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To: HMWP Consultation

Subject: Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Hythe & Dibden Parish Council Response

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Good morning,

Hythe and Dibden Parish Council submits the following comments in response to the proposed updates to the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan.

The Parish Council's observations relate specifically to Forest Lodge Quarry and reflect longstanding concerns raised by local residents and elected members regarding the cumulative impacts of mineral extraction in close proximity to established residential communities.

These comments are submitted to ensure that the revised Plan provides robust protections for local amenity, environmental quality and community wellbeing, both now and over the lifetime of the Plan to 2040.

Parish Council Comments

- Hythe and Dibden Parish Council expresses ongoing concern regarding the long-standing use of Forest Lodge Quarry for gravel extraction and the continued lack of effective mitigation measures to adequately protect local residents.
- The Parish Council notes that a recent planning application has resulted in a significant increase in HGV movements to and from the site, effectively doubling traffic levels. This has intensified existing problems relating to noise, dust, air quality and wider environmental impact.
- Forest Lodge Quarry is located directly opposite a residential housing estate. Given the immediate proximity of homes, some within only metres of the site, the Parish Council considers that substantially stronger mitigation measures should be required than are currently in place.
- The Parish Council believes that access arrangements and the volume of lorry movements should be reduced, with stricter controls applied to protect residential amenity, road safety and local infrastructure.
- The permitted hours for mineral extraction and associated operations should be further restricted in order to safeguard residents' quality of life, particularly given the presence of family housing in such close proximity to the site.
- The Parish Council strongly encourages a strategic approach to mineral extraction that prioritises locations where there is greater separation from established communities, thereby reducing unacceptable noise, dust and disturbance impacts on neighbouring properties.
- Local residents and elected councillors have previously raised objections and concerns relating to Forest Lodge Quarry, which they feel have not been adequately addressed. This has led to a perception that the lived experience and impacts on local communities are not being fully recognised.
- The Parish Council requests improved transparency through long and medium-term monitoring and reporting for the site. This should include clear performance indicators, progress against agreed targets, and published plans for reducing operational impacts over time.
- Engagement, reporting and consultation should extend beyond limited or small consultation groups and include parish councils and affected residents as key stakeholders, to ensure accountability and restore confidence in the management of mineral extraction activities.

Kind Regards,

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