

***Salford Priors, Bidford & Broom  
and Arrow, Abbots Morton, Cookhill,  
Weethley and Harvington***

**SAND AND GRAVEL  
news**

**IF YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A QUARRY  
THEN DO NOTHING**

**By Kim James**

**District Councillor and Chairman of Salford Priors Parish Council**

Twenty two years ago the Parish of Salford Priors faced a planning application for a quarry at Marsh Farm to extract an estimated 3.2 million tonnes of sand and gravel for a period of eleven years. Two years later this became a reality. One of the main reasons given at the time was that there was no Minerals Plan for the county.

Today we face the prospect of an industry led approach to impose four new gravel sites, also the possibility of retaining the two adopted areas of search (Abbots Salford & Bidford) currently identified in the existing Minerals Plan.

Those residents who believe that the new sites are just "proposals" at this stage, or that there is no need to do anything, need to realise, that if these proposals survive this consultation process then in November they will become the preferred options of Warwickshire County Council who will then submit them to the Secretary of State.

**They need to be removed from the core strategy now!**

There is overwhelming concern from all quarters on the Berry Coppice proposal, a site only metres away from Dunnington School, alongside houses, businesses, the destruction of an ancient woodland and within the setting of historic Ragley Park.

On its own the proposed Broom Lane northern extension to the Marsh Farm Quarry, excavating an estimated 250,000 tones of aggregate over a one year period is probably palatable.

The other two proposed eastern extensions to the quarry will have an impact on the village of Broom.

The saleable aggregate from all four proposed areas is estimated at 3.3 million tonnes over a 15 year extraction time.

**The cumulative effect of these proposals would be devastating.**

Enough is enough, the quarry at Marsh Farm has currently produced over 4 million tonnes of saleable aggregate. This area has surely made its contribution, it's now time for the County Council to consider all alternative sources of materials to reduce the need for virgin aggregates.

Salford Priors Parish Council's representations are not just site specific, we are also making comment over the context of the policies in the core strategy document.

The distinctiveness of the area we live in, is largely a function of it's past history and cultural traditions, this is what gives this area its sense of place, identity and character.

Neighbouring communities are also affected by these proposals. If not by the extraction, then by HGV traffic movements namely the parishes of Arrow, Abbots Morton, Bidford on Avon, Cookhill, Weethley & Harvington.

**If you want to live in a quarry then do nothing, otherwise write to Warwickshire County Council now. Please do not leave it to others.**

**THIS IS THE EXISTING MARSH FARM QUARRY TWENTY YEARS AFTER WORK STARTED ON THE SITE. THIS VIEW OF THE A46 SHOWS EXCAVATION CONTINUING AND RESTORATION UNFINISHED.**



**BROOM: QUARRIES ON YOUR DOORSTEP**

**By Elizabeth Uggerloese  
Clerk to Bidford Parish Council**

You have only to look at the maps for sites 9 and 10 of the Potential Minerals Sites for Consideration, to see why the residents of Broom are very, very concerned – both sites are virtually on their doorsteps!

The document states the following under the heading Development of Core Strategy that it should *have full regard for the concerns and interests of local communities and protect them from unacceptable environmental effects resulting from mineral developments*"

With the distance from site to settlement being no more than the breadth of the river – approx. 5 metres – that would be next to impossible!

*Minimize the impact of the movement of bulk by road on local communities*

As the sites are being considered as extensions to Marsh Farm in Dunnington, there will be considerable movement of vehicles on a very minor road which was not built to bear this sort of traffic.

Policy Principle 6: Transport states that *sites put forward for allocation must have good access to major roads and demonstrate that there will be no adverse impact on communities.*

Both the proposed sites fail this principle – they are NOT close to a major road and there WILL BE an adverse impact on the local community.

There are other issues, such as dust and noise that, with the prevailing wind, will have a huge impact on the local community – we already suffer from the dust coming from current sites which make it impossible for a large number of residents to dry their clothes outdoors, unless they like a covering of dust!

The Parish Council will be replying in full to Warwickshire County Council opposing the sites and also requesting the removal of the Broom Court site in Bidford-on-Avon from the Minerals Local Plan (1995) Areas of Search for Sand and Gravel as it understands there have been no requests for this site. It would also urge ALL residents of the Parish to write to WCC - the more letters they receive, the better the chance of success.



**Millers Bank, Broom, where quarrying would reach the river and threaten those residents with homes on the Broom village side.**

**ENOUGH is ENOUGH**

**WE WANT YOU TO OBJECT TO THE QUARRY PROPOSALS. HERE ARE SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER IN YOUR CONSULTATION RESPONSE.**

There are two ways to respond to the consultation. You can respond directly to the questions set out by the County Council; these questions may be found on the Warwickshire County Council website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mineralscorestrategy](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mineralscorestrategy).

Alternatively, you can respond by writing a letter just including the points you wish to make. Responses should be sent to Planning Policy, Environment and Economy, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SX.

**Issues regarding the policy**

Is there a need for more gravel extraction in Salford Priors? Should sites be shared around so everyone suffers equally. Does a time come when enough is enough?

Can recycled aggregates diminish the need for virgin materials?

Should extensions to existing sites be very tightly defined?

Should there be a minimum buffer zone distance between workings and houses?

What forms of restoration might be suitable for sites where gravel has been extracted? Should restoration follow quickly after extraction?

Should restoration conditions be made more enforceable.

How do you think "need" should be balanced against

"the concerns and interests of local communities"?

What do you think are the main adverse impacts of gravel extraction? Transport? Noise? Dust? Loss of trees? Loss of views? Loss of peaceful enjoyment of the countryside? Etc. Etc..

**Issues regarding specific sites (new sites)**

**Site 7 Berry Coppice, Dunnington**

Effect on Hillers Farm shop. Effect on Dunnington Primary School. Effect on houses nearby. Part of the woods currently covering the area are ancient woodland. The Dunnington crossroads is an important junction that has a high accident rate already. The site is on rising ground to the West and will be prominent to residents of Dunnington.

**Site 8 North of Broom Lane, Marsh Farm Quarry**

Dumper trucks will cross Broom Lane, a safety issue. Restoration of Marsh Farm quarry has not been completed

**Site 9 East of A46, Broom – Marsh Farm Quarry**

Site is close to Broom. Lorries or dumper trucks will need to travel along Broom Lane, a traffic and safety issue. Part of site already has planning consent.

**Site 10 Land at Millers Bank, Marsh Farm Quarry**

Site is very close to houses. Lorries or dumper trucks will need to travel along Broom Lane, a traffic and safety issue. May have some flood relief benefits but Environment Agency has already agreed to flood defence funding.

**Issues regarding specific sites (retained sites)**

**Site 9 Abbots Salford**

Site is in several ownerships. Abbots Salford has already suffered from gravel extraction. Major impact on Rushford, New Inn Farm, and Brickyard Cottages near Harvington..

Estate's ten-year plan to extract two million tonnes of sand and gravel

# Ragley accused of 'rape of its historic landscape'

The Front Page headline from The Stratford Herald when proposals for the new quarry sites were published in February by Warwickshire County Council

SALFORD PRIORS AND BIDFORD PARISH COUNCILS, WITH THE HELP OF NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS, ARE FIGHTING THE NEW GRAVEL PLANS. WE ARE GETTING GREAT SUPPORT.....

"I will be writing to oppose these proposals. I absolutely do not think this should be permitted so close to the villages and cannot believe that there are not better sites elsewhere. We must try to keep it out of the Core Strategy".

**John Maples, Member of Parliament**

"Enough is enough. I want to see the existing Marsh Farm site restored. Let's leave the gravel in the ground until that job's done. Broom and Dunnington have paid a high price already".

**Peter Barnes, County Councillor for Bidford and Salford and Vice-Chairman of Warwickshire County Council**

"The proposed extraction of sand and gravel at Berry Coppice will have serious and long-term impact on the lives of both Weethley and Dunnington residents. The effect on the environment and Hillers Garden Centre and Complex also cannot be underestimated. So I stand firmly by the residents who oppose this site and, as their Alcester County Councillor, will fight it all the way. I shall also support the neighbouring ward in their opposition".

**Nina Knapman County Councillor for Alcester**

"The proposals for the quarrying for sand and gravel in the area known as Berry Coppice will have a major impact on all the local communities from Alcester and Arrow to Broom, Dunnington, Bidford and Salford Priors as a result of both quarrying and traffic movements. The impact on the Hillers operation which is a major local food shopping and visitor destination will be unacceptable and must be fought.

At a time when Government is urging greater reuse of materials and resource efficiency of materials used in construction, the extent of the proposals appears to be totally disproportionate. I believe that the communities of the area have contributed sufficiently to the sand and gravel extraction needs of the region for too many years. Other sites must now be sought."

**Susan Juned**

**District Councillor for Alcester and past County Councillor for Bidford and Salford Priors**

"The communities in Bidford, Salford, Broom, together with their neighbours, must continue to fight these quarry proposals. It may be a long battle. I'm suggesting people should send their letters opposing the plans to Peter Barnes. He is, like me, opposed to Ragley's plans and is Vice-Chairman of the County Council.

**Brian Slaughter, District Councillor for Bidford and Salford**

"Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council was very pleased to see the response of the Broom residents at the meeting that was arranged at Dunnington to discuss the Minerals Core Strategy – Revised Spatial Option.

The Parish Council has taken on board the concerns of the local community and will make these known to Warwickshire County Council in the strongest possible way to ensure these sites are NOT included in the final document".

**Cllr. Joy Keeley Chairman of Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council**



Hillers popular country store would be engulfed by Ragley's gravel plan. The quarry would extend to the main road opposite homes and Dunnington School



## THE QUARRY PLAN - EXPLAINED

**By Mike Philpott**

**Clerk to Salford Priors Parish Council**

The County Council has a duty to plan future mineral extraction. The process for doing this has many stages with consultation with the public several times prior to the examination in public and adoption by the County Council presently planned for September 2011.

The current document, named Revised Spatial Options, may be viewed at the website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/minerals\\_corestrategy](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/minerals_corestrategy) and responses should be sent to Planning Policy, Environment and Economy, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SX. The planners have suggested that the response should take the form of answers to specific questions but this does not prevent respondents making their views known in any form they choose.

The document contains three main sections. The first relates to policies for mineral extraction and these are important because they set the criteria by which future planning applications will be judged. The second comprises details of sites that have been put forward by landowners and mineral operators as potential sites and these include the three sites near Broom and the Berry Coppice site. The third section comprises sites that have been considered before such as the Bidford site at Marriage Hill and a large area near Abbots Salford. At this stage these are still retained sites.

Some of the policy issues to consider in the **first section** are as follows:

The Plan puts forward three options for future extraction; firstly, extensions to existing sites; secondly, based on geology, and thirdly, based on transport routes. The latter two options could lead to large areas of Salford Priors being dug up with all the problems of future blight as well as the very real disturbance and environmental damage. Many will feel that we have had our share of gravel extraction already with major sites at Marsh Farm and Abbots Salford.

Following from this issue is the question "what is an extension of an existing site?" We might consider that only the site North of Broom Lane (Number 8 in the Plan) which is immediately contiguous to the existing site can be considered as an "extension" to Marsh Farm.

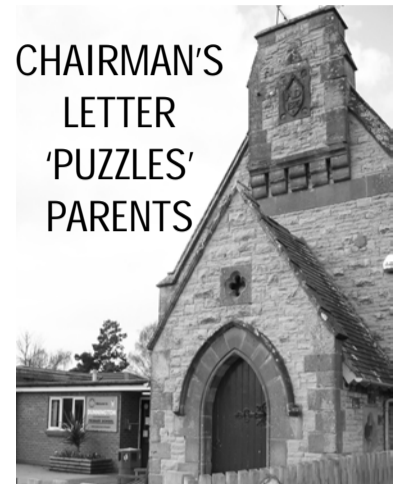
The Regional Planning Authority allocates quantities of gravel that it considers counties should produce. However, just because there is gravel under land, does that mean that land must be dug up? If this policy is accepted a day is still bound to come when there are no local sources of aggregates left and a more sustainable solution such as has been the case in London for many years is the better solution. Also, we do not think the figures produced by the planners take into account the current

## You have until 8 May to oppose the plan

Please write to

Planning Policy, Warwickshire County Council,  
PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4SX

CHAIRMAN'S  
LETTER  
'PUZZLES'  
PARENTS



Some parents of children at Dunnington Primary School - and local residents - are "puzzled" at a statement issued by the Chair of Governors. Parents found "unconvincing" the statement which read: "We have received assurance from Ragley that they are aware of the proximity to and the potential impact upon the school and the village and will do their utmost to protect all parties and consult all parties should this matter go further".

**Let's face facts**

*The Chair seems to miss the point. If Berry Coppice survives this round of consultation it becomes a County Council preferred option and worth an estimated £4.5million to Ragley. Of course they will make an application. Please write and get others to write especially those that travel Broom Lane.*

Site 9 East of A46, Broom – Marsh Farm Quarry. Site 10 Land at Millers Bank, Marsh Farm Quarry.

The **third section** of the document considers retained sites in the Adopted Minerals Plan and these include: Site 9 Abbots Salford. Site 10 Bidford on Avon

Of necessity this is a very brief overview of the document and readers wishing to make comments are urged to review the actual document on the County Council website.

## THUMBS DOWN FOR RAGLEY'S PLAN

Over one hundred and twenty local residents and councillors from all tiers of local government attended a meeting in Dunnington Baptist Church Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> March to make their views known about proposals to extract gravel from four local sites.

Introducing the meeting, Cllr. Kim James described the actions taken so far by the Parish Council including the commissioning of consultants to report on the ecology and environmental impact of quarrying at Berry Coppice.

County Councillor Nina Knapman encouraged residents to send individual letters to the planners setting out their objections to the County plan. District Councillor Susan Juned said that Salford Priors had already had its share of mineral

extraction extending over twenty years and there were alternatives to virgin minerals such as recycled aggregates.

During the Open Forum particular concerns related to traffic and danger from heavy lorries and dumper trucks, proximity of the School, the archaeological sensitivity of the site and the potential loss of ancient woodland. Residents were concerned at the apparent lack of restoration at Marsh Farm and asked if monies were held to ensure that restoration work was completed.

What was impressive was that the MP, the County Councillors, the District Councillors, the Parish Councillors, and all the residents present were unanimous in giving the new quarry plans the "thumbs down".