

MINUTES

Meeting: CALNE AREA BOARD
Place: Calne Town Hall, Bank House, The Strand, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11
0EN
Date: 26 October 2010
Start Time: 7.00pm
Finish Time: 9.55 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Alexa Smith (Democratic Services Officer), on 01249 706612 or alexa.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Councillor Jane Scott (Leader of Wiltshire Council), Councillor Dick Tonge (Cabinet Representative for Highways and Transport) and Councillor Stuart Wheeler (Cabinet Representative for Leisure, Sport and Culture)

Cllr Alan Hill (Chairman), Cllr Christine Crisp (Vice Chairman), Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Howard Marshall and Cllr Anthony Trotman

Wiltshire Council Officers

Martin Cook (Area Highway Engineer), Niki Lewis (Service Director for Communities, Libraries, Heritage and Arts) Alexa Smith (Democratic Services Officer) and Jane Vaughan (Community Area Manager).

Town and Parish Councillors

Calne Town Council – Roy Golding, Helen Plenty, Colin Viner and Greg Widger

Calne Without Parish Council – Richard Ayles

Cherhill Parish Council – John Ashcroft and Barbara Raven

Heddington Parish Council – Mary Fox (Clerk) and Lynne Sargeant

Hilmarton Parish Council – Richard Broadhead

* = nominated representative

Partners

Wiltshire Police – Inspector Kate Pain
Wiltshire Fire and Rescue – Mike Franklin

Calne Area Transport – Anne Henshaw
Calne Community Area Partnership – David Evans and Malcolm Gull
CCSF – Ross Henning
Community Hub – JR Dawson
Friends of Abberd Brook – Francis Bosworth
Gazette and Herald – Alex Winter

Members of public in attendance: 91

Total in attendance: 121

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>	<u>Action By</u>
1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to Calne Area Board and introduced the Councillors and Officers present. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Stewart Wheeler (Cabinet Representative for Leisure, Sport and Culture), Councillor Dick Tonge (Cabinet Representative for Highways and Transport) and Councillor Jane Scott (Leader of the Council).</p>	
2.	<p><u>Consultation on Initial Site Options for the Aggregate Minerals Site Allocation</u></p> <p>A Wiltshire Council consultation on potential sites for sand and gravel extraction commenced on 5 August 2010. Although the consultation was not included on the agenda as an item, the matter of initial site options for the aggregate minerals site allocations was considered at this meeting as a matter of urgent business, because the consultation had arisen as a significant issue in the community since the agenda was drafted.</p> <p>The Chairman invited comments from representatives of the groups present and then individuals.</p> <p>A representative spoke from The Mile Elm Sand Stoppers. Points raised included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnout at the meeting indicated how serious the issue was taken in the community • The group was set up to raise awareness of the consultation and had quickly established 1200 members • Anger was in the main directed at landowners • Concerns regarding proposed quarries at sites C6 and C7 – threat to outstanding natural beauty and agricultural productivity of the district, a danger to children at the nearby John Bentley School and to rare wildlife, as well as deterioration in the quality of life of all Calne residents • Plans for the group after the consultation period ended. <p>The Area Board was presented with a petition signed by 1,404 people. The petition was received by the Chairman and passed to the Democratic Services Officer for verification, before it would be put to the relevant Cabinet Representative for consideration, Councillor John Brady (Cabinet Representative for Economic Development, Planning and Housing).</p> <p>A representative spoke from Stockley to express his concern and</p>	

objection to the proposed quarrying at Mile Elm and Stockley/Broad's Green. The proposed quarries were seen as a threat to the outstanding natural beauty and agricultural productivity of the district, a danger to children at the nearby John Bentley School and to rare wildlife, as well as to the quality of life for all residents of Calne Community Area.

A representative from Hilmarton and Goatacre Group Improving Safety (HAGGIS) voiced concerns regarding traffic on the A3102, which had doubled in the previous two years. He commented that while Wiltshire Council were not planning new landfill, private businesses could submit applications for landfill sites and there was the need to object to this happening too.

Individuals spoke to endorse the points made before and draw attention to the impact of further HGVs on air pollution and on traffic in the Community Area. The number of people who attended the meeting and related meetings was celebrated and the need to continue this work was identified. Landowners estimates of the amount of sand available at the C5 site once the buffers were pushed out were questioned.

The item included a question and answer session, which covered the following main issues:

- The consultation as a statutory duty would not be put on hold because of the recent Government spending review. It was a process that Wiltshire Council had to go through once landowners had put sites forward. The only uncertainty was the implication of a forthcoming localism bill, but Wiltshire Council would not stop the consultation due to revenue reasons
- The consultation process – the next step was for feedback from the consultation to be looked into and detailed site appraisals would take place in early spring. Preferred site options would be identified in late spring and these would be taken to Committee meetings and then to Full Council. Further consultation would run in late spring/early summer, with recommendations to the Secretary of State for examination in public, to be adopted mid 2012
- If a procedural error had been identified, it should be flagged up in the consultation and corrected alongside the site appraisals
- Wiltshire Council had no plans for further landfill sites
- The North Wessex Downs was an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and there would be a negative impact to tourism revenue for the town of Calne and the surrounding area if quarry developments were to proceed. The majority of the C1 to C7 areas were visible from the

	<p>North Wessex Downs AONB – Wiltshire Council was a member of the Council of Partners, the accountable body for the AONB, and it was confirmed their view had been fed into the consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area Board did not feel in a position to submit a formal response to the consultation, in order for members to take part in Cabinet decision making at a later stage in the process, however the Chairman assured the meeting that all points put forward would be fed into the consultation and the concerns of the electorate and strength of feeling in the room had been registered • The role of the Calne Community Area Partnership in the consultation - the Partnership was independent to the consultation. If the Partnership felt that this was an issue, they needed to speak to local people and submit a response to the consultation. The use of the Partnership and the hub as a vehicle for disseminating information would continue to be looked into • The consultation was not on the agenda for this evening because the Community Area Manager had not received any correspondence from the community, partner organisations or Officers prior to or at the agenda setting meeting • Communication - some people knowing about the consultation at parish meetings and other people being unaware of it taking place • Extension of the consultation – the consultation had already been extended from 30 September to the end of October. The period of consultation seemed to be short given the nature of the subject. Councillor Hill agreed he would ask for an extension, however this might not be feasible, given the legal framework for the consultation <p>Councillor Scott underlined the importance of having such groups and the need for concerned groups and individuals to continue to submit a response to the consultation. Comments could be written down and left at the meeting (please find attached to the minutes) or submitted online through the Wiltshire Council website. Councillor Scott stated that Wiltshire Council was interested in all feedback on how we could improve consultation with local people. This would be useful for the next round of the process. `</p>	
3.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies wre received from Will Kay (Youth Development Co-Ordinator) and Ed Jones (Focus on Five).</p>	

4.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The Chairman did not sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2010, as a number of amendments had been requested. These would be discussed by the Area Board and brought back to the next meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Councillors Hill, Marshall and Trotman declared that as Calne Town Councillors, they had been granted dispensations by the Standards Committee in order to fully participate in item 10, Community Area Grants.</p> <p>Councillor Trotman declared a personal interest in item 8, Leisure Facilities Review, as Chairman of the Calne Leisure Centre Leisure Board.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman drew attention to the written announcements included in the agenda pack. The gypsy and travel site consultation had been postponed. The issues consultation used figures proposed in the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy as the basis of future need for Gypsy and Traveller sites. The Regional Spatial Strategy had now been revoked and it fell to local authorities to determine the right level of site provision. The Area Board would be informed once a revised timetable on the provision of new sites for the travelling community was available.</p> <p>Parish Councils were reminded to return their flooding information request details if they had not already done so. Forms should be sent to Renate Malton (Project Officer) at the address below: Derby Court White Horse Business Park Trowbridge BA14 0XG.</p> <p>The Chairman advised parishes that if they had lost their original pack or required an additional one, they should contact Renate Malton, on 01225 712514 or renate.malton@wiltshire.gov.uk.</p> <p>A new website had been launched to provide access to a wide variety of information and research for Wiltshire. The new site, www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk, was available to all and aimed to support planners and policy makers, community leaders and politicians, voluntary groups and the general public in using accurate data to make informed decisions. For more information, please contact Sally Hunter (Senior Researcher), on 01225</p>	

	<p>713289 or sally.hunter@wiltshire.gov.uk.</p> <p>Wiltshire Police had requested the Area Board publicise the website www.immobilise.com. The national property register was running a scheme to help protect your mobile phone and other property. Please visit the website to register your mobile phone for free. This would help Wiltshire Police to recover your property and to catch the thief.</p> <p>The Council had a statutory duty to review and publish a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) by the end of March 2011. In essence, Local Transport Plans steered the implementation of national transport policies at the local level. In addition, the Local Transport Plan provided the framework for all other organisations with a direct or indirect involvement in transport in Wiltshire. Consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan would run from 4 October to 26 November 2010. The preferred method of communication was for comments to be submitted online at: http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal, where electronic copies of all the documents would be available. Paper copies of the summary document, questionnaire and a reference copy of the Local Transport Plan would also be available from all libraries and main Council offices.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that Wiltshire Council was looking to expand its partnership working with the city, town and parish councils should problems be caused by adverse winter conditions. Wiltshire Council was encouraging local Councils to record their interest in working with us to help provide services during adverse weather conditions. This could involve being a local agent for storing salt, or refilling salt bins, or mechanical salting of footpaths and roads. Local councils were asked to register their interest via the Community Area Manager, Jane Vaughan, on 01247 721447 or jane.vaughan@wiltshire.gov.uk, before 30 November 2010.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>a) The written report from Wiltshire Police was noted.</p> <p>b) The written report from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service was noted.</p> <p>c) The written report from NHS Wiltshire was noted.</p> <p>d) The Chairman congratulated David Evans on his election as Chairperson of the Calne Community Area Partnership at the recent AGM and thanked Malcolm Gull for his work in this position</p>	

	<p>during the last year. Mr Evans commented that the Calne Community Hub was flourishing and that the Partnership now employed a part time administrator. The Partnership with other agencies were organising an Energy Efficiency event at Calne Town Hall on the following Saturday with details available on the CCAP website: www.calnecap.org.</p> <p>e) Calne Without Parish Council congratulated the people who spoke at the meeting and those who had submitted their comments in writing to the consultation on initial site options for the aggregate minerals site allocation. Those who had attended the earlier meeting at Derry Hill were also thanked for their efforts. The Parish Council's formal response to the consultation was available to view on their website: http://www.calnewithout.org/.</p> <p>In Hilmarton community speed watch was going well and there had been a reduction in the number of vehicles travelling at higher speeds.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Transfer of Assets Regarding the Castlefields Canal and River Park</u></p> <p>The Area Board carefully considered an application for the transfer of Castlefields Canal and River Park to Calne Town Council in accordance with Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy. Concerns were raised regarding assurance section 106 monies would be used for Castlefields projects, that Calne Town Council was signed up to the community 'vision' and that a strong relationship was needed with Officers regarding management of the park.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Area Board would approve the transfer of Castlefields Canal and River Park to Calne Town Council subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing community 'vision' that has been developed by Castlefields Canal and River Park Association in conjunction with Wiltshire Council Officers will continue to inform the management of the land for its lifetime, and residents from across the wider Calne Community Area will continue to be encouraged to enjoy the amenity. 2. The existing use will be maintained for the benefit of the community. 3. A standard 'reverter' clause is included in the title, which will ensure that if the land stops being used as 	

	<p>public open space, for the benefit of the community, Wiltshire Council will have the option to repurchase the land for the sum of £1.</p> <p>4. (In an amendment to the report circulated with the agenda pack) The Technical Manager from Wiltshire Council's Directorate of Neighbourhoods and Planning to review completed section 106 Town and Country Planning Agreements with available off-site contributions towards open space and amenity provision with which it would be permissible to fund projects at Castlefields Canal and River Park Association, and Calne Town Council to agree such projects with the Technical Manager and then be implemented by Castlefields Canal and River Park Association and Calne Town Council.</p> <p>The transfer of assets would not take place until after 30 November 2010, in order for a National Lottery funding application to proceed.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Leisure Facilities Review</u></p> <p>Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet Representative for Leisure, Sport and Culture, gave a short presentation on the future of leisure facilities in Calne. The operation of Calne Leisure Centre Ltd was an example of how local trusts could offer an excellent and sustainable service to local people. The proposals were indicative and no decisions would be made until the Council had an opportunity to review the outcome of the consultation. The Council was in discussion with Calne Leisure Centre Ltd to determine how the facility could be sustainably transferred to the group and to identify what maintenance and development work could be done to improve the facilities prior to full devolvement. The proposals include significant investment into the plant, equipment and structure of the buildings prior to devolvement.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council had inherited a form of financial responsibility for 23 facilities around the county, including many facilities which were out of date and inefficient. The situation was unsustainable, with £93 million required over the next 25 years to sustain the existing stock, excluding any investment to improve the buildings.</p> <p>As such, proposals had been developed on the basis of £117 million investment over 25 years, to deliver a high quality, efficient and sustainable service. This would also go some way to meeting carbon reduction targets, with leisure facilities currently accounting for 21% of the Council's carbon emissions.</p>	

The proposals would see four new facilities within campuses, with another two existing facilities being significantly enhanced and retained. The remaining facilities would also receive significant capital investment, before being made available for transfer to community management arrangements, as part of a robust process including support and identification of suitable business models, phased financial support resulting in independency and potentially the transfer of freehold. It was acknowledged that different mechanisms and solutions would suit different facilities, and so a report on options had been commissioned to give examples of arrangements which had been established in other areas.

It was noted that no decisions would be made by Wiltshire Council until consultation had been completed. Consultation on the proposals was taking place up to 29 October 2010, with details available on the Wiltshire Council website, at libraries, leisure facilities and offices. A report on the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to the Cabinet in December, and the Council would consider the results in February 2011.

The presentation was followed by a short question and answer session. This covered the following main points:

- Wiltshire Council were in discussion with Calne Leisure Centre about a potential transfer of assets and the level of investment that would be required. The figure to sustain the annual revenue of the group could not be confirmed until approval of the budget in February 2011
- Calne residents were paying for leisure facilities twice; through Calne Town Council and Wiltshire Council taxes – Wiltshire Council could not continue to run all the leisure centres in the county. Town and Parish Council support was helpful to trying to keep as many leisure centres as possible open
- It was not true that changes would force local precepts up. Most Town and Parish Councils decided on precepts for communities and the projects and facilities they would support. It was hoped that the centres would be self sustaining
- Nearly 19,000 people a month used the well-run centre in Calne
- Investment in the centre was still taking place. Lockers would soon be completed and a new floor put in
- Funding opportunities from the credential lending facility should not be discounted
- The close proximity of the leisure centre to John Bentley School and the need to consider the two together in future planning was noted

	<p>Councillor Wheeler then invited those present to indicate their views about the development of the leisure service, by means of the electronic voting handsets provided.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Feedback on Community Area Grants Received</u></p> <p>The Chairman announced that the Friends of Abberd Brook had been given an award for their hard work at the Voluntary Sector Services Awards. The group thanked the Area Board for their nomination and said it had been a great honour to be shortlisted and runner up.</p> <p>Francis Bosworth fed back on the grant awarded by the Area Board towards a clean up day. The event had been well publicised and a big success. Thirty eight people from a wide range of backgrounds had come to help and two skips of rubbish had been removed from the brook. Work was ongoing and on 23 October a clean up group removed one skip of rubbish. Volunteers were doing this work on a regular basis and this helped enormously to keep the brook clean and tidy.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Community Area Grants</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the four applications made to the Community Area Grants Scheme.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Mill Race Activity Club were awarded £806 towards the provision of a creative music project for people with learning/physical/mental health difficulties and the wider community.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application meets the 2010/11 grant criteria and the club provides a wide range of activities for vulnerable adults and support for carers and a break from caring responsibilities.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Cherhill Parish Council were not awarded £5,000 towards new equipment for the Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application would be deferred, pending further information about an award linked to the central government play builder scheme.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Calne Community Area Partnership were awarded £298</p>	

	<p>towards an Energy Efficiency event to be held in Calne on October 30th.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application meets the 2010/11 grant criteria and links directly to the Community Area Plan by attempting to increase the number of homes which reach energy efficiency standards and encourage more environmentally sustainable practices.</i></p> <p><u>Decision</u> Calne Area Transport were awarded £2,100 towards a community led study and production of a Safer Cycling routes plan/map for Calne, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.</p> <p><u>Reason</u> <i>The application meets the 2010/11 grant criteria and the project links directly to issues and aspirations identified by the Calne Area Board working group looking at safer cycle routes in the Calne Community Area.</i></p>	
12.	<p><u>Your Local Issues</u></p> <p>Councillors provided an update on community issues and progress on Calne Area Board working groups.</p> <p>a) Councillor Marshall had been involved in several meetings regarding the skate board park working group. Three possible sites had been discussed and the preferred site was the current location next to the car park. Young people were organising a twelve hour sponsored event to help raise funds for the new facilities.</p> <p>b) Councillor Berry thanked Calne Area Transport and those who were taking part in the cycle network working group.</p> <p>c) Councillor Crisp had had a meeting with the highways working group when they looked into the highways issues put forward with the help of Martin Cook, Area Highway Engineer. It was commented that working with Martin Cook, Area Highway Engineer, had been a great asset because of his local knowledge. Having a Highway Officer adopt a Community Area could be a model way of working across the county. The group had approximately £12,5000 to prioritise projects in the Community Area. Councillor Crisp emphasised this was a small amount of funding, a small pedestrian crossing would cost £20,000 to install. Officers had scored projects on a matrix and in terms of what could be afforded. The working group hoped to bring back the projects to move forward to the Area Board meeting in January.</p>	

	<p>A question was raised about serious traffic issues in Quemerford, where no changes to the road had been made. The Community Area Manager confirmed that an issues sheet had been received for this area and it was under consideration by the highways working group at present.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Highways Winter Maintenance</u></p> <p>The Councillors had been asked to prioritise the allocation of three new grit bins to the Community Area. The decision had been brought to the Area Board as requests for new bins across the county far exceeded possible allocations.</p> <p>Across the county, 422 requests had been received for 100 available new grit bins. In Calne Community Area, ten grit bins had been requested and three new grit bins had been allocated.</p> <p>At the agenda setting meeting, the Community Area Manager was asked to come up with a suggestion for the Area Board so that the highways department could install the new bins as soon as possible. Since then she had been in touch with the Area Highway Officer and with the Parish Councils that had requested more than one bin to discuss priorities. This resulted in identifying four priority sites.</p> <p>The Community Area Manager then found that one site used to have a bin and received confirmation that this could be replaced in addition to the three new bins.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> The Area Board would put forward as priorities the three requested sites at Heddington, Hilmarton and Calstone.</p> <p>The fourth bin, which was a replacement rather than a new bin, would be the grit bin request from Calne Town Council.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding whether local companies had been asked to sponsor new grit bins in the local area. The issue was not funding the grit bins, but filling them. Wiltshire Council could supply one tonne bags of grit to parishes for distribution. Please contact Jane Vaughan, Community Area Manager, on 01247 721447 or jane.vaughan@wiltshire.gov.uk, in the first instance if a supply would be of use.</p>	
14.	<p><u>Car Parking Strategy Consultation Feedback</u></p> <p>Councillor Tonge, Cabinet Representative for Highways and Transport, gave feedback on the car parking strategy consultation.</p>	

	<p>The consultation had arisen from the move to a unitary Wiltshire Council. Councillor Tonge explained the consultation process; how Wiltshire Council informed people and who responded. County wide responses showed overwhelming support for the economy and for meeting residents' needs for parking. Comments from Calne highlighted the high quality of parking stock, the desire for alternative travel modes, that any changed parking provision should be on a pay-on-exit basis, that enforcement had little effect in Calne and a request for prominent notices displaying the fines for illegal use of disabled parking places.</p> <p>A Cabinet decision making meeting would take place on 14 December and this would lead to statutory processes in place by April 2011.</p> <p>Additional comments and questions were taken from the floor. A system of paying for parking by mobile phone was in operation in Chippenham and Salisbury and would be rolled out across the county. No charge was planned in the county for disabled parking. Short term car parks charged more for users to stay longer because with restricted space they wanted users to quickly move on. The small excess made by Wiltshire Council from car parking was put back into subsidised bus services.</p>	
15.	<p><u>Cabinet Representative</u></p> <p>Councillor Jane Scott stated that, in light of the time, she would be happy to return to another Calne Area Board meeting to answer questions regarding her role as Leader of Wiltshire Council. She gave a short update about the position Wiltshire Council was in to manage Government directives. There had been a 28.4% loss of grant from central Government to Wiltshire Council over four years. Wiltshire Council already had a business plan based on a 25% grant reduction. Front line services would not be cut or support services under pressure, such as for elderly people, those involving adult care and vulnerable children. Investments would continue to be made in leisure, recycling and the economy, to support provision of jobs in the private sector given expected losses from the public sector. Supporting businesses would incorporate establishing fast broadband links across the county.</p>	
16.	<p><u>Any Questions and Close</u></p> <p>The next Area Board meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7 December 2010 at Hedington Village Hall, with refreshments available from 6.30 pm.</p>	

Minute Item 16

Calne Area Board, Tuesday 26 October 2010 Public Comments on the Minerals and Waste Consultation

"No to the quarries because of the damage to the environment, AONB, road safety issues, damage to roads and local housing, air pollution."

"If you must go ahead, why don't you build the necessary by-pass? It would save a lot of hassle. If lorries, particularly when loaded, will need to go up a hill either way in the town centre, the changing of gear and speeds, etc, will cause a lot of pollution and traffic hold-up. The lorries, when loaded, will be slow. Build the by-passes necessary first. Leave the gravel/sand in the ground instead of upsetting the farming production and wildlife."

"Can we at least wait until the south and east ring-roads around Calne are in place in order to alleviate the traffic and pollution problems that will undoubtedly result."

"C6 and C7 should be removed from plan – prime agricultural land/Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty/near a school. Calne has been a sink town long enough. Give Calne a chance. The roads were not built for such traffic and the centre of Calne is a conservation area."

"Calne Area 3.1. Affecting future for us all. This beautiful area is under threat, gone forever if passed. So much is at stake. No, no, no. Not without a fight."

"Will compensation be provided for the devaluation of my house? I may not be entitled to a view; however I chose an environment, a culture, an atmosphere to live. Quarrying has been done previously and completed/abandoned. Why now?"

"I strongly object to the plan for mineral extraction in the Calne area due to the impact of dust, HGVs, the fall in house prices, etc."

"I am concerned that living near area C7, the water table is very high. The neighbour says they have had flooding from that particular field. I am therefore concerned about my property should sand be extracted."

"The Council represents people. The people of Calne do not want a quarry. They feel they have been dumped on too many times before. The Council does not represent wealthy landowners. C6 and C7 are owned by Lord Lansdowne (a conservationist)!"

"As noted above we live on the main road through Calne. It is bad enough with HGV and other go through Calne. I suffer with COPD which is a lung complaint and more traffic would possibly make my condition worse. Also would the road repairs be done before and kept in reasonable condition?"

"I strongly object to the proposed inclusion of the C6 and C7 sites for mineral extraction on the basis that it is environmentally criminal, economically unviable and illegal as only 5% of the sites lie within the mineral resources zone, the rest being part of a conservation area."

"I live on the Silver Bush estate which only has one entry in and out. It is difficult to access, heavy lorries go up and down. Children go to John Bentley School. Also the boundary of C6 and C7 will be on the boundary of John Bentley School. Emergency access would be difficult. Dust would come onto the estate. Quality of live would disappear. The walks will also disappear."

"If councillors don't take account of public opinion then they should not be councillors. It is not their personal opinion that counts. They represent people of Calne who don't want any quarries."

"We should not have the quarry in Calne, it should be outside the town. It would increase the number of lorries in the town."

"There is reason to believe that the Council's own technical reports regarding 'sand', researched and delivered some several years ago, were doctored to deliver results exactly contrary to the results of geological surveyors. This is being looked into, and Wilts may follow."

"In a week where even The Archers has had a push on email/internet use please consider how few of the demographic has been reached by your 'publicity'. The feedback from the process to date will only be magnified in such a case."

"Will the Council consider simplifying the mechanism for feedback on such processes? The system that has been used during the process to date is confusing, untrackable and difficult to navigate."

"Needed a 2 page spread in Your Wiltshire magazine. We didn't know about it. No officers who can answer technical questions at the Area Board – why? Is this an oversight?"

"Our existing network of lanes and roads cannot cope with large vehicles and more lorries. Children, adults, animals alike will be placed in danger if this goes ahead. This will be further magnified during harvest periods placing all road users in grave danger!"

"Any further consultation on the subject of mineral extraction i.e. public meetings should be published clearly in the press well in advance of any such meeting."

"I am greatly concerned about the proposed quarry sites for sand. Calne is a pleasant place to live but has much lorry traffic going through – due to the recycling centre and Lower Compton Bassett and the industrial estate at Portemmarsh Road. I feel that the enormous extra traffic would make life difficult especially as there are two schools near site C6, and pollution would increase."

"We arrived at the meeting at 18:50 only to be told there was no room. We were sat downstairs only to be greeted with a totally useless PA system. We were unable to hear a thing except a muffled noise. On a matter of such importance this is not acceptable. I wish to object to area C6 and C7 in the strongest possible way, the points I wish to object on are as follows: 1) This is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 2) Noise dust and pollution, 3) Traffic increased in a small town and villages, 4) Possible landfill after the quarry has been dug, 5) Correct procedures have not been followed."

"At the meeting in the town hall on 26-10-10 the hall was full upstairs so I had to sit downstairs. I missed more than 50% of what was said at the meeting because the loudspeaker system was not working. This was totally unsatisfactory. This proposed quarry is of great concern to me, with land adjoining the quarry land. This meeting and the PA system was totally unsatisfactory."

"The councillor who said he didn't know which way to vote should listen to the people of Calne. No more quarries!"

"I would like an assurance that tho we are heard that our views will be acted upon it's not enough only to be heard."

“Just writing thoughts – am only aware of proposed plans or not – through acknowledgement of the pressure groups against quarries. So concern was that I wouldn’t have known anything about it if it wasn’t for these groups. But now know – thoughts are – do we need any quarrying in this area? How close to the John Bentley School and potential problems that could cause.”

“I would like to strongly object to these sites that have been put forward for consideration. In particular site C4 Quemerford appears to have been overlooked in terms of strength of objection. The consultation document lists some ‘broad-brush- reasons why C4 may not be considered. It seems to have completely overlooked that fact that this site has a direct boundary with residential properties. I understand that C12 in Studley was removed from the process for exactly that reason. It cannot be viable for extraction, heavy vehicle movements, noise abatements, etc, etc to be permitted in the immediate vicinity of a residential area. I find it a disgrace that this can even be identified as a possible site for the simple reasons stated above, and would like existing residential issues added to the site options report or similar documents.”

“I object to the proposed plans to extract sand from the sites around Calne as this will have a devastating effect on the lives of the residents from a health point of view. The traffic pollution and the pollution from the sites will cause more problems and will have long term consequences beyond the life of these sites. Furthermore, having lived in the shadow and fume cloud of the Lower Compton landfill site(s), the only landfill sites in the county, which are privately owned and unregulated by either the local or county council, I believe that no one should suffer as we have suffered for the past 6 years. We have constantly objected and complained to landfill sites, yet these go ahead and are rubber stamped by the County Council. It’s all about money for the Council and in return blind eyes are turned. This landfill process will go on for another 20 years past the life of the quarrying which prolongs the pollution and we remain the dumping ground for the south-west. We got to safeguard the area and it will have a devastating consequence on house process as no one wants to live in the middle of a quarry. Will the County Council rebate all our council tax for the due life of the quarries and landfills? Answer no!! I rest my case. Due process has to take place and the result/outcome must be to preserve Calne and the surrounding area(s) and reject all proposed sites. No one has listed so far to the concerns of all residents and now must be the time to change all this.”

“We live on the doorstep of the Hills recycling centre/landfill. We are frequently on the phone to Environmental Health regarding the disgusting smell which is a constant threat to our health and safety. The site was extended last year although the local community objected to this, so to say that the Council/local government listens to its people is a total farce. The traffic, smell, noise and flies are unacceptable and to add insult to injury the new proposed site is still on our doorstep (C4 and C5). We live in a beautiful area which is being destroyed by greed. Coal was imported at a lower cost than it could be produced in UK mines. Why is our country/county being desecrated so dreadfully when larger countries than ours have what we are told we so desperately need? We are told to contact James Gray with our concerns. We have tried this and have been fobbed off having ‘passed our concerns to Wilts Council’. Having pursued Mr Gray we had a very general reply. We feel very let down by everyone concerned as I feel this is a foregone conclusion that these sites will be quarried no matter what the people say or think. Our properties will be worth a lot less, if anything in the future. Who will want to live in one large pit? It is inevitable these areas will be used as landfill eventually. How else can these be filled? We will fight these proposals and just hope that someone will listen. I very much doubt it. No one has listened so far, so why will they start now? Please listen to us. We live here and want to enjoy living here.”

“Our objections to all the proposed sites around Calne are: 1) Loss of agricultural land. Food security is the single most important issue that will directly affect every living being in the coming years removing land from food production to produce more greenhouse gases will directly affect food security from many angles, 2) Increase in lorry traffic in and around Calne through movement of sand and inevitable movement of waste to fill the holes created will be detrimental to health, increase cost of road repairs and resulting congestion, 3) Inevitable damage to the rural landscape next to North Wessex Downs AONB, 4) Nuisance caused by dust, smell, flies, water pollution, etc caused by extraction and waste fill of these sites, 5) Damage to local businesses, blighting of the area, and quality of life as a result of all of the above. Thank you for your consideration.”

“Traffic survey 26/10/10, 9am-10am, 11am-12pm: I have conducted a random hourly sample and on average there are approximately 40 heavy goods vehicles per hour through Calne on the A4. If previous information is correct on one quarry lorry every 4 mins that would make an average 55 HGVs per hour, nearly 1 a min going through Calne. I accept this is only a random sample however it is an indication of traffic flow (or not) that we have already going through our town. This is a significant number considering that we do have a bypass road which is obviously not doing a very good job of keeping HGVs out of Calne!”

Please note: These comments have been copy-typed from handwritten submissions and some error may have occurred due to ineligibility.