



Mrs A Addison
Clerk to Milton Malsor Parish Council
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Please ask for: Katherine Kerswell
Tel: 01604 236050
Our ref: L08/KK-hm
Your ref:
Date: 10th July 2008

Dear Mrs Addison

**Minerals Local Plan and Minerals and Waste Development Framework:
Site in Milton Malsor Parish**

Thank for your letter of 29 June 2008 regarding the above, and the questions raised in respect of the allocated site in Milton Malsor parish. I will concentrate on answering the summary questions you raise at the end of your letter.

Withdraw the assertion that there is overall support for the allocated soft sand site in the parish of Milton Malsor

The references that were made in the published preferred options document in respect of the level of support or otherwise for sites, is a true reflection of the responses received at the previous issues and options consultation. This was because certain sites, such as the site in your parish, had few representations of local objection at issues and options stage, whereas parish councils and other groups from other settlements not only objected to sites in their vicinity but also positively supported sites that were not near them.

In this way the figures that came about, although being factually correct, could be seen to be not indicative of true local feeling in respect of a number of sites, including the site in your parish. This is backed up by the level of objection subsequently received at preferred options stage for the site in Milton Malsor parish. However what we cannot do is withdraw from a public document, or alternatively insert a correcting statement, in respect of something that was not erroneous in the first place.

To ensure that we do not end up with arguments about what is the level of support/objection for individual sites, and create a situation where write in campaigns not only object to the local site but support all other sites in the county; percentage and numerical summaries by objection/support should no longer be included in MWDF documentation in relation to site specific issues. This will focus arguments back to what

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they should be about: that the assessments of sites for inclusion in the MWDF should be driven by what respondents say in relation to acceptability in planning terms rather than how many of them say it.

Take forward and carry out a thorough investigation of the two potential soft sand sites in the parish of Stoke Albany

An assessment of potential sites for extraction, including the site in Milton Malsor parish and the two sites in Stoke Albany parish, was carried out for the issues and options consultation. This assessment led to the conclusion that the site in Milton Malsor parish was an acceptable site for inclusion (and thus backing up its inclusion in the currently adopted Minerals Local Plan), whilst there were issues over the appropriateness of including the sites in Stoke Albany parish.

It should be noted that in assessing the sites at Stoke Albany the County Council fully complied with the recommendations of the Local Plan Inspector, which was not to include the Stoke Albany sites as allocations in the Minerals Local Plan but to further consider them at review stage (i.e. through the MWDF preparation process).

Remove the allocated site in the parish of Milton Malsor from the proposed list of minerals sites

The site in the parish of Milton Malsor is an allocation in an adopted Local Plan and therefore can only be removed through a review of the Plan (i.e. through the MWDF preparation process). As stated above, site assessment has shown it to be an acceptable site and thus it is being supported as a preferred option in the MWDF. However there will be a consultation at the end of year on the final draft plan, and objections made at that stage in relation to sites will be considered at the public examination.

Incidentally the agent for the site is currently working up proposals for extraction, which implies viability at this location.

Advise central government that Northamptonshire is unable to meet the targets set for soft sand

The MWDF preferred options explores the matter of soft sand availability in Northamptonshire, and proposes that a specific soft sand apportionment is not made in the MWDF (see pages 41 to 43, particularly paragraph 4.23). Instead a general provision for sand and gravel will be made, and that this would include any soft sand sites that were acceptable within this category. The site in Milton Malsor parish is an acceptable site to meet the provision required in Northamptonshire for sand and gravel, and was included in the MWDF Preferred Options as a consequence.

Finally I would like to comment on the reference that the parish council has not received a response to the issues of the level of objection to the site and to the acceptability of the Stoke Albany sites raised in its letter of 15 November 2007. This is because this letter was the representation of Milton Malsor Parish Council to the preferred options consultation. We received a total of responses from 1,400 individuals and organisations to the preferred options consultation, and as the case with representations to formal consultations, these are dealt with in the round to inform the next and subsequent stages of the process and not individually responded to.

I trust the above has helped clarify the issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Katherine Kerswell'.

Katherine Kerswell
Chief Executive
Northamptonshire County Council