



# SAXONGATE

## NEWSLETTER

November 2022



**Please attend our next public meeting – at 7pm on Thursday 24 November at the Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey**

Whittlesey residents' group Saxongate campaigns to ensure local businesses, primarily those based at Saxon Pit, follow the rules to avoid needless pollution, while pushing to reduce HGV traffic and improve local air quality and noise monitoring by Government bodies.

Saxon Pit (see photo below) is a former brick pit covering an area of around 70 hectares near Snoots Road and the BP garage on the A605. A football pitch is less than one hectare, so it is a big site.

In 2003 planning permission was granted for restoration works that would have resulted in a nice nature amenity zone for residents. The works should have taken 2 to 5 years; however nearly 20 years on yet another new planning permission has just gone in for an extension of 2.5 years to complete the restoration.

The works are now more complex and the site will require long-term monitoring because, at some point, non-conforming waste was used – in breach of permits. In June this year the then Environment Secretary, George Eustice, told our MP Steve Barclay that a criminal investigation was under way at Saxon Pit where 122,000 tonnes of potentially hazardous waste was dumped. Mr Eustice said: "The investigation is complex, involving large-scale offending and multiple suspects." Saxongate members were the first to highlight this issue to the authorities. We will continue to highlight this matter to ensure they follow up on their promises.

There are national air quality targets and limits for pollutants designed to protect human health and the environment. Exposure to these contaminants can contribute to the onset of heart disease, cancer and respiratory conditions, leading to premature death. In recent years a number of recycling and waste operations have been set up at Saxon Pit, and we now have a large number of potentially significant sources of industrial pollution in Whittlesey. The view from our new A605 road bridge highlights that. Our recent residents' survey (details overleaf) has highlighted that people are increasingly worried about the situation.

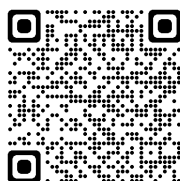
Our volunteers have been busy this year, helping to improve and protect the local environment for everyone. We have been working with and lobbying the Environment Agency, Fenland District Council (FDC), Whittlesey Town Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to push for better and more joined up monitoring and enforcement.

With our backing, Councillor Chris Boden had a motion passed by FDC to support, in principle, the siting within Whittlesey of monitoring equipment measuring particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.

We have formed a liaison group with one of the key operators and are fully supported by Whittlesey Town Council in our endeavours.

■ If you would like to help, volunteer or just know more about the issues and our many activities, please attend our next meeting. You can also join our group, follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/SaxonGatePE7](http://www.facebook.com/SaxonGatePE7) or use the QR code below) or email [saxongate2022@gmail.com](mailto:saxongate2022@gmail.com)

*Turn the page for the results of our recent residents' survey* 🗨️



**COMMUNITY  
FUND**



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### SAXONGATE WHITTLESEY RESIDENTS' SURVEY RESPONSES

Firstly, we would like to thank all those who responded to the recent survey. It was fantastic to see so much interest, with over half of the nearly 300 responses commenting on the effect they think industrial pollution is having on them personally.

We would encourage you to call the Environment Agency on 0800 807060 should you have problems with noise, dust or smells. Please do this every time you have a problem and clearly only if you have a problem. The service is quick and only takes about five minutes.

#### THE OUTCOMES

1. DO YOU BELIEVE LOCAL NOISE LEVELS ARE TOO HIGH? **86% SAID YES**
2. HAVE YOU SUFFERED UNACCEPTABLE SMELLS FROM POLLUTION? **80% SAID YES**
3. DO YOU BELIEVE DUST POLLUTION HAS INCREASED RECENTLY? **95% SAID YES**
4. ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT LOCAL INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION? **97% SAID YES**
5. IS EXTRA TRAFFIC IN WHITTLESEY A CONCERN TO YOU? **92% SAID YES**
6. DO YOU THINK WHITTLESEY SHOULD HAVE INDEPENDENT AIR QUALITY AND NOISE MEASUREMENT? **96% SAID YES**
7. DO YOU THINK LIMITS SHOULD BE SET FOR NOISE AND THAT NOISE REDUCTION SCHEMES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED? **97% SAID YES**
8. SHOULD COMPANIES FULLY COMPLY WITH EMISSION LIMITS? **99% SAID YES**
9. SHOULD COMPANIES BE MONITORED AND THE RESULTS MADE PUBLIC AS PROOF THAT THEY ARE COMPLYING TO EMISSION STANDARDS? **98% SAID YES**
10. DO YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE A MEDICAL CONDITION THAT CAN BE CAUSED OR EXACERBATED BY POLLUTION? **59% SAID YES**  
(Regarding question 10, in addition 51% said that they believed their condition may have deteriorated due to the effects of local pollution.)



Saxongate residents' group is holding a public meeting at 7pm on Thursday 24 November at the Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey. Please make every effort to attend.

■ If you would like to help, volunteer or just know more about the issues and our many activities, please attend our next meeting. You can also join our group, follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/SaxongatePE7](http://www.facebook.com/SaxongatePE7) or use QR code below) or email [saxongate2022@gmail.com](mailto:saxongate2022@gmail.com)

