



SAXONGATE

NEWSLETTER

October 2023



Dear Resident

Here is your latest news update from Saxongate.

NOISE

- After over two years of residents near Saxon Pit being disturbed by an unacceptable noise, we are no nearer to establishing the source of the intrusive whining.
- We call upon all parties that can influence Whittlesey Town Council, Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Environment Agency and the businesses operating at the pit to start treating this matter with urgency.
- Residents are clearly unhappy; indeed, several families have left the area altogether.
- Saxongate believes locating the source of the noise should be easy; we can then investigate what actions we need to take to eliminate this nuisance. The EA has confirmed the noise does exist.
- Our measurements show that most working days between 6am and 6.30pm we are seeing on average an increase of between 10 and 20 decibels. (This rise on the decibel scale is really significant, and means an increase of noise level between 10 and 100 times louder.) This noise can continue throughout the working day.

MEETINGS

- At a recent multi-agency meeting (right) the question was raised: "Is incinerator bottom ash (IBA) safe?" We are awaiting a reply from the Environment Agency, also in regards to water testing.
- Meanwhile the Environment Agency and Cambridgeshire County Council do not agree on the definition of incinerator bottom ash aggregate (IBAA). This is extremely concerning; there also seems to be no overall consideration about the amount of this material potentially being used and stored locally.



Multi-agency meeting in progress

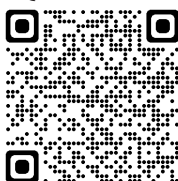
PTO

■ 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 or via Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaxonGatePE7. You can also use the QR code link below.



QR code link



COMMUNITY
FUND

- Another issue of great concern is the fact that water is regularly pumped into Kings Dyke without a permit at the owner's risk. The EA is due to advise us on the status of water testing now IBA and IBAA are present.
- Materials were being processed next to the lagoon where water is stored prior to pumping. This processing has now been stopped by the Environment Agency, but water continues to be pumped out, containing dust residues from other processes used within the pit area.
- Remember, this water is used for crop irrigation, and our local wildlife is swimming/living in it!

HEALTH

- We are currently trying to obtain health statistics for Whittlesey to identify health trends.
- We are already concerned that Whittlesey may have some of the poorest health outcomes in Cambridgeshire; this is why improvements in dust emissions as well as debilitating noise are needed.

THE BUSY A605

- Many new houses are now being built in the area; the result has been an increase in traffic on the A605, particularly the aggregate and freight lorries coming from further afield and through the town on roads not fit for this purpose.
- It has been stated by one of our councillors that soon it will take a minimum of ten minutes to drive through Whittlesey!
- A solution would be the Southern Relief Road, but this could be decades away.
- For those living on or near the A605 action needs to be taken NOW, including prompt road resurfacing and re-routing of some traffic.

DUST

- The wet summer as well as production needs have contributed to a reduction in dust; however this does not reflect possible trends in the future.
- Air quality monitoring is still taking place, and we urge those driving children to and parking near Park Lane School to turn their engines off when stationary as the air quality monitor is close by. We do not want the air quality monitoring figures to be adversely affected by the parked cars' exhaust fumes, as it makes it difficult to prove there is an issue with the air quality from another source.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- We will continue to press on your behalf to improve the environment that you live in with all appropriate parties, by attending multi-agency meetings to ask residents' questions and by ensuring that the regulations agreed are being adhered to and followed up on.
- We will continue to monitor dust, noise and odours in the surrounding areas as well as the traffic issues on the A605, using data from the local air quality monitor, decibel readings shared by residents living close to Saxon Pit, and lorry counts at certain times on the A605.
- We will keep you up to date with any further building or business initiatives that may affect your quality of life, by monitoring the local planning applications.

NOISE, DUST AND ODOURS: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Please pass this communication on to anyone in Whittlesey who might not have seen it, and not just in the locality of Saxon Pit as the increase in lorry traffic is having an adverse effect across the town, making Whittlesey a dirty place to live (have you noticed a layer of dust on your cars, windows and shop fronts?).

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