

**4th January 2016****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR PLACE****PETITION RECEIVED OBJECTING TO THE INCLUSION OF FLASH FARM,  
AVERHAM IN THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider a response to a petition objecting to the inclusion of the proposed quarry at Flash Farm, Averham in the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan. The petition was presented to Council on the 26 November 2015.

**Information and Advice**The need for sand and gravel

2. Sand and gravel is a key component used in the construction industry and is essential in maintaining the physical framework of buildings and infrastructure on which our society depends. In 2013 approximately 58 million tonnes of sand and gravel was extracted in the UK for a range of uses including concrete, mortar, asphalt, drainage courses and bulk fill.
3. In Nottinghamshire, important alluvial (river) sand and gravel deposits are found in the Trent and Idle Valleys which has historically made the county the largest sand and gravel producing area in the East Midlands. The Sand and gravel found in Nottinghamshire is particularly valuable because it meets the specifications for use in high strength concrete.
4. Over the life of the minerals local plan period to 2030, it is expected that an additional 30 million tonnes of sand and gravel will be required above existing permitted reserves of sand and gravel.

Role of the County Council

5. As the Minerals Planning Authority, the County Council has a statutory duty to produce a Minerals Local Plan. The minerals plan identifies site specific allocations and policies against

which all minerals development proposals are assessed and determined by the County Council. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that a steady and adequate supply of minerals is identified in the most suitable locations to meet expected demand over the plan period to 2030.

6. The current Minerals Local Plan adopted in 2005 is becoming out of date and an emerging plan is currently being drafted. As part of the evidence gathering stage, potential quarries were put forward by the minerals industry for assessment and possible inclusion in the emerging minerals plan. The site at Flash Farm was one such proposal.
7. All the potential quarries put forward by the industry were assessed through a number of documents including a Sustainability Appraisal and a Strategic Transport Assessment. As a result the flash Farm was one of the sites identified as a proposed site specific allocation at the Preferred Approach consultation stage.
8. Although the Flash Farm proposal is considered suitable in principle for future minerals extraction a detailed planning application would still have to be submitted and permission granted before the quarry could be worked.

**Petition: Petition against Averham Gravel Pit proposals (ref:2014/0135)**

9. The following petition was presented to Council on the 26 November 2015.

The petition contains 269 signatures and states:

'We, as residents of Kirklington, object to the inclusion of Flash Farm, Averham in the Minerals Local plan (NCC). The village has many blind junctions entering onto the A617, including a main road from Southwell, a school, and properties as well as narrow pavements. HGV's negotiating the very steep hill approaching the village also gives great cause for concern as does noise and pollution. As there are other sites being considered, we ask that Flash Farm is removed from the list'.

10. Whilst the petition raises opposition to the inclusion of the proposed quarry at Flash Farm due to the impact of HGV traffic on the A617, the petition was not submitted during a specific consultation period on the emerging minerals plan. As such the petition cannot be formally logged as part of the Minerals Local Plan. Similar issues to those contained in the petition have been raised through objections to the Preferred Approach consultation stage of the Minerals Local Plan and therefore the issues raised by the petitioners have already been considered as part of the Minerals Local Plan process.
11. A Strategic Transport Assessment was undertaken by consultants as part of the evidence base for the local plan. This did not raise any issues with the Flash Farm proposal or the

number of HGVs that would access the A617. If a planning application for the Flash Farm site was submitted to the County Council a detailed site specific Transport Assessment would be required.

12. It is therefore proposed that the following response be sent to the petition organiser:-

*'As the Minerals Planning Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to produce a Minerals Local Plan that sets out expected demand over the plan period, site specific allocations to meet identified need and policies against which future minerals development will be assessed. The Flash Farm proposal was assessed and included in the Preferred Approach consultation document as it was considered suitable in principle for future minerals extraction.*

*The petition has been received outside a period of public consultation and therefore cannot be formally logged as a representation to a consultation. However the issues highlighted by the petition have been raised as part of earlier consultation stages and have been considered as part of the plan preparation process.*

*Members of the public will have further opportunity to comment on the minerals plan at the Submission Draft consultation stage expected in February 2016 and the lead petitioner will be invited to take part in that process.'*

### Next Steps

13. Progress on the new Minerals Local Plan is ongoing. The next stage of consultation on the Draft Submission document is expected in February 2016. All those who have previously commented at an earlier stage of plan preparation will be notified of the consultation start date. The Minerals Local Plan will then be formally submitted to the Secretary of State and subsequently will be subject to an independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The Inspector's role is to consider the 'soundness' of the whole plan.

## **Other Options Considered**

14. Committee is required to provide a petition response for presentation at County Council.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

15. To seek approval for a response to be sent to the petition organiser.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and

where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

17. It is recommended that approval be given for the proposed response (detailed at paragraph 12 above) to be sent to the petition organiser.

**Tim Gregory**  
**Corporate Director, Place**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Steven Osborne-James, Planning Officer, Planning Policy Team, 0115 97 72109**

## **Background Papers**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **Constitutional Comments (SLB 16/12/2015)**

18. Environment and Sustainability Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

## **Financial Comments (SES 07/12/15)**

19. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.