

Date: 12 December 2012
Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact: Mr. S Flynn
Extension: 2979
Direct Line:(01442) 228979
Fax:(01442) 228995



Civic Centre
Hemel Hempstead
Herts. HP1 1HH

(01442) 228000 Switchboard
(01442) 228656 Minicom
DX 8804 Hemel Hempstead

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madam

HIGHBARNES AREA CHALK MINES PROJECT

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of work that is shortly to be undertaken to repair an abandoned chalk mine located in the Highbarnes/East Green/Pond Road area in Hemel Hempstead and to confirm Dacorum Borough Council's role in co-ordinating the treatment of the mine.

The area was subject to two mine-related collapses in 2007 and 2008, followed by some initial investigation and limited mine treatment works. Subsequently the Council commissioned Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited to undertake the management of a scheme to assess the full extent of the mine and to develop options for treating it.

Following a successful application for funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, Hyder have undertaken extensive investigations and the Council is now in a position to state the location and extent of the mine and has commissioned remediation works.

It is clear from the investigations to date that substantial remediation work is needed which represents some degree of risk to the safety of residents. For those properties that are placed directly above or adjacent to the mines it will be necessary for residents to vacate their property for a period of approximately two weeks while remediation works are carried out. Following the works, and subject to satisfactory validation, a brief report will be issued to residents confirming that the mines have been treated.

Following the confirmation of the presence of the mine, householders were advised to tell their insurers of the presence of the chalk mine. The funding provided by the Homes and Communities Agency does not include any provision to compensate residents for any temporary vacating of properties, removal or storage of furnishings or remedial works for any physical effects on property (such as reparation to internal floors following the treatment using internal dynamic probes where this is needed). Accidental damage caused by the contractors during the works will be covered by the contractor's own insurance arrangements.

Only provisional dates are known at this stage. However, we expect the remediation works to be undertaken between January and June 2013. Specific dates for vacating properties will be advised to residents as soon as possible and at least two weeks before any work is undertaken. Dates may be subject to change for reasons outside of the Council's control.

If you would like more information concerning the Highbarns Area Chalk Mines project, please refer to the Council's website at:

<http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5691>

Alternatively, please contact me directly and I will do my best to assist you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Flynn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shane Flynn
Assistant Director (Project Governance)