

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regulatory Committee Meeting 20 April 2022

Update Report from Head of Strategic Planning

Item No: 6

Extension to the quarry extraction area to the South-West with associated modifications to the approved quarry schemes at Grundon Sand And Gravel Ltd, Frith End Sand Quarry, Grooms Farm Lane, Frith End, Bordon GU35 0QR (Application No. 30633/041 Ref. EH121)

And

Variation of Conditions 1 (Timescale), 4 (Phasing) and 10 (Landscaping) of Planning Permission 30633/039 at Grundon Sand And Gravel Ltd, Frith End Sand Quarry, Grooms Farm Lane, Frith End, Bordon GU35 0QR (Application No. 30633/040 Ref. EH121)

1) Representations:

Amend paragraph 86 to say the following: *As of 8 April 2022, a total of 18 representations (from 11 respondents) have been received on planning application 30633/041 and associated further periods of public consultation. A further 7 representations (from 5 respondents) were received specifically on planning application 30633/040.*

The majority objected to the proposal but there were two representations in support of the proposal. The main areas of concern raised in the objections related to the following areas:

- *The proposed extension site expands the approved quarry site;*
- *The loss of Ranks Hill as a local landmark;*
- *The loss of biodiversity, including acid heathland;*
- *Impact to protected species (sand martins);*
- *Noise;*
- *Landscape and visual amenity impact;*
- *Development creep, in area and in time;*
- *Cumulative impact, in magnitude and duration;*
- *Adverse community impact; and*
- *Impact on flood risk and local flood risk events.*

END

Item No: 7

Realignment works and alterations to the northerly section of Blackbushes Road including the addition of a fourth arm on the A30/A327 Hartford Bridge Flats junction roundabout, plus changes to street lighting, road lining, road signing and drainage and new boundary fencing alongside the western and eastern boundaries at Blackbushes Road, Hartley Wintney and land to the west of Blackbushes Road (No. 22/00214/HCC) (Site Ref: HRH003)

1) Consultee responses received since report publication:

On the 12 April 2022, Natural England formally responded to the Council's consultation request (dated 01 February 2022) advising "*No objection subject to appropriate mitigation being secured*".

Natural England commented that without this mitigation being provided, the application would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).

As detailed in the paragraph 19 of the committee report, the application site's south-eastern margin lies within the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). The SPA is designated as a sensitive habitat for ground nesting birds comprising the Dartford warbler, nightjar, and woodlark.

Natural England advised that should planning permission be proposed to be granted a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be secured (by condition or obligation) to ensure that certain construction-related activities will be limited in time, location or noise level to minimise risk of disturbance to SPA birds (in the adjoining Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area).

Natural England further commented that should planning permission be proposed to be granted contrary to their advice, the County Council is required under Section 28I (6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to notify Natural England of the permission, the terms on which it is proposed to grant it and how, if at all, your authority has taken account of Natural England's advice. Furthermore, a period of 21 days before the permitted operations can commence must be observed to allow Natural England to review the Council's decision.

Natural England's requirements were reviewed and the County Ecologist and applicant consulted for their professional advice and opinion.

The County Ecologist had already raised no objection to the proposal subject to the mitigation measures being implemented within the Sections 5.3-5.12 of their Ecological Appraisal (May 2021), proposed within Condition 7 (Ecological Appraisal) in the committee report.

The applicant have advised that it their intention to submit a CEMP within their submission to satisfy the above referenced condition and others in the event planning permission is resolved to be granted.

Following the receipt of response from Natural England, officers consulted the County Ecologist who believes that proposed condition 7 meets Natural England's requirements. Natural England have been advised of this.

The County Council, as Local Planning Authority, remains satisfied that the integrity of the designated Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, and its breeding birds, reptiles and their habitats, would still be protected in accordance with the development plan. No additional conditions are required.

END

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