

West Deeping Parish Council  
c/o 11 The Lane,  
West Deeping,  
Lincolnshire,  
PE6 9HS

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

**Subject: West Deeping**

Dear Mr Fuller,

Thank you for your letter, dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Feedback from our neighbours is important to us.

**Mineral Plan Process**

The Mineral Local Plan (MLP) process is a lengthy, and thorough process to fully assess any potential mineral sites put forward to the relevant Councils, in this case Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

The current MLP Site Locations document was adopted in December 2017 following extensive assessments, public consultation and, finally, scrutiny from the Planning Inspectorate. The current plan covers the period up to 2031.

LCC are required to update the MLP at 5 yearly intervals and as you are aware this process of updating has commenced. The first stage of public consultation is not expected to commence until the spring of 2024.

During the Call for Sites process in 2022, Breedon submitted high level details for a further potential allocation, SG11, on the understanding that MS29 was already an allocated site. Given that the updated MLP will cover the period up to 2040, this was an opportunity for operators to highlight the mineral strategy for that period and to gain the thoughts of the authority on whether SG11 was a viable option or not. This would allow Breedon to plan for the future. Presently, there is no certainty that SG11 will reach allocated status.

After extensive discussions with the Planning Officers managing the MLP update, Breedon agreed to re-submit MS29 with the inclusion of the processing plant (SG17). It was suggested that we may like to submit both SG11 and SG17 as one site, but after careful consideration we chose to submit separately. Our thinking behind this was around the practical process of operation, we have no intention of extracting mineral from both sites at the same time and wanted to be able to deal with them by way of separate planning applications within the updated plan period.

My team have been very open in discussing the above submissions and all of these matters were discussed at length at the regular liaison meetings. Until such time as the updated MLP is adopted, the current Plan remains as existing. MS29 is still an allocated site and we intend to submit the application on this basis.



## **Planning Application**

As you are aware through our regular liaison meetings and our previous open evening presentation to the community, we are currently preparing our planning application for MS29 with the inclusion of a processing plant, SG17. This application would cover a period of no more than 8 years at current output rates.

Our application is taking shape but not yet fully completed. This application falls under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA) and requires us to prepare much more detailed documentation covering such items as landscape, visual impact, ecology, archaeology, heritage, highways, air quality and noise. This will all be provided within the Environmental Statement and must be prepared by suitably qualified and Chartered professionals.

Once (and assuming) our application is prepared showing impacts can be managed, we will be in a position to share the proposal with the Parish Council, Liaison Group, and the wider community through a public exhibition to enable dialogue between all parties. At the most recent consultation, we agreed to ensure that the public exhibition and submission of the application to LCC will not occur during school holidays, this was highlighted as a concern for some residents. This consultation is the opportunity for the attendees from the above groups to make comments and suggestions on the application. This is a normal part of the planning process and one where we do take the opportunity to improve our schemes taking comments on board where appropriate.

The application, Environmental Statement and associated schemes are then reviewed and technically critiqued by statutory consultees such as Natural England, Historic England, The Environment Agency, as well as the Council's internal expert officers for their view.

## **Outreach**

We do believe that we work well with communities across the country and are proud of the work that we do with local groups, Parish Councils and schools. We do our very best to be good neighbours but appreciate that simply by being here is a negative for some residents.

Our local liaison groups are set up to ensure there is a line of communication, transparency and a connect to our neighbours. On the whole, these groups work well and have produced some excellent results from the provision of volunteers carrying out works in villages surrounding our sites, providing materials for works such as surfacing of church car parks and bulb planting in verges and providing funding for local projects.

We're also particularly proud of the work we do with local archaeological groups at West Deeping where we have and continue to provide site tours and talks to the local community. Our final site tour of the summer is due to take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> August and we hope you'll be able to attend to experience first hand the great work that's being done.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Parish Council through the liaison group and would consider joining a working party if the community felt that would be of benefit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Burgess", written in a cursive style.

**Chris Burgess**

Regional Land and Mineral Resources Manager – Wales and South  
07711 192 153