

Milton Malsor Parish Council

Address to County Council Cabinet Meeting

Tuesday 9th December 2008

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to speak at this meeting. I will keep my remarks very brief, as the issue is a simple one.

I am speaking on behalf of Milton Malsor Parish Council, concerning the allocated site in the plan for soft sand extraction in our parish.

We consider this site should be removed from the plan, because, not only are there more suitable sites, but the decision is quite clearly contrary to the County Council's own site assessments.

The County Council's site assessments for the two Stoke Albany sites state: *"the nearest villages of Stoke Albany, Wilbarston and Ashley are over 1000m away from the sites, and being a rural location away from the villages decreases potential impacts on residential amenity and safety"*.

However in the case of the site in our parish, the assessment states: *"the villages of Milton Malsor and Collingtree are both within 200m of the site. There are adverse impacts and nuisance affecting residential amenity including potential for dust nuisance from the site, and there are residential dwellings within close proximity of the site."*

We are therefore deeply concerned with the decision taken by the County Council to allocate a site for soft sand extraction located within 200m of Milton Malsor and Collingtree, both conservation villages, where there are over 1600 residents living in the two parishes. This is clearly unacceptable as it will impact severely on residents' amenity and quality of life.

This was made very clear by the 176 letters of objection acknowledged by the County Council in the First Deposit Draft, issued in November 2004. A further 170 letters of objection were acknowledged by the County Council in the Minerals Plan Inquiry issued in October 2005. Why did the County Council ignore these facts, and not publish this in its Preferred Options issued in October 2007 when it should have done so?

The County Council has also allocated the Bozeat Extension as a site for an assortment of aggregates including soft sand extraction. This site is directly adjacent to an existing gravel quarry, *"located over 1000m away from residential areas and villages"* as stated in the site assessment. This is a logical decision as the site will not impact on residents' amenity value and quality of life. The same logic should also be applied in the case of the Milton Malsor site.

We are very concerned our residents' wellbeing and livelihoods' will be severely compromised for more than 10 years at the expense of commercial enterprise, when more suitable sites for soft sand extraction have been identified elsewhere by the County Council.

For these reasons we are asking Cabinet members to endorse our request for this site in Milton Malsor to be removed from the plan.

Thank you for listening. Are there any questions?

