

# SHERIFFHALES PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES FROM PLANNING CONSULTATION MEETING

**Sheriffhales Village Hall at 7.30pm  
Thursday 07<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Reference	Applicant	Address
17/03661/EIA	NRS	Woodcote Wood, Weston Heath, Shropshire, TF11 8RS
Description		
New access & installation of processing plant to facilitate sand & gravel extraction on adjacent Woodcote Wood site		

### **1. Chairman's welcome and announcements**

Cllr A MacWhannell welcomed everyone present.

A Parish Council planning meeting had been called for tonight in light of application being received in respect of Woodcote Quarry. However, it was quickly identified that due to the significant community impacts of the proposed development and significant community concern a public meeting and consultation was needed to reassure the community and to gather comments to enable the parish council to formulate a response that reflected our communities view and wishes.

### **2. Background**

The Chairman explained that in August a proposal for both a new access and installation of a processing plant to facilitate sand and gravel extraction from the adjacent Woodcote site was received. The timing of the submission making it difficult for us to submit an appropriate detailed response in the time required, our clerk obtained an extension to the deadline for submission and we arranged a special meeting to agree a community response. The Parish Council already had significant concerns about the impact of what is in effect development of yet another potential site of active quarrying in our locality, its impact on the already at times dangerous A41, the nearby junction with the B4379 and traffic flows through our parish as well as their local environmental impact. An initial planning application in 2006 for Quarry activity at Woodcote Wood had not gone ahead as environmental assessments requiring a Roundabout had never been met.

Shropshire Councillor Kevin Turley thanked attendees and informed the meeting that the new application was due to go to South Shropshire Planning Committee Planning Committee in October and members of the public are able to attend. Whilst the Parish Council can formulate response to plans this only counts as one view. However residents and interested parties can

register comments and are encouraged to do so either electronically or by writing can to Shropshire Council with their comments.

### **3. Some Steps for consideration suggested by Chairman**

- Do we need a quarry?
- If Woodcote site is preferred – are the community impacts fully evaluated
- What is needed to mitigate impact and has this been assessed

### **4. Public Opportunity to Speak**

Forms were circulated at meeting to enable members of the public to express their views. In addition, an attendance list was compiled. The written responses and comments and subsequent comments made at the meeting have been noted and circulated or reported to Councillors. A representative selection of views expressed is outlined below and are to be taken into consideration in formulating the Parish Council response.

It is envisaged that 70 vehicles will use site daily all approaching a T junction onto the A41. Originally the quarry site was agreed when a roundabout access was proposed. Now the application has come back siting a T junction. The Highways need to look closely at plans when they are reviewing application.

There are already numerous incidents on the A41, there have been 20 deaths over the past 25-30 years between Gorsey Bank and Pave Lane, plus a number of unreported incidents.

Will vehicles cut through onto B4379 to access A5 / Telford.

A full impact report needs to be undertaken working with Environmental and Highways teams.

Roundabout would be essential not proposed T junction.

What assurances are there in place that the land is re-instated to appropriate environmentally sensitive manner, what is classed as appropriate?

On dry days the site will cause dust, on wet day the wheel scuppers need to be effective otherwise could add to skid factor.

The A41 is already a busy road, by adding extra quarry traffic will add to hazards.

The quarry life is 13 years so not a sustainable long term project.

The impacts on local residents are not being considered at all in submitted documents.