

**Highbarns Residents Group Meeting  
Tuesday 26 March 2013**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Lisa Bayley  
Michele Berkeley  
Les Berry  
Heidi Cutts  
Tracey Gill  
Andy Price  
Jennifer Taylor  
Richard Taylor  
Carly Simon

Geoff Doole – Dacorum Borough Council  
Shane Flynn – Dacorum Borough Council  
Sheila Potts – Dacorum Borough Council  
Chris Milne – Hyder Consulting  
Mark Skittrall – Hyder Consulting  
Tony Avis – BAM Ritchies  
Dan Lewis – BAM Ritchies  
Andrew Morris – BAM Ritchies  
Andrew O'Donovan – BAM Ritchies

**1. Welcome and Introductions (Shane Flynn, DBC)**

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on progress to date and to answer questions from Residents regarding further progress with the works

**2. Overall Progress (Mark Skittrall & Chris Milne, Hyder)**

MS/CM gave an update on progress against the 20 week programme previously submitted:

- All planned bulk infilling of open voids has been completed. This work comprised around 1,200 cubic metres of material to be pumped into the open voids around the junction of Highbarns and Pond Road. This is around the expected level.
- 3,250m of drilling has been completed to date comprising 2,600m of compaction drilling and 650m of bulk infill drilling.

- 450 cubic metres of compaction grouting has been completed in 90 holes to date. The number of holes drilled is as anticipated to this point but the volume of grouting is higher than expected due to a greater extent of open voids in areas where collapsed ground was expected.

The timetable has been adjusted to reflect the findings to date. Higher than expected void levels in the first phases of the work will not impact substantially on the overall timeline as bulk infilling is less time-consuming than compaction grouting. MS is confident therefore that the project can be completed by the planned deadline of the end of June, but stated that, as always, this depends on what is found as the work progresses.

### **3. Work to Date and Issues Arising (Andrew O'Donovan & Andrew Morris, BAM Ritchies)**

AOD/AM gave a presentation updating the group on areas of work completed and areas drilled to date. The presentation also included a summary of volumes of filling material used, a video of the mine showing the pattern of the voids and tunnels, progress photographs, a virtual 3-dimension model of the work completed to date, and photos showing issues with collapsed holes and the rigs that are being used.

### **4. Support during Temporary Locations (Shane Flynn, Dacorum Borough Council)**

SF confirmed statements from previous public meetings that residents need to make what arrangements they can if and when it becomes necessary to relocate temporarily while work is carried out at the individual properties. However, where there are particular difficulties with temporary relocation the Council has secured a number of properties nearby that can be used as temporary accommodation.

Normally a charge would apply for the use of Council accommodation where alternatives are available, but each situation has to be considered on its merits and charges will not be applied where there is no suitable alternative. SF stressed that the properties are being made available to support those who have particular difficulties with relocating.

SF also stated no overall public statements about accommodation are being made as the circumstances relating to each household are different and suitable arrangements need to be worked out for each individual. As soon as the condition of the mine as it relates to each property becomes known, Bam Ritchies will make a decision as to whether day time vacation or overnight vacation is required and,

at that point, use of Council properties will be discussed with the homeowner as a potential option, if needed.

## 5. Questions and Answers

1. What impact will the findings to date have on the overall timeline?

AOD - we are a number of weeks away from knowing when we will be finished as the position changes with each stage of the work, depending on what is found at the site. We expect the grout takes to drop off as the weeks go on because all of the open voids that we know of will be completed, leaving areas with more collapsed ground to be dealt with. In the next weeks following the meeting the contractors will be carrying out testing to see if there are any areas that can be confirmed as safe and therefore potentially deleted from the programme. The project team can then look at worst and best case scenarios for the overall timeline.

Meanwhile an additional rig has been brought on site to increase the rate that the mine can be filled.

2. What impact will the findings to date have on costs?

AOD – although we are very early in the compaction process, the grout volumes are higher than expected because of the open voids that have been found. Therefore material costs may be higher but open voids are quicker to fill than collapsed ground as less drilling and testing is needed. Therefore there may be compensating savings in time.

3. Will validation testing be needed inside properties?

AOD & MS – Each property will need to be tested to ensure that the mine has been treated. BAM Ritchies will minimise the extent to which this has to be done within properties. Where it is absolutely necessary, no work will be done without consultation with residents and the contractors would prefer to have residents present during such testing if possible.

4. Will the Community Information Centre be manned?

AOD – The Centre is open during the day and has a facility for residents to make comments and contact numbers for further information. Residents can also contact members of the contractor's staff on site. However, it is agreed that the centre will should be manned at certain times of the day so that Residents would

have a formal contact point to discuss progress. Times would be agreed and posted up at the centre. The group also suggested that it would be good for the Community Information Centre to be open at 3.30pm so that school children could pop in and have a look around. AM added that would be happy to set up further means, in partnership with the school, to engage local children in the project to increase awareness and enhance security further.

5. What security arrangements are there?

AOD – there is 24 Hour security. The security guard on night duty has an electronic tagging device to confirm that rounds have been completed during the nighttime and that there no problems have been found. An out-of-hours security contact number is available in addition to the phone numbers previously advertise din newsletters and on the council’s website. This will be posted on the Information Centre.

6. When is car park on East Green going to be open?

AOD – aiming for end of next week

7. Is the generator on Chambersbury Lane still creating a disturbance for residents?

AM/AOD – The generator is needed to supply power to the site offices and, in particular, to the security office overnight. It has been relocated further away from houses and a housing has been built for it to reduce noise to a minimum and restrict fumes. It is anticipated that the mains power connection will be ready shortly and that a full connection can be made in the next two weeks.

8. Temporary traffic lights have been used causing traffic problems – can non-emergency works be delayed until the work is completed?

SF – all of the permission and advisory documents required by the County Council, emergency Services and utilities companies have been completed. There is regular contact with eth County Council through officers there, so there is a full understanding of the works and the state of the roads around the area.

9. Lorries are leaving the site too quickly causing a danger to traffic and pedestrians. Can anything be done to stop this?

AOD – In most cases, the lorries are owned by the drivers and are subcontracted for the work. There are clear conditions applying to safety while driving at, on to and off the site which can be enforced through those contracts. AM has already

spoken with the drivers in question and their speed will be monitored to ensure that there are no further breaches of the site speed limits.

## **6. AOB**

The residents commented on how they have been impressed with the team completing the works and always find them helpful.

Communication is key, and communication levels need to be kept up.

Resident requested that there be a further meeting towards the end of the works to discuss validation and reporting arrangements and also matters relating to returning the area to its condition before the mineworks took place.

## **7. Date and time of next meeting**

SF to confirm