

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 2ND OCTOBER 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BARDON HILL QUARRY – PROPOSED EXTENSION TO WORKINGS

Purpose of Report

1. To update members on the proposed extension to Bardon Hill Quarry and the potential effects on the local rights of way network.

Background Information

2. Aggregate Industries are proposing a large extension of its working operations at Bardon Hill Quarry in the vicinity of Old Rise Rocks. Informal consultations with the public are being carried out by the company and exhibitions have been held in the locality.
3. The company have also produced a pamphlet outlining the proposals, a copy of which was circulated at the last meeting.

Potential Effects on Access and the Rights of Way Network

4. There is a small but valuable network of footpaths in the area of Old Rise Rocks which offer attractive walking and, in particular, access to the top of Bardon Hill. These paths are promoted in the County Council's "Ivanhoe Way" and "Geological Walks in Charnwood" leaflets.
5. The proposed quarry extension would have a major effect on this network of paths and would necessitate significant diversions.

Formal Planning Process

6. The County Council has not, as yet, been consulted on these proposals. A formal planning application is not expected from the company until the summer of 2009.
7. When an application is received staff in the Countryside Service will work closely with colleagues in the Minerals Control Monitoring Group (which will be processing the application) to ensure that the best possible outcome will be achieved with regard to:-
 - a) the provision of alternative routes during the life time of the quarry,
 - b) the restoration of the footpaths when the landscape is restored and;
 - c) the provision of new or enhanced area access opportunities.

Informal Consultations

8. The company are actively seeking the views of the public, local people and countryside user groups.

Recommendations

9. The L.A.F. will be kept informed of the progress of this proposal through the planning process and its views sought on access issues.
10. That a representative of the company be invited to a meeting of the L.A.F. to present the outline proposals for the quarry extension, and in particular the company's ideas on public rights of way and public access, when it is confirmed that the company intends to submit a formal application.

Officer to Contact

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