

MINUTES of a meeting of the AGGREGATES PANEL held on 22 April 2004

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Panel:	N Copping (Chairman), B Engel, G Churchard, R Sanderson, M Saunders, W Storey, B York
Additional Members:	R Mays
Officers Attending	Sue Davidson, Tanya Burdett, Clare Foxwell
Members of the Public:	G Gunby – Tarmac Southern C Rochford – Little Berkhamsted Parish Council
Administrator:	Joyce Brooks

MINUTES

- 1. Apologies** - There were none.
- 2. Minutes** of the meeting held on 26 February 2004 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising**

Sue Davidson provided a list of dwelling completions for Hertfordshire and adjacent counties from 1991/2002 as requested by Cllr Mays at the last meeting. She was still awaiting housing “projections” and, if available, these would be attached to the minutes.

- 4. Minerals Local Plan Review 2002 – 2016
Draft Proposed Pre-Inquiry Changes for Public Consultation**

At the last meeting the Panel considered the County Council’s response to objections made. This report brought the changes together in a table showing what they would be in relation to the Plan. The Panel went through the changes and the following comments were made:

Page 4 - new paragraph 1.5.5 to completely replace previous paragraph 1.5.6.

Page 6

- PIC005 Reference to paragraph 4.5.8 – to be deleted.
“can” to be replaced by “could” in the last line.
- PIC007 The word “final” in 2nd line to be deleted.

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- PIC009 Replace “suitable” with “appropriate” in 1st line and delete “where appropriate” in the last line.

Page 8

PIC012 Penultimate line - "will need to be imposed" to be replaced by "will be required"

PIC013 1st line – Replace "will need" with "will be required" ...

The Panel was advised that maps of the "omission sites" (sites promoted by objectors for inclusion as preferred areas but not supported by the County Council) would be attached to the Consultation for Pre Inquiry Changes for clarity.

In addition to the prescribed consultation and publicity for the Plan, the report recommended mailing organisations and stakeholders with consultation documents, keeping interested parties informed of progress and making all consultation documents available on HertsDirect together with response forms. The letter to consultees will make it absolutely clear that objections can now only be made on the Pre-Inquiry Changes.

The report set out the overall programme for the Minerals Local Plan Review with the public consultation on Pre-Inquiry Changes running from June-July 2004, a Public Inquiry in September, the Inspector's report expected late 2004 with a possible adoption after Modifications in Spring/Summer 2005.

The Panel accepted the report and agreed all recommendations.

5. Update on Arlington Objections - Preferred Area 1

Sue Davidson reported that a meeting had taken place with Arlington on 19 April to discuss the BAe site (Preferred Area 1) and a paper setting out the details of the area was tabled. The general outcome was that Arlington were seeking greater clarity on the proposed areas for extraction.

The outcome of the first part of the discussion, as set out in the draft revised brief for preferred area 1, was that the Ellenbrook Linear Park, which forms a buffer zone to the boundary of the Green Belt area and the development area, should be taken out of the "preferred area" and a reassessment of reserves would be carried out.

Arlington also suggested that land to the north west and south east of Home Covert which contained areas which were not viable because the mineral was unworkable or not proven, should also be excluded from the "preferred area". Officers had advised that as they did not consider that a precise boundary of the workable mineral could be identified at this stage, it would be premature to amend the boundary of the preferred area in these areas at this stage, but that the brief could acknowledge that, potentially, these areas that might not be extracted, with a requirement that any application clearly demonstrates whether these areas are, in fact unworkable.

The Panel agreed that the Ellenbrook Linear Park should be excluded from Preferred Area 1 but did not agree that the land to the north west and south east of Home Covert should be excluded or that reference to potential unworkable areas be included. They were concerned that this could lead to unnecessary sterilisation of mineral. It was agreed that the 3rd and 4th sentences in that paragraph starting with “It is likely that land be deleted.

In the 3rd paragraph, the words “with the boundary to the” should be deleted and replaced with “incorporating the”.

In terms of restoration, Sue Davidson assured the Panel that restoration proposals for any extraction would be consistent with the Supplementary Planning Guidance to achieve a country park for the area as a whole. The Panel agreed that officers would finalise the brief to reflect their discussion.

The Panel thanked officers for all their hard work in preparing the papers.

5. **A.O.B.** – There was none.

Date of next Meeting

No further Panel meetings will be required until after the receipt of the Inspector’s report at the end of the year.