

Urgent Post Saxon Pit Public Health Briefing on 13th January

Many residents will know that concerns about dust, waste handling and discharge at Saxon Pit have been raised for a long time, and that regulators have previously acknowledged a lack of public trust in how the site has been monitored. Because of those concerns, Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health commissioned and coordinated a public health risk assessment, with UKHSA undertaking the scientific analysis using existing monitoring data supplied by regulators and operators, focusing on water and particulate pathways associated with the site.

Separate from any health and safety standards, we have already seen results that appear to indicate exceedances of Environmental Quality Standards (EQS), and we also know that some substances of concern such as PFAS and POPs do not appear to be tested, which is why it is important that both the results and the implications drawn from them are fully scrutinised so they are correctly framed and not cited in ways that go beyond what the data can properly support.

Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health are now holding two online briefings on that health assessment on Tuesday 13 January, one from 11 to 12 and one from 6 to 7, via Microsoft Teams. **You must register in advance to attend.** If you do not email for an invite, you will not be able to join the briefing.

To register, email:

publichealth.adminteam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and ask for a Teams invite stating which session you wish to attend.

It is important to understand the process they have set out. **The briefing is happening before the full health report is published.** The invite states that the full report will be published later in the same week, that there will be limited opportunity for questions during the briefing, and that there will be a structured process for responding to further questions once the report has been published. In other words, the briefing is not the point at which the assessment can be properly scrutinised. That is meant to happen after people can read the actual report and see what data was used, what was in scope, what was not, and what limitations are acknowledged.

At the same time, regulatory decisions relating to the site are still live, including discharge permitting and ongoing planning matters, which makes it important that any conclusions are tested against the full published report and its stated limitations, not just against a presentation.

We are encouraging people to attend the briefing if they can, so residents hear directly what is said, can take their own notes, and are ready to take part in the follow-up questions process once the report is released later in the week.

We will share further information after the report is published and we have had time to review it properly.

Saxongate Residents Group