

Barford Residents Association
Sand and Gravel Update

Twenty-three people attended the information evening held in the school hall on Wednesday 2nd August. It was rather less than we expected but we realise that this is the holiday season. It is our intention to repeat the presentation towards the end of September for those who could not attend.

Whilst the presentation was intended to bring the community up to date with our activities and the challenges that still face us, we also felt it was very important to hear from people with 1st hand experience of the workings of a sand and gravel quarry. One of our speakers, Philip Evans, who has 35+ years experience in Civil Engineering Construction and has detailed knowledge of mineral extraction in the UK and abroad was able to outline the extent of the nuisance we could face.

We also shared two letters written by people who have experienced the impact of sand and gravel quarrying, extracts from these letters are included here:

Letter to Les Caborn from a Barford resident:

"Many years ago I used to sell service and manufacture conveyor belting and screen plates to the quarry industry. In all my travels at home & abroad I never came across a sand and aggregate or indeed any form of quarrying close to a residential area. The noise and crushing of screening and the noise and danger of extraction, the density of vehicles in delivery of the final product, and the dust created in every phase except final washing makes this almost criminal placing it near residential properties regardless of whatever suppressant measures are promised, as none yet have been truly effective."

Letter from a Wellesbourne resident:

'Having lived near gravel extraction sites in the past can I tell you a little of my experience. Restoring the land to farming requires years of landfill by refuse lorries and again we had a battle to get this done quickly. Once done the landscape is dotted with methane extraction vents and is only suitable for grazing and public footpaths across it are not permitted. Second was the noise both during extraction and during restoration. The lorries have very loud reversing alarms fitted - they can be heard over half a mile away and are very annoying. We tried to get the volume reduced but the health and safety executive would not allow it. Eventually we succeeded in getting the lorries routed so that reversing was reduced to a minimum. Third was the dust raised when the wind is in the wrong direction.'

We hope these real life experiences will help to convince the doubters that we are facing a very serious threat and it will affect all the community.

Remember all donations, no matter how small, are hugely appreciated.

Please donate via the Village shop or by bank transfer to:

Barford Residents Association: Sort code. 77-74-59 Acc no. 01404960

Thank you

