

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting of Woodham Walter Parish Council.
Held at 8pm in Women's Club, Top Road, Woodham Walter.

Monday 10th October 2011

Present:

Cllr. James Bunn
Cllr. Andrew Newland
Cllr. Gill Orford
Cllr. Peter Warren
Cllr. Mark Durham (in attendance from 8.30pm to close)

Others: Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk)

Public: 3

554. Welcome Cllr. Warren nominated and Cllr. Orford seconded Cllr. James Bunn to Chair the meeting. Cllr Bunn welcomed those present to the meeting.

555. Apologies For Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mark Durham, Cllr. David Potter, Christine McDonald and Arthur Harlow.

556. Register of Declared Interests There were no interests declared, the register was duly signed.

557. Vacancy for Parish Councillor Formally noted the resignation of Councillor Angus Neale from the Parish Council with effect from 17th September. A Notice of Vacancy has been erected on the notice board and is also on the website. The deadline for parishioners to call for an election was 7th October. Clerk awaiting instruction from MDC to co-opt a new member in due course. Position has been advertised in the parish magazine and on our website and notice board. Interested parishioners should contact clerk for further information/to formally apply.

558. Public Forum Clerk has received letter from Mr Harlow who had offered his apologies but requested his letter be read out. Clerk duly read his letter of objection to the proposed gravel pit at Whitehouse Farm. There were 3 members of the public present.

Jenny Plumb commented that she understood a councillor had indicated that a roundabout would be recommended at the Top Tit Lane junction and she is very concerned and would be very against the idea of a roundabout which in her opinion would cause even more problems and congestion and would be inappropriate in this location.

Elizabeth Gillam also commented that she objected to the sighting of a roundabout at this junction.

Doug Plumb commented that the exit onto the A414 had changed since the historic application in the 1980's. Councillors responded that this was not a Council held view as it had not been formally discussed. This sort of minutiae would be part of a more detailed planning application if the site went through to the preferred list stage. At present the strategy from Essex County Council is not clear but councillors noted the concerns.

559. Minutes Of Parish Council Meeting Held On 12th September 2011. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed.

560. Matters Arising

560.1 (443.1) Village Footpath Map. It had been ascertained that 4000 copies had been printed at a cost of £1000 but this did not include any cartography. The printer was provided with the map, photographs and did a small amount of setting up. Cllr. Bunn to investigate cost of cartography.

560.2 Dengie Dart. Update: *The first stage of the Big Society Fund application has now been submitted. They expect to hear outcome of 1st stage in 7 days.*

561. Minerals Development Document - Site Allocations Issues and Options (August 2011) Site A44: Whitehouse Farm, Woodham Walter.

561.1 Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20th September 2011 at Woodham Walter Village Hall. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed.

561.2 It was noted that the officers recommendation to oppose site A44 was accepted by MDC Planning & Licensing Committee.

561.3 To resolve Woodham Walter Parish Council's response to the consultation.

Cllr. Newland had prepared a detailed and comprehensive draft document which strongly objects to the inclusion of site A44, Whitehouse Farm in the ECC Minerals Development Document.

The report received unanimous support from all councillors (including those not present who had advised clerk of their support) and it was resolved that Cllr. Newland/clerk will liaise with councillors and finalise details over the next few days and submit the report. The report will also be available on the Woodham Walter Parish Council website. The final report will be attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

562. Planning – APPLICATIONS

562.1 WTPO/MAL/11/00857 Oaklands, Rectory Road

TPO 6/74 area 1 (6/74) – Various works to 7 oak trees, including crown lift, reduction of crowns in areas adjacent to Highway, selective reduction of some limbs, see application for full specification. Removal of deadwood and dangerous limbs.

There were no objections, clerk to write accordingly.

563. Planning - DECISIONS None to date.

It was noted that the only decision outstanding is Meadows Barn appeal – no expected date available on website. Documents inc.50 page statement from appellant appear on line.

564. Other Planning Matters

564.1 Falconers Lodge. It is understood that the new owner is a developer and understands the history of the site and his obligation under the enforcement to remove the spoil. It is estimated that this could take 1000 lorries approximately 3 months to complete and the precise details are currently being approved by English Heritage/MDC. It is anticipated that a planning application for a house on the site will follow in due course. Councillors are reassured that finally the enforcement is to be carried out to return the site to former ground levels. It is accepted that there could be some disruption during the movement of so many lorries.

564.2 HOUSE/MAL/11/00554 9 Rectory Road

APPROVE (DEL)

Part single, part double storey rear extension, internal alterations and front conservatory.

Clerk queried reason this was a delegated decision as we had sent a letter with comments. Our letter does not appear to have made it onto the system, David Wallis is investigating. Clerk has chased this up with Jennifer Candler and awaits a response.

564.3 Delivering a Shared Common Spatial Vision – Maldon District – North West Area Workshop on 18th October 6.30-9pm at Goldhanger Village Hall. To be attended by Cllr's Durham, Newland and Potter.

564.4 Noted MDC Planning Appeal wins at Woodham Mortimer and Mundon.

565. Payments The following payments were authorised and cheques duly signed.

565.1 e-on – Noted the account is now only £3.88 in credit. Direct debits will resume again next month.

565.2 A&J Lighting Solutions – Monthly DD

565.3 Clerks Salary + Allowance/Expenses. It was noted that the clerks hours were significantly more this month due to the associated work arising from the Minerals Development Document.

565.4 Woodham Walter Village Hall £25.50 (Hire of hall for extraordinary meeting)

565.5 TC Montrose £67.20 (Hip flask and no parking signs)

565.6 Audit Commission £162 (Audit)

566. Other Financial Matters

566.1 Receipt of interest payment for period 6 Jun-4 Sep £1.46

566.2 Receipt of payment from BMVA re: Party Tents £687.50

566.3 To update the bank mandate with new signatory following resignation of Angus Neale. Cllr. Durham proposed Cllr. Warren to be the new signatory; this was seconded by Cllr. Orford, all in agreement. Clerk to order necessary forms.

566.4 It was noted that Cllr. Durham had carried out a 6 month review of the parish council's accounts, bank statements and cheque books as part of the internal financial controls. All found to be in order.

566.5 Clerk requested that the payroll be outsourced. Councillors agreed that outsourcing would be a good idea and ask clerk to seek information and quotes from 3 companies. Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Bunn.

567. Report Of The District Councillor Cllr. Durham reported that it had been a relatively quiet time apart from the Minerals Development Document and that the Planning & Licensing committee had approved a robust objection to site A44, Whitehouse Farm, Woodham Walter. He also commented that there is some concern that planning officers are no longer able to treat "development outside envelopes" as a reason for refusal and are likely to approve plans on the basis of there being no local plan. It was noted that Marcus Shingler has been appointed as Development Team Leader. MDC are widening their means of notification for larger scale development applications and will be writing to neighbours as well as erecting signs.

568. Highways

568.1 Ref: 3047205 Salt bin. Audit planned for Aug/Sept when bin will be refilled.

3-Oct chased up and informed that the audit work is ongoing. Clerk will continue to chase.

568.2 Winter Salt Bag Scheme – Clerk has applied for scheme. Colin Warner has kindly agreed to receive the delivery at West Bowers but we need to find volunteers (via clerk) prepared to store a couple of bags of salt and apply as required in strategic village locations. (Footpath adj. Shop and school/Top Road footpath/Queen Vic junction/Bell Junction).

568.3 Ref: 1634088 Footpath, Rectory Road. Inspectors report 12/9/11 – vegetation has been trimmed back by householders. Cllr. Warren has inspected and confirms vegetation has been cut back but the path is in a very poor state of repair. The path is only about 18" wide but it was thought that it used to be wider and that the grass has grown over the path. Clerk to report again and enquire about maintenance.

568.4 Ref: 1846312 Oak Farm Road – pot hole near to Herbage Park Road junction reported. Awaiting inspector report. – Awaiting funding as it is at edge of carriageway.

568.5 Ref: 3058547 West Bowers - Drain Cover Missing. Reported 28/7/11.

3-Oct Chased up– apologies the contractor claims not to have received order – this has now been replaced.

568.6 Call from Pat Warner requesting that the junction of Oak Farm Road/Tom Tit Lane and Old London Road has improved signage and vegetation cut back. Cllr. Newland has inspected and reports that the vegetation has now been cut back and improved. There are a few stray branches which he will deal with.

568.7 Local Highways Panel Meeting – 7th October. Noted.

568.8 Cllr. Bunn informed that he has received a copy of letter from George Thomson confirming that Highways are responsible for the verge along Rectory Road. Clerk to file letter.

569. Local Issues

569.1 **Bell Meadow/Playground.** The book was duly signed, there were no reported incidents.

Cllr's agreed Cllr Durham's suggestion of replacing tree for a Flowering Cherry and he will arrange this.

569.2 **Footpath Officer Report** Cllr Warren reported that he has erected some new Maldon Millennium Way signs.

569.3 **One Place On Wheels - Woodham Walter.** It was noted that the next visit including mobile police vehicle – Friday 14th October , Friday 11th November from 1300-1400 at WW Village Hall.

569.4 **School Report** Cllr. Warren had attended the recent Kenya Tea Party.

569.5 **Allotments Report** - Following resignation of Cllr. Neale there is a requirement for a Parish Councillor to Chair the Allotments Association, as per agreement with land owners. Cllr. Durham proposed and Cllr. Bunn seconded that Cllr. Orford be elected to Chair the Allotments committee, all in agreement.

569.6 **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** – following resignation of Cllr. Neale from the council, clerk will ascertain if he is intending to continue to lead this committee.

569.7 **Community Speed Watch** The team will continue to monitor speeds through the village. More volunteers are required, clerk to find out about future training sessions.

569.8 **Litter** Clerk to report concrete lump in ditch opposite Jasmine House, Blue Bill Lane.

569.9 **Collapse of bank** Cllr. Durham has again chased the Environment Agency, as has Mr Keep. Councillors ask Clerk to write again as the responses to date have been entirely unsatisfactory.

569.10 **Broadband** – Cllr. Durham is due to meet with Fibrewifi who provide broadband using radio technology. The service is already available in some areas of the village and the few remaining areas with weak signals should be available in a few weeks. They offer up to 12.5mb broadband upload and download speed.

569.11 **Neighbourhood Meeting** – Tuesday 1st November at Woodham Walter Village Hall. 7pm-9pm. This meeting was formally the NAP.

569.12 **Village Agent** Mrs McDonald had reported that Village Agents are promoting various issues including Community Resilience in the event of an emergency. Vulnerable parishioners can register with Maldon District Council's Emergency Planning Team in order to receive priority attention from the emergency services in the event of a major emergency; Free Electrical Equipment Testing for over 65's; "ICE" your mobile phone, this stands for "In Case of Emergency", the idea is to add ICE to the list of contacts on your mobile phone and include a telephone number of a person to contact in the event of an emergency.

570. Correspondence

570.1 EALC – Law & Procedures Course – 15th November, 0930-1530, Great Dunmow

570.2 wRAGE – Woodham Walter Residents Against Gravel Extraction – information leaflet. It was noted that this information leaflet and the roadside signs that have helped to raise the profile of the consultation, were not distributed by the Parish Council.

570.3 ECC Corporate Vision – Consultation (Deadline 20th November)

570.4 ECC Trading Standards – Request for intelligence from Councillors. Clerk to forward email.

570.5 Boundary Commission for England – Review of parliamentary constituencies in England. .
www.independent.gov.uk/boundarycommissionforengland Noted closing date for consultation 5th December.

570.6 Thanks for grant from Silver Threads

570.7 EWT/Essex Biodiversity – Danbury Living Landscape Hedgerow Survey. Seeking landowner permission for survey to be carried out Bell Meadow. Councillors approved, clerk to respond.

570.8 Parish Transport Representatives Meeting – 18th October, 1400, Maldon.

570.9 Priti Patel MP writes with contact details and if there are any concerns raised with the parish council or matters that she can assist with to contact her. Cllr's suggest that clerk sends copies of minutes in future and also a copy of the Mineral Development Plan response.

570.10 CPRE – Guide to responding to planning applications. It was noted that the website is also very useful.

571. Points Of Information

571.1 Emergency Planning – Cllr's ask that the Emergency Plan file is brought up to date and should be reviewed annually. Clerk to collect Emergency Box from MDC on 25th October and will investigate when the file was last updated. To include on future agenda.

572. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 14th November 2011 at 8pm in Womens Club Room, Top Road.

Signed

Meeting ended at 10.10pm

Dated

WOODHAM WALTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minerals & Waste Planning
Environment, Sustainability and Highways
Essex County Council
E3 County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1XZ

18th October 2011

Via email to: mineralsandwastepolicy@essex.gov.uk

Minerals Development Document Site Allocations – Issues and Options Paper (August 2011)

**Response to Consultation by Woodham Walter Parish Council in respect
of Site A44 – Whitehouse Farm**

**Question 1(a) – Do you support this potential site for sand and gravel
extraction?**

Answer – No

**Question 1(b) – Do you object to this potential site for sand and gravel
extraction?**

Answer – Yes

**Question 1(c) – If (b), are there any changes that could be made to this
proposal that would make it acceptable to you**

Answer - No

**Question 1(d) – Is the proposed after-use acceptable to you? If not, what
do you consider to be appropriate after-use at this location and why?**

Answer – No, because the level and character of the landscape will be
dramatically affected and visible for miles around.

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Question 6 Other comments

Woodham Walter Parish Council would like to make the following comments in respect of Site A44

Mineral Resources & Timetable

The evaluation of this Site A44 application should be on the basis of the submission made. However, in this particular case it is important to put the application into proper context and to be aware of a range of important issues on which the application is silent.

The supporting information contained with the February 2011 Site A44 application makes it clear that the applicant has in mind a much larger quarry. This is relevant because the responses to the consultation will be on the basis of 4mt over a 15 year period where as future extraction of the adjacent site could well be double this quantity

The applicant's geophysical report supporting the February 2011 application (Gwinner & Vann 1974, page 9) shows 4mt of gravel being extracted and, in addition 2.4mt of sand. It is not clear whether this sand will be retained on the site and used to backfill or whether it will be exported. Were it to be the latter, then there would be an approximately 60% increase in the declared vehicle movements, dust and noise pollution.

The A44 application makes provision for a processing plant on the site. This is common on larger sites, as there is the space and economies of scale to justify the installation. However, the application is silent on whether the processing plant will be exclusively for the extractions from the A44 quarry. Once again, any imported extraction for processing will have an adverse affect on vehicle movements, dust and noise pollution.

In summary, the application is for the extraction of 4mt of gravel, but in reality the site could produce 12mt (4mt gravel +2mt sand x double the site area) or 600,000 vehicle loads (excluding any importation for processing). This is the context that needs to be taken into consideration.

Planning History

This site was the subject of planning applications in 1979 (MAL459/79) and 1983 (MAL465/83), both of which were refused.

An appeal against these refusals was dismissed in 1985 and followed by an appeal to the High Court in 1987 that set aside the decision of the Inspector.

In 1988 a new appeal was heard and dismissed.

In the summary to the 1988 appeal the Inspector, GS Elliff stated, *inter alia*:

- o *Gravel extraction would cut aquifer supplying springs, having detrimental effect on moisture loving plants growing in The Wilderness*
- o *Trees likely to be severely stressed by change in environment*
- o *Inconvenience & loss of enjoyment to footpath users due to unsightly heaps and excavations, and noise from machinery!*
- o *Frequent movements of large lorries across open countryside would be intrusive to rural scene*

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- o *The proposed sand and gravel working would be seriously detrimental to the character of the rural area in both the short term and also in the longer term*
- o *Think that the proposal would also be seriously detrimental to the amenities enjoyed by residents and visitors to the area*

It is disingenuous that the site applicants failed to make any reference to this in its notional 'scoring' of the site in their submission in February 2011

Woodham Walter has been identified as a probable Conservation Area. This will be subject to public consultation in the next 18 months. In the event of it being so designated this may well have implications for any future planning application for the proposed site, as it is likely to directly abut the proposed Conservation Area

Landscape

The area of the site is one of 'high landscape character', gently rolling countryside, still showing evidence of [ancient] field patterns with extensive views across the River Chelmer valley and with similar views into the site area.

The site is wholly within the **Woodham Wooded Farmland Reference F6** under the Landscape Character Assessment. This states, *inter alia*, ...'overall this area has a relatively high sensitivity to change'...and ...'seek to protect and enhance positive features that are essential in contributing to local distinctiveness and sense of place...'

Ecology & Designations

The site is wholly within the **Chelmer/Blackwater Special Landscape Area** as designated in the Maldon District Replacement Local Plan – Adopted Written Statement (November 2005)

Furthermore, the immediate vicinity of the site contains two areas of **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)**. These are **Site reference W7, the Wilderness** and **Site Reference G2, Old London Road** historic roadside verges.

There is evidence of a diversity of animal species in the vicinity including badgers, skylarks, hares, common lizards and **Nationally Scarce** insects.

Essex Wildlife Trust has stated that **The Wilderness is a BAP Priority Habitat (Wet Woodland)** and their '*concern is that the proposed extraction area comes so close to this important wildlife site that the level of noise and disturbance will have a very large adverse impact on the wildlife that depends on this sensitive habitat*'

North East Essex Badger Group designates the badger sets within The Wilderness as 'vulnerable'. The proposed development will not improve this situation.

Policy M/NE/11 Nature Conservation states, *inter alia*, ...'permission will not normally be given for any development which would adversely affect local nature reserves, sites of importance to nature conservation...'

The proposed development and its associated access are not only incompatible with these formal designations but would lead to its substantial deterioration.

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In spite of the above, the site applicants Ecology Desk Study in support of their February 2011 submission makes reference to the SINC W7 (the Wilderness) but ignores the affects of the development on site G2 Old London Road.

Historic Environment

The site is wholly within the Essex County Council Historic Environmental Characterisation Zone 2008 Reference HECZ 7.1

The surrounding area of the site has high incidence of historic and archaeological interest spanning Iron Age to Victorian era. The area has been a popular settlement for 2000 years being a safe location on the escarpment above the River Chelmer. This was a prime location, close to its own stream and springs, between the fishing and flood plain of the river, close to the agriculture and grazing and safe from invasion from the River Blackwater estuary.

Immediately to the north of the site, adjacent to Whitehouse Farm itself, there is evidence of crop circles. To the west, at the Warren Golf Course there has been evidence of Roman pottery and a cemetery site. It is highly likely that the A44 site will have historic interest.

In the immediate vicinity of the proposed site there are [13] listed buildings and pottery from the late twelfth century has been discovered in the gardens of Black Cottage, Ashmans and Bannister Cottage, immediately to the north of the proposed site.

On the western boundary of the site lies ancient woodland containing a Scheduled Ancient Monument (the ruins of 16th Century Woodham Walter Hall). HECZ 7.1 describes this as....*'the remains of a moated manor house and associated gardens, fishponds and earthworks'*. It continues ...*'the woodland in the zone may preserve earthwork boundaries and other features of medieval origin together with further undated earthwork earthworks within woodland on the north and east facing slopes overlooking the middle Chelmer Valley'*.

So whilst the site of the Scheduled Ancient Monument is formally defined the extent of the archaeological interest is not. It is quite likely to extend over the site of the proposed development.

The site applicants themselves state that the site ...*'lies in an area of high archaeological potential'* in the Rapid Appraisal of Cultural Heritage, January 2011 supporting their submission in February 2011.

Agriculture

The site is on good quality arable land (Grade 2) in wide-open, economically farmed fields.

Proximity to Sensitive Uses

It is understood that approximately 20 properties fall within the nominal 250m zone and have received formal notification from Essex County Council. We believe there may be an inaccuracy here as the Wood Corner caravan site contains approximately 20 habitable residences in its own right.

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Were the 250m nominal zone be increased to 350m it would coincide with much of the centre of Woodham Walter village including the school, pub and post office/shop.

In addition, some of the proximate residences include the Wood Corner caravan site and Woodham Walter Primary School. The caravan site is a very settled Travellers site with 20 units containing approximately 60 people including a high proportion of vulnerable adults and children who spend more of their life in the open air than traditional inhabitants. The Woodham Walter School playground boundary is approximately 260m from the proposed site. In addition, the school has a 'forest school' based in The Wilderness and hosts teachers from many other schools in Essex to experience best practice for nature and ecology based project work

The site applicants notional scoring within their February 2011 submission scored this 'green'.

Water/Hydrology

The adjacent area has many local springs, particularly feeding the river through The Wilderness. These springs are also crucial to the flora and fauna of The Wilderness.

In the site applicants geophysical survey report (Gwimmer & Sons 1974) it describes an average dig of 'overburden' of 14 feet (4.3m) plus an average thickness of sand and gravel of 21 feet (6.5m). This adds up to an average depth of 35 feet (10.75m) and a maximum depth of 50ft (15.3m)

There is considerable local concern that such deep excavation will have an adverse affect on the water table, springs and river through the Wilderness and some local residents who still extract domestic water from boreholes.

The site applicants notional scoring within their February 2011 submission scored this 'green'

Traffic & Transport

The applicant's proposal is incomplete and ill thought through.

The applicant's proposal projects 64 lorry movements per day. This is broadly consistent with the ECC methodology for calculation but fails to recognise that the reality may be considerably more than that. There will be approximately 200,000 lorry loads over the life plus staff traffic and potentially additional traffic using the processing facility. In addition, during peak periods, it is likely that vehicles will make two trips per day, so the actual effective traffic passes (causing noise, pollution and traffic) could well be 240 (64 x two return trips per day)

The proposed haul road is approximately 2000 metres long that will cause noise, dust for its entire length.

The junction with Old London Rd is a considerable concern. It is a 'C' class local road, almost a country lane. The junction will be [100m] from a narrow bend on a corner with reduced visibility. The slow moving traffic on the haul road will be a hazard in its own right and it will deposit spoil and debris on the road causing a braking hazard. In addition, there is a reasonable expectation that (notwithstanding regulation to the contrary) many lorries will turn directly

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onto Old London Rd and access other local roads which, with weight and width restrictions, are wholly inappropriate for such traffic.

The access on to Tom Tit Lane is illogical and unsafe. This is a narrow country lane that is totally unsuited to the expected volume of traffic. It is understood that the applicant may have proposed this route to avoid a new access onto the A414, which would be contrary to Essex CC Highways policy. In addition, the Tom Tit Lane junction (and junction either side) is already dangerous and congested and the site of frequent accidents

It is unclear which way the traffic is expected to leave Tom Tit Lane. Logically, it would leave by the main trunk route, the A414 via Danbury. However, this route is already hugely congested. The alternative would take traffic through Maldon and the B1019 via Langford. This is narrow, with bends and bridges and wholly inappropriate for the purpose.

The nearby Tyndales (A35) site scored 'amber 2' and the Whitehouse Farm (A44) site shares all the same issues plus a few more. Notwithstanding, the site applicants notional scoring within their February 2011 submission scored this 'amber 1', one 'score' lower than a perfect green.

Recreation

The proposed site is crossed by three footpaths (PRoW) reference FP14, FP16 and FP18. One of these is designated the Maldon Millennium Way, established in 1991 to commemorate the Battle of Maldon in 991

The proposed development will largely destroy these footpaths as their tranquil rural setting will be absent for 15 years and then of an entirely different character afterwards with limited views from a large depression in the landscape.

Amenity & Pollution

There is considerable concern at the level of likely pollution caused by, noise light and dust from the site and its 2km access route, the huge number of traffic movements and inevitable congestion. There is extensive evidence of health issues due to the close proximity of the village and other residents particularly with regard to the dust.

Particulate matter (PM) is made up of fine particles that are suspended in the air. These can be naturally forming or man-made. Large particles will settle quickly and do not remain airborne for long, smaller particles, however, may stay in the air and can travel long distances. Small dust particles, such as PM10 (i.e. measuring up to 10 microns), are known to have adverse impacts on human health (such as causing or aggravating asthma) and larger particles can also be a nuisance. There are many sources of dust, including transport emissions and industry. Minerals extraction and processing can be a source of dust emissions, which can be detrimental to human health. The effects of the dust may reach people up to 1km away.

The principle GP practice serving Woodham Walter has noted that one of their highest costs is for asthma and allergy. It is feared that prescribing will increase year on year, admissions will become more frequent, and public health costs will rise. There may be legal implications too – given the quite clear statement in the Sustainability Report – for patients with life threatening

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allergy and asthma who would be entitled to sue for compensation if they are adversely affected.

The Traveller community from the ECC site at Wood Corner have expressed particular concern at the proximity of the extraction and the implication for their way of life. Indeed, in recent meetings with Travellers' there has been a common sentiment that Travellers will seek to move on should they be required to live in the proposed environment. This would be a shame as the community is generally settled and the site a successful one for ECC.

The **Greater Essex Integrated County Strategy – Sustainability Report (December 2010)** sets out a number of 'sustainability themes'. These include inter alia:

- o Protect and improve air quality.
- o Maintain air quality levels in line with national and/or WHO targets
- o Protect, improve and enhance human health and well being
- o Maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity
- o Protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity
- o Ensure the needs of Gypsy and Traveler groups are met.
- o Protect, maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes.
- o Reduce road congestion

In the light of the above it would appear that developing this pit so close to residential areas is contrary to many existing policies and it should be removed from the assessment, both now and from any future applications

After Use & Restoration

The proposed restoration plan is a return to agriculture. This may work, but all the significant landscape features will be lost. An average 10.75m deep hollow will replace the views to and from the site. The site may also be further blighted by the subsequent development of the adjacent potential minerals site

Other Potential Benefits of the Site

None.

Woodham Walter Parish Council
18th October 2011

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