



# SAXONGATE

## NEWSLETTER

June 2023



Dear Resident

Saxongate Residents' Group Whittlesey 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 is a former brick pit covering an area of around 70 hectares near Snoots Road on the south-west edge of the town.

In this newsletter we want to bring you all up to date on our collective situation. We are continuing to have meetings with the Town Council, Fenland District Council (FDC), Cambridgeshire County Council and the Environment Agency. This is usually happening every six months, giving us a chance to put our issues directly to the people who, hopefully, can have influence on our key issues – dust, noise and odour – which residents close to Saxon Pit have suffered and are still suffering. The noise and dust are of great concern to us, and we have lobbied FDC into putting up a monitor to assess the air quality near Park Lane Primary and Nursery School. We are awaiting a detailed analysis but will advise you of progress. Regarding noise, we are hopeful that through our regular liaison meetings with a major company on the site we can look forward to improvements towards a quieter future. We are also now focusing on reducing the risk of water pollution. As residents we need to be kept informed of what is happening down at Saxon Pit and in the surrounding area, rather than having to react to situations once they have happened. If you join our mailing list and attend our public meetings, we will do our best to keep you updated on any future proposed activity. We are also impressing to all the authorities and land owners that any plans or changes should be communicated early and effectively to all residents potentially affected by them. We also continue to lobby for water filtration as trade effluent is pumped into Kings Dyke. A new permit request has also gone in to drain Victory Pit into Kings Dyke. It is a complex and evolving situation, and it is important residents are aware of plans and feel confident that the relevant agencies have the budgets and resources to ensure that the correct regulations are identified and enforced.

After two years of operation without planning approval, one company at Saxon Pit has been refused retrospective planning permission. We wait to see if they will appeal or cease operations and vacate the site. Saxongate will continue to put pressure on those who can influence this situation to ensure it is finally resolved.

A representative from Saxongate was interviewed on the More Muzic Radio 'Drivetime' show in May, and will be on the show again with an update in July. We appreciate being given the chance to keep the local community informed on these issues and to answer any questions from the residents who ring in.

PTO 



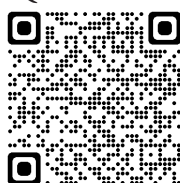
*Saxon Pit industrial bottom ash processing plant and stockpiles.*

■ If you have issues with noise, dust or smell, it is important that every occurrence is reported to the Environment Agency – so please call them on 0800 807060.

We need to keep growing our membership and mailing list, so do register and pass on our details. People can contact us on [saxongate2022@gmail.com](mailto:saxongate2022@gmail.com) or via Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SaxonGatePE7](https://www.facebook.com/SaxonGatePE7). You can also use the QR code link below.



QR code link



## SOME ISSUES AND CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE

Serious lessons need to be learned from the problems caused by Saxon Pit operations so that they can be avoided in the future. Below are just some of the concerns and issues that Saxongate has raised:

- We cannot understand how any company can start to build and run a potentially polluting operation without first having planning permission.
- We struggle to understand why it has taken so long to find out and control the source of the noise and dust, which is still unclear.
- We cannot understand how anyone can operate at a site without up-to-date planning permission.
- We cannot understand why planning permission is needed to erect a sound barrier to assist in noise reduction on an operation that is causing an issue to residents.
- We do not understand why the restoration of land promised by Hanson at Saxon Pit, which could provide a publicly accessible amenity, has been allowed to overrun by around 15 years. The current owner is now making progress to complete the project.
- We do not want Whittlesey to become a dumping ground for anything that is potentially dangerous, noting that five years on after residents first identified an issue there have been no prosecutions for at least 125,000 tons of non-conforming waste, which now needs long-term monitoring.
- We do want those who represent us to be proactive from the start on anything that will/could affect our amenity.

If the law and enforcement regimes have allowed all this to happen then we need our representatives to campaign for change.



*Saxon Pit, Whittlesey*

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