



Nottinghamshire  
County Council

Report to County Council

15 December 2011

Agenda Item: **7a vii**

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

### **REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2011**

#### **The new Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan - Issues and Options public consultation.**

1. At my portfolio meeting on 24 November I approved the commencement of a major public consultation exercise into the issues and options that the proposed new Minerals Local Plan will have to consider. This consultation exercise is due to commence early in 2012 and will last for 8 weeks.
2. The new Minerals Local Plan will look ahead to 2030 and will replace the plan adopted in 2005 which is becoming out of date. This Plan will provide the main guidance against which all future minerals development proposals, such as new quarries or quarry extensions, will be determined by the County Council. To do this, the Plan will estimate how much additional extraction of minerals will need to be permitted to meet expected demand and will indicate in broad terms, where minerals should be extracted and what environmental standards will apply.
3. Nottinghamshire is a big mineral producing area - sand and gravel, gypsum and coal are extracted on a large scale and brick clay, building stone, limestone, silica sand and oil are also worked. For some of these minerals, especially sand and gravel, major shortfalls in reserves exist and finding enough new mineral in environmentally acceptable locations will be the biggest challenge that the new plan will face. There are also possible new mineral resources that could be worked in the future that will have to be considered. These include industrial dolomite, coal bed methane and shale gas.
4. The issues and options consultation stage is the first but very important public consultation and community involvement stage. Its aim is to complete the evidence base and make sure we understand the views of all those parties, including local communities, that have an interest in future minerals development in the county.
5. We will use this information to decide on our preferred approach which we will then consult on before a draft plan is published that will be submitted to Government for an independent examination. The examination is the last key stage before the Plan can be adopted. The preferred approach consultation exercise will be put before Cabinet for approval which is timetabled for summer 2012. The draft plan will need approval of the full County Council and final adoption is scheduled from early 2014.

## **The Minerals Products Association Restoration Awards**

6. On 19 October 2011 the Minerals Products Association (MPA) held its annual national restoration awards competition at the Royal Society in London. The theme of this year's event was biodiversity and several presentations were made to the audience comprising representatives from the MPA, the minerals industry, various County Councils, Wildlife Trusts and other organisations involved in conservation work.
7. The event culminated in the MPA Restoration Awards, the centrepiece of which was the highly coveted Cooper Heyman Cup, a long standing annual award for restoration projects of an exceptional standard.
8. A restored sand and gravel site within Nottinghamshire's River Idle valley at Lound and Bellmoor was entered for this year's award by Tarmac and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. I am delighted to confirm that, despite other strong national contenders, the Cooper Heyman Cup was awarded to Tarmac and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in recognition of the outstanding restoration achieved at the Lound and Bellmoor estate.
9. The success of that complex, some 600 hectares in total, has been achieved through close working between Tarmac, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the County Council, and it was pleasing that this partnership working was acknowledged during the award ceremony.

## **Waste Management - Christmas Recycling**

10. Veolia Environmental Services (the County Council's Waste PFI Contractor) is sponsoring the Council's Christmas tree this year as part of their Christmas 'Treecycle' campaign which encourages residents to recycle their Christmas tree at the end of the festive period rather than send it to landfill.
11. By taking a tree to a Household Waste Recycle Centre (HWRC), the trees can be shredded for composting or chipped for use in parks and gardens. For every 50 tonnes of Christmas trees sent for recycling, Veolia will donate £100 to the Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council's charity which this year is The Royal British Legion.
12. Veolia have also launched a green advent calendar, which is available at [www.nottstreecycle.co.uk](http://www.nottstreecycle.co.uk). Every day throughout advent there will be a new helpful hint about reducing waste this Christmas; or a mind-boggling fact about just how much we use and throw away throughout the festive period. The calendar is also a great way to be healthier this Christmas because as well as watching your waste-line by learning a new fact or tip about Christmas waste, there is no chocolate to be tempted by, so you can watch your waistline too.
13. Finally, the County Council's Schools Waste Action Club (SWAC) has been busy working with local schools across Nottinghamshire to deliver an "eco" version of the pantomime Cinderella. This has been a really fun way for children to learn about waste and recycling during the festive period.

## Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) - Update

14. Late October and November have again proved busy months for the Local Improvement Scheme team with a range of projects completed across the county.
15. With National Tree Week in November it was appropriate that Bleasby and Elston both held tree planting events.
16. Both villages are establishing community orchards and have planted a variety of fruit trees including damson, mulberry, quince and a number of dessert apple trees such as Radford Beauty and Herrings Pippin. The Bleasby planting is part of the Village Green project which will be completed by February 2012.
17. Continuing on a horticultural theme children from St Luke's Primary School in Shireoaks took part in a village tidy up day which saw them plant bluebells and wild daffodils as well as installing bird feeders and hibernation boxes.
18. Following a spate of thefts at Bowbridge Allotments in Newark, LIS funded new gates and fencing. Councillor Wallace was joined on site by allotment holders, representatives from the Newark Allotment and Garden Society and Newark Town Council to view the scheme. All were extremely appreciative of the new security measures which will hopefully bring an end to the pilfering.
19. A major restoration of footpaths at the Hardstaff Almshouses in Gedling was welcomed by residents and charity trustees alike. The chipped and broken footpaths had become a safety hazard, especially in winter when they became slippery. The trustees were particularly pleased with the project as they had waited more than 20 years for the work to be carried out.
20. A couple of weeks ago I was delighted to visit one of the last remaining water meadows in Nottinghamshire which has been restored thanks to the Local Improvement Scheme. Carburton Water Meadows gives visitors a unique insight into a restored 19th century agricultural irrigation system. Several pits, sluice gates and channels have been restored to working order at the 18 hectare site which extends from Carburton Dam to the boundary of Clumber Park.
21. A new viewpoint at Vicar Water Country Park has been created which lists more than 40 Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire collieries which can be seen from the viewpoint. This structure is a reminder of the area's mining heritage and has attracted a lot of visitors since being installed.
22. Last month I visited St Mary's Church in Radcliffe on Trent with the Leader to see first hand repair work being carried out on the church wall. Damaged stone was being replaced and we both had an attempt at lime mortaring, a technique commonly used in the repair of stone built structures.

23. On my last visit to Retford I viewed another project which displays the intricacies of some of the craftsmanship carried out under the LIS banner. The restoration of the balustrades at Denham Library near Retford. The cast iron balustrades needed urgent attention as did the front of the library and the transformation now showcases the Grade II listed Georgian building in all its glory.
24. Many other environmental improvement projects have been completed in November, footway improvements on Kirklington Road, Southwell, Grove Road, Sutton in Ashfield and Cliff Top in Radcliffe on Trent, under 5's play equipment installed at Trowell Play Area, a new village sign in Lambley, and kerbing works on Winthorpe Street in Mansfield Woodhouse and Station Road/Claypit Lane junction in Fiskerton cum Morton.
25. The development of next year's LIS programme is well underway with over £9 million pounds worth of bids being received. The 2012/13 LIS programme will see a diverse range of schemes countywide being delivered, making a real difference locally.

**COUNCILLOR RICHARD BUTLER**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**