

**Future of Hamble Airfield**  
**Public Meeting 28th February 2022**  
**Royal Southern Yacht Club, Ropewalk, Hamble**

## **Minutes**

### **Attendance**

- Paul Holmes MP
- Cllrs Hand (Chair), Underdown, Thompson, Cross, Rolfe, Dann, Nicholson, Jones and Ryan – Hamble Parish Council
- Cllr Rob Humby – Hampshire County Council
- Lisa Kirby-Hawkes – Hampshire County Council
- Diccon Bright – Eastleigh Borough Council
- Steve Tilbury – Steve Tilbury Consulting

### **Apologies**

- Cllrs Cohen, Lehneis and Palmer - Hamble Parish Council
- Cllr K House – Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council.

Cllr Hand welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through the housekeeping arrangements and introductions before handing over to the first contributors.

Lisa Kirby-Hawkes - Development Planning Manager representing the Minerals and Waste Development Management Team. Lisa's Team will be responsible for assessing the application.

Cllr Rob Humby was also present in an observer role as the Deputy Leader of HCC and as the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment. He is not involved in the decision process and is not on the Regulatory Committee (RC).

Lisa went through a series of slides (separately available on the website)

## Overview of the site allocation

The Hampshire Waste and Minerals and Plan (HMWP) provides a framework for deciding minerals and waste planning applications. It was adopted in 2013. The plan sets out the need for minerals and paragraph 2.32 sets out how the plan expects to meet this demand.

Policy 17 of the HMWP sets out the requirement 1.56million tonnes (mt) of sand and gravel must be found each year in Hampshire and the requirement to maintain a landbank of seven years of permitted reserves.

Hamble was allocated as a site to contribute to this county wide supply. The site was allocated as it was seen as the most sustainable option for sand and gravel extraction for the South-Hampshire market area.

Appendix A of the Plan sets out the detail of the allocation and the development considerations that any application will be assessed against. They include:

Ensuring no negative impact on designated nature conservation sites

Water recharge

Access and traffic etc.

Other criteria are listed in Appendix A.

## Need for sand and gravel

Yearly assessments are carried out through the Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA). The current LAA (2021) shows that the 7-year supply is being met but there is a need to greatly increase the supply across Hampshire. This is on the basis that 53% of supply comes from one site. In addition, there has been an increase in construction activity that means demand for aggregates is increasing. Given this, Hamble Airfield will help to meet this extra demand.

## Application detail

The application is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Environmental Statement (ES) has been submitted. As an EIA, there is a need to submit a range of supporting evidence which can be found on the HCC planning application website.

The application provides detailed plans for the removal of 1.7mt of sand and gravel, with the site restored back to current levels after extraction. The application also includes a new access point from Hamble Lane, processing plant, stocking area, water treatment area, weigh bridge, offices and a staff parking area.

There are seven phases of extraction operating in an anti-clockwise direction. The site will be surrounded by a bund varying from 3-5m in

height with access from Hamble Lane with left turn in and right turn only on exit. A conveyor belt will move the aggregate around the site to reduce vehicle movements within the quarry.

Operating hours are proposed as 7am - 5pm Monday to Friday and 7am - 12pm on Saturday with no working on Sunday. Soil stripping will not start before 8am. Maintenance of plant and vehicles is proposed until 6pm Saturday and 7pm in the week.

#### Highway movements

The number of trips to site will vary depending on the phases: years 1-7 = 45 in and 45 out, years 3 -7 = 90 per day plus a further 54 totalling 144 and years 8 -10 = 90 movements per day.

#### Restoration

Two small ponds with parkland, grazing and some public access. There will also be an aftercare period. The length of the aftercare period will be at least 5 years but could be for a longer period should it be required.

#### Community Engagement

Currently in the public consultation stage having registered the application at the start of January 2022. HCC officers are currently at the stage of understanding what the issues are via the consultation responses. These will be collated and where needed further information requested. Any further information requested would be subject to further consultation.

When this process is completed, the Case Officer will compile a report with a recommendation which the RC of HCC will consider. At this juncture it is anticipated that this will be towards the end of the year. Although there is a current closing date for the consultation the Case Officer will continue to consider representations right up to the decision.

If the application were to be approved, there will be a requirement to set up a site Liaison Panel and there will also be regular site visits to monitor the site and ensure compliance with any planning permission granted.

#### Diccon Bright - Strategic Planning Manager

Diccon is responsible for EBC planning policy and wider strategic issues within the organisation. Previously was the Local Area Manager at the time when the site was allocated in 2013 so is aware of the many issues.

#### Local Government in Hampshire

Three tiers of local government all with different functions. Eastleigh Borough Council would be the normal planning authority for the development plan and for most residential and business planning

applications. But in this case Hampshire County Council is the planning authority as it is for a waste or minerals application.

EBC's approach to Hamble Airfield Application.

When the site was considered for allocation in 2013 EBC opposed its inclusion. Many of the detailed issues that EBC raised were deemed detailed in nature and would be assessed when the application comes in - which is now.

EBC is working with the three parish councils, emergency responders and the local business community via the work of the parish councils. EBC have also commissioned independent consultants to assess the transport issues.

EBC will submit two responses - one will be a development management response - which will be considered on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at Kings Church at 7pm. The report is currently published and recommends an objection.

Currently internal (EBC) respondents indicate an objection or that there is insufficient evidence in relation to:

- Ecology and the displacement of recreational users onto other protected habitats.
- Transport
- Noise and air pollution
- Loss of trees at the entrance.

There will also be a strategic response which will consider wider policy issues such as the level of future demand, reuse and recycling and changes to construction techniques and climate change. This will be considered on Thursday 26th March 2022 at 6.30pm.

Steve Tilbury – Steve Tilbury Consulting on behalf of Hamble Parish Council

Most recently worked for Winchester City Council as Strategic Director with experience of Planning Policy and large applications but also has worked in both the private and public sectors. Role is to help the Parish Council to decide how best to respond to the application - with objections that the Planning system will recognise.

Current position.

The HWMP allocates the site and was adopted in 2013. This then becomes the template against which the application is considered. There is no point in rerunning the arguments against the site allocation instead there is a need to focus on whether the application is acceptable based on the evidence that is available.

The Case Officer will, when they have all of the information, make a recommendation based on planning judgement having considered a lot of technical and detailed information. Our role will be to influence the thinking of the case officer to ensure that they understand the local issues and concerns and the technical responses with a focus on where there are material considerations that need to be assessed.

The consultation responses can be found on HCC website. The consultees will only comment on the issues within their remit not on the merits of the application overall. Where issues are found Cemex will be looking to find solutions to the issues being raised. It is therefore an iterative process.

If the application was refused by the RC then the application can be referred to the Planning Inspectorate for further assessment. If there is a procedural issue the case could also be assessed via a judicial review, but this would not look at the decision itself just the way in which the decision is reached.

Detail of the application

HCC will make the decision and it is them that we need to influence - not Cemex. We need to ensure HCC fully understand the impact of the proposals on the local community.

Highways is clearly a major concern and a focus for our work. Cemex have provided a transport assessment which we consider to be weak. They might be able to plug some of the gaps, but we don't believe there is enough information to make a judgement. We will know more when HCC issue their Highways response, but we will continue to pursue this given the impact on congestion, air quality and safety.

Also concerned about the use of infill on the geography of the site and its hydrology. The new habitat must be capable of supporting displaced wildlife and then managed in a way to safeguard it.

Across a range of issues, we will be looking at whether the thresholds set out in planning guidance have been met. These tests are not necessarily the same tests that residents would use in measuring the acceptability of the proposals.

Next steps - get involved.

Make your responses by the deadline. The number of responses against an application is not a reason for refusal but it is an indication of the strength of feeling about the application. When more is known about the areas of weakness the parish may move into a phase that is focused on campaigning rather than on making representations. It will reach out to the community at that stage for help and support.

Paul Holmes MP

Welcomed the chance to attend the meeting and to hear resident's views. Paul confirmed he was opposed to the application as he does not believe that the site cannot be mitigated sufficiently to make it acceptable or suitable.

He has met with HCC twice and Cemex. Disappointed that Cemex are not present and that their consultation was a sham. He has fed this back to both Cemex and to Ministers to prevent a similar situation in another location.

A copy of his objections were circulated to the meeting and are summarised as:

Level of congestion along Hamble Lane and the impact that has on residents and businesses.

Concerns about child safety in the proximity of both schools

Noise and air quality for those in the immediate vicinity.

Believes that the situation has changed on Hamble Lane since the site was allocated. This makes the congestion and air quality much worse, and the situation should be reassessed.

Mr Govan - Headteacher - The Hamble School

Access to the school needs improvement and this proposal will make it worse. A few years ago, the school had a roll of 840 students now its 1200. There is also a higher footfall due to the successes of the sports facilities that are used throughout the day. Hamble Lane is therefore so much busier.

Has real concern for the health and safety of students, parents and sports users. Also concerned about noise and air pollution and flooding is already a feature of the school campus and worried it will make it worse.

If the proposals take 14 years that is three generations of children that will be blighted by the proposals and as it stands not enough reassurance about mitigation.

Dr Mark Tomson

Surgery has concerns about the impact of the proposals on health; with concerns about silicosis and other public health issues related to air quality. Currently 6% of patients have asthma and 2% have COPD. Real fears that poor air quality from dust and pollution will exacerbate this. Also, there is often a lag in symptoms presenting and we need to be aware of this. Also worried about emergency responders being able to get into the village.

Blackthorn will make a submission opposing the application.

Cllr Rob Humby

Confirmed he was there to listen both as the deputy leader of HCC and the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment and was not on the Regulatory Committee.

Questions from the public

1. How can we be confident that HCC - namely Highways - will make an independent assessment of the proposal's when another part of HCC has already allocated the site.

Cllr Hand - responded that all elected members were responsible to the monitoring officer to ensure that everyone acted appropriately.

Lisa Kirby-Hawkes – The Case Officer will make the recommendation, having looked at the application, the evidence and consultation responses received and will present it to the Regulatory Committee. They will then make the decision based on the merits of the case. Recently a decision has been refused despite an officer recommendation to approve.

2. Recognised that marine aggregate couldn't be used without causing problems elsewhere along the coast - but the impact of works on Windhover roundabout by Transport England and the additional HGV movements will cause problems. It is rumoured that Hamble Farm which is four times the size of the new

developments is due to come forward for development and in this part of the world these types of rumours tend to come true.

3. Are we at risk of shooting ourselves in the foot? The golf course was turned down and now we have this. If this is turned down wont, we have a housing development instead?  
Currently the site is safeguarded for sand and gravel extraction, and it could not be allocated by EBC for housing before the gravel was extracted. That would not preclude Persimmon bringing forward an application at a future time. The site restoration plan has been devised in such a way as to make development an option in the future.
4. Have you any other quarries in urban areas in Hampshire  
Hardley near Fawley is adjacent to residential area.
5. The site could be dedicated as a Village Green after the extraction to safeguard it for the future.  
Lisa Kirby-Hawkes – It will be important that public access is safeguarded through the restoration of the site and people should make this point in their responses.
6. How long typically is an aftercare plan and would it protect it from future development?  
Lisa Kirby-Hawkes - minimum is 5 years but some can be as long as 50 years and depends on the circumstances.
7. How will the cost of restoration be secured in case the company goes into liquidation?  
Lisa Kirby-Hawkes - HCC would look to use a range of mechanism's which could include a bond or a section 106 agreement
8. Recycle and reuse - how can we develop this further?  
This is recognised within the plan and the intention is to move to that position but while the market catches up there will be a need to still use land won aggregates.
9. Understand that highways will look at infrastructure but who will look at the safety of using the rail bridge?  
Lisa Kirby Hawkes - HCC Highways will consider this.

Cllr Hand drew the meeting to a close having thanks the contributors and the public for their attendance.

Meeting ended at 8.54pm