

**NOTES OF AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE MARSH FARM LIAISON
MEETING
25TH APRIL 2007**

- ❖ These are notes as the minutes of the meeting are taken by the Clerk to Salford Priors Parish Council
- ❖ Present at the meeting were:
 - Cllrs. James, Stedman and Wolfe from Salford Priors PC
 - Cllrs. Keeley, Hendey and Smith from Bidford PC
 - Clerks to Bidford and Salford Priors PC
 - Tony Rowly and Nigel Taylor from CEMEX
- ❖ The meeting had been requested by Bidford PC to give CEMEX a chance to give details of the restoration of the landfill area between Broom and Dunnington
- ❖ Tony Rowley advised as follows:
 - Since the withdrawal of the application at Broom Court Farm, CEMEX have undertaken geological investigations of land, mainly in the Ragley Estate, for which permission for extraction of sand and gravel already exists.
 - CEMEX have resolved the landfill area issues with the Environment Agency, which had suspended work there for approx. 18 months. They had had to reapply for an exemption, which is now on an annual rolling basis, and infill had restarted in February, However, they had lost quite a lot of their original customer basis and calculate a loss of 2 years of restoration.
 - The land will now be restored to agricultural – other possibilities had been looked at, but the value of agricultural land is now increasing and it has been decided to revert to this option, with some elements of conservation such as planted wooded area, hedgerows etc
- ❖ Cllr. James asked how much more extraction CEMEX calculated was in the area to which the reply was approx. 2 more years, although they had the option of extending to the detached consented areas.
- ❖ Cllr. James then reminded Mr. Rowley that at the last meeting it had been agreed that the restoration should start at the Broom Lane end, this being the most exposed area, and the answer given was that although this was not planned, he foresaw no reason why it could not be done.
- ❖ Cllr. Hendey then asked about plans received by the Environment Agency, sent by Bomfords, showing a large reservoir area in the Broom Lane area of the sand and gravel extraction which would be used by Bomfords to extract water during the summer months for their Evesham land.

Tony Rowley stated that he had no idea about this plan and added that Bomford could not carry out any of this work as the land is owned by Ragley Estate and leased to CEMEX – Bomfords have no interest in the area. He added that, even if Bomfords had put in this request, it was a bit late in the day as infill in part of the area shown had already started.

Cllr. Stedman stated that there were too many anomalies with these plans and that it looked more like a feasibility plan than anything else.

Cllr. Hendey again asked CEMEX if they really knew nothing about it, and again received a negative reply.

In view of this, and as it was clear that something had been sent to the Environment Agency, it was agreed that both parish councils would contact the Environment Agency asking for clarification.

In the meantime, CEMEX will contact the Ragley Estate.

- ❖ Cllr. Smith then asked CEMEX for its current position in respect of Broom Court Farm.

Tone Rowley replied that CEMEX had no further interest in this land. It does not fit in with CEMEX's profile as there are too many difficulties with the site. He added that this did not mean other operators would not show interest but another operator could not have the site as an extension and would have to have the operation there as well. However, he was not aware of any other company showing any interest and these rumours usually circulate within the business

- ❖ Cllr. James enquired about the removal of the bunds on the A46 which act as a sound barrier. As per the current planning these will be removed although the Highway Agency could request they remain and negotiate with Ragley Estate. As the removal of the bunds would start soon, he suggested any negotiations should start sooner rather than later.

It was mentioned that the removal of the bunds would expose the operation at Marsh Farm .

- ❖ Regarding the type of infill now being received, there are very strict rules: only infill from reputable companies is allowed and a record of the incoming vehicles and their contents have to be kept. Top soil is no longer allowed as it can be contaminated. It will take about 4 years from extraction ceasing for the full restoration to be carried out
- ❖ Cllr. Smith suggested that regular meeting of the Liaison Group should take place and it was agreed these should be every 6 months.
- ❖ It was also agreed that, as there are new members in the Liaison Group, a tour of the site should be arranged. Mr. Taylor to liaise with the Clerks.