



# Nash Mills Chalk Mines News

Update 2

January - March 2009

## Introduction



*Mike Peters  
Director of Environment and Regeneration*

Welcome to this second edition of Chalk Mines News which provides an update on work to apply for funding and to appoint a specialist project manager for the chalk mines project. While this work is 'behind the scenes', it is a key part of the process in terms of the future running of the project.

We are also pleased to be able to update you on a residents group which has been formed with the aim of keeping local people fully engaged as this work moves forward.

## Funding application submitted

Work continues to seek funding from the national Land Stabilisation Programme to help pay for works needed in the area.

In December Dacorum Borough Council formally submitted a funding application to English Partnerships (which from January 2009 became part of the new Homes and Communities Agency, HCA).

Our proposal is due to be considered by the end of January and once it has been thoroughly reviewed it will be formally added to HCA systems. Once this happens we can apply for the first "slice" of funding for the project. We should also be clearer about how funding will operate in the future.

## Project Management Update

The Council has had an excellent response to its advertisement inviting companies to bid for a contract to manage the chalk mines project. This role will include funding, specifying technical work, health safety and risk management systems and monitoring work in progress.

Bids had to be in by 24 December and the Council has had 16 responses – which on the whole look to be generally encouraging. The Council is now carrying out a quality check of these initial submissions to make sure that companies are fully qualified to carry out this type of work and are financially sound.

At the end of this first review, between six and eight companies will be invited to put together a very detailed bid with a view to making a final appointment later in the Spring.

The successful contractor will be appointed for a four year period. They will report directly to the council and will be responsible for overseeing the whole project and regular liaison with residents will be a key part of their role. This mirrors the process that was successfully used in dealing with chalk mines in the Briars Lane area of Hatfield.

## Update from Hertfordshire Highways

The existing road closure of Pond Road is to be extended for a further 18 months until 9 August 2010. This will officially take effect on 10 February and new signage will be put up to reflect this. The existing barriers in Pond Road will remain in place in the meantime to enforce the road closure.

Following the completion of works outside no. 7 Highbarns the road closure point in Highbarns will be moved to the other side of the junction with Pond Road. This too will happen on 10 February for 18 months. Access to East Green will be from the other end of Highbarns.

In the slightly longer term the road closure barriers will be replaced with more robust barriers. New cul-de-sac signs will also be provided as soon as possible at appropriate locations as suggested at the public meeting. This will happen once the new road closure are in place.

Hertfordshire Highways is sending out a letter to all residents about temporary road closures. This letter will include a map showing the position of the road closures and alternative access routes.

For more information on Highways issues contact Mark Goodyear on 01727 816000.

## First meeting for new residents' group

A residents group has been formed with the help of Nash Mills Councillor, Lucy Foster, to help make sure that local people's views and priorities are fed through to all the agencies involved in the Chalk Mines project.

The group of eight residents together with Terry Douris from Nash Mills Parish Council met for the first time on Tuesday 20 January. Areas discussed included road closures and related Highways issues, security and extending the distribution of this newsletter. As a result of the meeting the Council has committed to raising security issues with the local police and feeding back issues relating to road closures to Hertfordshire Highways.

Initially the group will meet monthly. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 February.

### Residents Group contacts

If you would like to raise questions or feed in your views through the residents' group please speak to any of the people below:

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Rodney and Michelle Berkeley | 1 Pond Road     |
| Richard Taylor               | 24 Highbarns    |
| Tracey Gill                  | 11 Highbarns    |
| Carley Savage                | 13 Highbarns    |
| Terry Douris                 | 21 Hunting Gate |



*Cllr Lucy Foster*

If you would like to find out more about the residents group please contact Lucy Foster on 01442 257203 or e-mail [lucy.foster@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.foster@dacorum.gov.uk)

## Keeping you informed

Find up-to-date information on the chalk mines project on a dedicated area of the Borough Council web site: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarns](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarns)

- Chalk Mines News
- Minutes and presentations from public meetings
- Residents Group minutes
- Committee reports
- Advice (including Questions and Answers)

**The next issue of Chalk Mines News is due out on 3 April 2009.** In that issue we aim to give a date for the next public meeting. We expect this will take place in May and would aim at that meeting to introduce residents to the contractors appointed to manage the chalk mines project.