1. Providing a secure supply of both primary and secondary aggregates;
2. Creating certainty for developers;
3. Employment considerations in allocating land for extraction;
4. Protecting and promoting of bio/geo-diversity and archaeology;
5. Restoration;
6. Climate change, i.e. consideration of low Co₂ emission options such as locally sourced supplies and water transportation;

7. Transportation;
8. The need for local supplies of building stone;
9. Ensuring that the Framework is deliverable;
10. Public education on Warwickshire's minerals development issues for the life of document.

Points 1, 2, 3 and 4 were prioritised for the Minerals Development Framework to address.

Group 2

1. The changing economies that we are working within, as well as changing priorities;
2. Encouraging recycling of primary materials;
3. The provision of facilities for recycling of building material, e.g. recycling within existing quarries;
4. Policy flexibility, e.g. appropriate restoration policies which offers choice.
5. The provision of certainty and flexibility for industry, e.g. by allocating Preferred Areas in the Framework, but also allowing industry the flexibility to look elsewhere if necessary;
6. Non-aggregates and how these are provided for in the Framework, including coal and building stone;
7. Extending knowledge of what is available to include quarrying of small-scale non-aggregates;
8. Coalbed-methane as alternative opportunity to mining coal;
9. Underground Coal Gasification;
10. Geo-thermal recovery;
11. The reinforcement of Mineral Consultation Areas to avoid future sterilisation.

It was agreed that all of these issues warranted further discussion and consideration in the Minerals Development Framework.

Group 3

1. Assessing real supply and demand;
2. Establishing sufficient landbanks to deliver Warwickshire County Council's apportionment (productive capacity);
3. Maintaining a supply of minerals;
4. The siting of secondary aggregate facilities;
5. Safeguarding mineral resources, e.g. building stone;
6. The extraction of aggregates prior to development;
7. Ensuring that the links are there at local, regional and national level –through to Planning Policy Statements on issues including; bio-diversity, geo-diversity, landscape, historic environment, amenity, water, highways and infrastructure;
8. Setting up robust procedures for monitoring and effective enforcement;
9. Establishing control over environmental impacts;
10. Achieving positive outcomes for after-uses, e.g. people, bio-diversity, geo-diversity;
11. Co-ordinating restoration and landscape enhancement plans (perhaps through Area Action Development Plan Documents), e.g. Tame Valley;
12. Maximising research opportunities for geology and archaeology, and increasing engagement in projects and dissemination of findings;
13. Establishing greater dialogue with communities through Resident Liaison Committees;
14. Working to well defined timescales within the life of the plan, e.g. 5, 10, **15, 20** and 25 years.

Points 3, 5, 9 and 10 were prioritised for the Minerals Development Framework to address.

3. Feedback on the Process:

Participants were invited to comment on the success of the meeting using the evaluation forms provided. 13 forms were returned before the 5th April. All 13 members concluded that the event had secured their interest in participating in future meetings of the Forum.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Minerals Development Forum will be held on Friday the 28th April, at Manor Hall, Leamington Spa. An agenda for the meeting will be sent out shortly. For further information please contact mikka.styles@arup.com