

Update release by WTC & FDC (Leader) Cllr Chris Boden.

Saxon Pit Whittlesey

The former brick clay industrial buildings at Saxon Pit are now used for a variety of authorised uses with planning permissions issued by Cambridgeshire County Council for waste developments and for non-waste related uses by Fenland District Council.

Stabilisation and Buttreasing Works

The main active operation at the site relates to the buttressing and stabilisation of the quarry sides and subsequent restoration of the land through the importation of inert waste. This work has recommenced having ceased during an Environment Agency investigation resulting from the identification of unauthorised imported waste material at the site. Local residents have been provided with briefing note updates by the Environment Agency on this matter. These works have now continuing under an Environment Agency watching brief with officers making regular site visits to ensure that operations continue in accordance with the Environmental Permit issued. Imported inert material is screened on site to remove any large rocks etc. during the permitted operational hours of 07:00 to 17:00 Mondays to Fridays, 07:00 to 13:00 Saturdays with no operations on Sundays or Bank Holidays in accordance with planning permission F/2015/18/CW. This is the same screener that has been used for a number of years at this site and has not previously resulted in any complaints of noise resulting from its operation. The site operator has confirmed that the screener is only operational during the hours stated above when necessary.

Johnsons IBA recycling

A planning application is being considered by Cambridgeshire County Council under application reference CCC/21/024/FUL for the importation of Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste to produce Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate (IBAA) for use as a recycled secondary aggregate for the construction industry.

This application is currently out to consultation for a third time following the submission of additional information relating to the assessment of noise impact, highway matters and the provision of biodiversity net gain. This consultation ends on 25 February 2022.

Technical responses are currently being received from consultees and further written comments are being received from neighbouring occupiers.

It is anticipated that the application will be presented to the County Council Planning Committee for consideration on 16 March 2022. All of the neighbour representations received from each round of consultation will be taken into consideration in the determination of the application.

Confirmation has been received from the applicants agent that whilst some pre operational works have been carried out at the site, including the delivery of a trommel to the site, this has not yet been connected and operational activity at the site will only commence in accordance with planning permission should this be issued by Cambridgeshire County Council following their determination of the planning application.

Johnsons have confirmed that their Compliance Officer is visiting the site tomorrow and will remind all personnel on site that no operations should commence without the benefit of planning permission.

AW Jenkinson

It is understood that AW Jenkinson Ltd who manufacture timber products has occupied a further unit within the Saxon Pit site utilising an existing Fenland District Council (FDC) consent for industrial use. It is also understood that at this time the company is operating in accordance with the requirements of the conditions attached to that valid planning permission.

Complaints of Smell and Noise

Both County Council Officers and FDC Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) have been in receipt of complaints regarding an 'earthy' odour and more recently regarding a persistent mechanical noise in the vicinity of the Saxon Pit site. To date none of the complainants has definitively identified the source of the smell or noise. These matters now form part of an active investigation by FDC EHOs who are liaising closely with County Council and Environment Agency colleagues to appraise them of the progress of the investigation.

As detailed above there is no evidence at this time to support the suggestion that these issues are in any way related to either the ongoing quarry side stabilisation works that operates within the time limits specified in their planning permission only or to the proposed IBA and C&D waste recycling facility which is not yet operational. However, should the FDC EHO investigation reveal any evidence to the contrary, the appropriate enforcement bodies would take appropriate action to ensure that any unauthorised activity resulting in an unacceptable level of noise or odour nuisance is appropriately addressed.