

**PUBLIC STATEMENT from Prospective County Councillors  
On  
LOCAL MINERALS PLAN**

**The letter below was sent from SAGAG to each of the prospective County Councillors for them to respond to the community prior to the County Council Elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES ARE SHOWN BELOW IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE RECEIVED**

Dear "Candidate"

Re: Warwickshire County Council Elections and Warwickshire County Council Minerals Local Plan

We understand that you are standing as candidate for the Budbrooke and Bishops Tachbrook Division in the forthcoming County Council elections on 4th May 2017.

As Chairman of the Sand and Gravel Action Group, I have been deputed to ask that you make a public statement regarding your views on the proposed Local Minerals Plan in Warwickshire, with particular regard to the two sites in the parish of Wasperton – Site 4 at Wasperton Farm, and Site 5 at Glebe Farm. Specifically we would like you to address the following points:

- 1) What is your understanding of where the County Council is in the process of developing the Local Minerals Plan?
- 2) Please make a general statement of your views on the Local Minerals Plan.
- 3) How do you intend to represent your constituents if elected as this issue proceeds?
- 4) Would you be voting in favour of including in the Local Minerals Plan
  - a) Site 4 at Wasperton Farm?
  - b) Site 5 at Glebe Farm?
- 5) Would you be prepared to vote against your Party's whip on this matter?
- 6) Would you like to add anything else?

We will be publishing prior to the election all responses to all the electors in the parishes of Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton including a non-response. As the answers will be published ahead of the receipt of the initial wave of postal voting ballot papers, we would appreciate receiving your response by Thursday 13th April.

If there is no response by that date we will assume that you do not wish to provide a response and this will be published to all

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All responses **should be sent BY EMAIL to:** [sagag4and5@gmail.com](mailto:sagag4and5@gmail.com)

Wishing you all the best in your campaign.

Regards

*Allan Murdock*

Allan Murdoch

## RESPONSES

### **Derrick G Knight (Green Party)**

1) The consultation period for the Local Minerals Plan ended at 5pm on 3 February 2017 and responses are now being collated and prepared as a draft plan for putting before an independent inspector at an examination – in – public.

2) I believe that the Local Minerals Plan has been prepared using an outdated Regional Spatial Strategy and out of date demographic assessments and I trust can be reviewed accordingly at the public examination. I question whether due regard has been shown to the national obligations to reduce carbon dioxide levels and the resultant development of alternative construction methods which require reduced quantities of sand, gravel and cement.

3) I have considerable interest in representing the views of local constituents and acknowledging the justified concerns for the additional traffic generated by a sand and gravel extraction programme. Of greater concern is the loss of valuable farm land and the reduced ability of the local community to derive food locally and live in a sustainable manner. The vision demonstrated by the planning process in providing a by-pass for Barford clearly showed an understanding of the rights of Barford residents to enjoy a healthy, wholesome and sustainable life within the environs of Barford. The proposed removal of access to necessary land to enable the growing of local food seems to be contrary to the purpose of the by-pass and the associated protection of the Barford community.

4) My response above confirms that I would vote against the inclusion of site 4 at Wasperton Heath Farm and site 5 at Glebe Farm, Wasperton. (As detailed in Appendix 1: All Submitted Mineral Sand and Gravel Sites)

5) The Green Party does not operate a whip system. Instead I am entrusted by Warwick District Green Party to act in the best interests of the constituents whom I seek to represent based on my expertise and local knowledge.

6) I do not claim to have the same detailed knowledge of the internal WCC documents as the current incumbent, by virtue of his elected status, but if I am elected at the forthcoming local County Council elections I confirm that I will use my expertise as a chartered engineer and best efforts to represent the concerns of Barford residents.

### **Les Caborn (Conservative)**

1. I totally understand where WCC is within the process which is a statutory process and duty on the county council to provide a minerals plan. At this moment in time the responses to the second consultation are being assessed and will be reported to the cabinet mid year 2017 . They will make appropriate decisions based on the details and facts as presented to them. These could if appropriate include further information gathering or amendment. Depending on the cabinet decision further action may be needed ,if not the plan will go to full council for approval to send to the inspector possibly early Autumn . The inspector will then set a timetable for his public enquiry . People or organisations registered with the inspector will be allowed to speak at the enquiry and make representation as the inspector deems appropriate .

2 Warwickshire has a duty to produce a minerals plan that is deliverable . It cannot assume sites not offered at this stage as deliverable but containing minerals will be available in the plan period. Deliverability is a key part of the inspectors process. He will also check the quantity calculations for accuracy. Therefore my view is that Warwickshire must proceed to completion on a minerals plan

3 Representation of constituents by collecting views comments questions and taking to officers as needed for answers. Discussion with cabinet and portfolio holder.,talking to other members.,Arranging for constituents to meet officers, portfolio holder,

- 4 From the information available to me at this time I will not be supporting inclusion of sites 4 or 5
- 5 Voting against the whip would depend on what is the final plan proposed to go to the inspector, however this could well be an item to council that group leaders decided should be a free vote i.e. No whip and each Councillor making his/ her decision independently .
- 6 All the above applies to sites 4 and 5 but there is a further complication on site 5 which is solar energy. Glebe farm is on WCC short list for energy generation sites but not at this time determined . I am aware that Glebe Farm is tenanted on a confidential landlord /tenant agreement. Warwickshire as a full council has determined that it will maintain the present 5000 acre tenanted land estate at that level by reinvestment in land should any be lost.

**John Cooper (Liberal Democrat)**

Many thanks for your letter and many apologies for the delay in my response.

One reason I joined the Liberal Democrats is that I believe in open and transparent government. Where ever possible decisions should not be made in secret. This applies to local government as much as central government.

I am strongly of the opinion that the best decisions are made when the public have full access to all the facts. Sadly there is a perception that decisions are often made before an issue goes out to public consultation.

I can assure you that if elected I would expect to represent the views of the residents of Wasperton Parish and the Budbrooke and Bishop's Tachbrook Division as a whole. So I would also want to talk to local groups, such as yours and of course to all local residents. It is certainly not enough just to listen to council officers, it is important to test their views and evidence for those opinions with the public.

The Liberal Democrat councillors on Warwickshire County Council do not operate a whipping system. Clearly they discuss matters but they do look to the local knowledge of the relevant councillor and certainly respect a councillor's duty to stand up for their area.

You will know from residents in the north of Leamington and in Stratford how well they have been represented by Liberal Democrat councillors for many years and how those councillors have fought for those areas.

**Colin Quinney (Labour)**

No response received