

19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## **Haddiscoe Parish Council's Response to Main Matter 4**

### **Heritage**

The proposed site is neighbour to Haddiscoe's 12th century church a grade one listed building. One of the 2.5% heritage buildings of National interest. A quarry on this proposed neighbouring site will forever ruin landscape in which the church sits. Part of protecting our historical sites is about the context in which they sit. St Mary's Haddiscoe stands at the same high point in the village as to proposed quarry, with views across the Broadland delta and towards her sister church St Matthias. The way the two churches have a relationship within the landscape over the last thousand years would be forever altered destroying the historical context. This view is across the proposed quarry site from tower top to tower top. The quarry would alter forever the natural rolling agricultural aspect. The heritage of the village can be seen in the generations represented on the gravestones in the churchyard. Names that can be heard and found to this day in our parishioners of the village. This is not to forget that the sound of gravel being sifted from sand at the site will be a backdrop to all celebrations at the church for many years.

### **Health**

Any proposed quarry on this site will be a dry quarry, and dust is inevitable whether there is active digging or not. There are 55 sensitive receptors, these are people's actual homes within 250m of the site boundary, and 15 homes within 100m of the site. The site is at a high point beneath which the village lies. This high point is known to be often windy, (please note the presence of an old windmill), the wind gusts here are unpredictable. How can any working be safely contained when the wind conditions are site specific and cannot be realistically monitored? There is good scientific evidence that workers in mining processes can suffer harm resulting in COPD. Evidence increasingly is showing that Silica particles within the dust are also carcinogenic. That concerns have increased about the impact of particulate matter 10 and particulate matter 2.5 is evident from the changing guidelines published by W.H.O and the European Union. There is increasing concern about the negative impact on health of the minute particulate matter 2.5 from the Institute of Air Quality Management, that advises government. The site, as previously said, stands high above the village, houses nestle around and below this high point, any wind and dust will rise and be distributed down daily across the village and particularly to the sensitive receptors. How is their risk from damage to their wellbeing any different from site workers, as they too will be there daily all year round. Already Ella's Law has shown us that to ignore growing scientific understanding comes at a cruel cost. We have a responsibility to care for our parishioners wellbeing. We do not want to be a future test case as particulate matter risk understanding continues to grow.

### **Tourism**

When you come to stay at a holiday let or lodge in Haddiscoe you come to enjoy the sound of the countryside and be on the very threshold of the Broadland National Park. Here sound travels, especially when our normal soundscape is of Skylarks, Marsh Harriers, Wren and Heron. People do not come to hear the sound of gravel being sifted and sorted from sand. Currently we can hear from across the marsh the occasional trains travelling from Lowestoft to Norwich. The sound of rattling machinery and lumbering lorries right next to the Church will permeate the whole village. Already the Holiday Lodges owner is struggling to sell. Already a once holiday business has closed and left as a result of the quarry threat. Increasingly in Haddiscoe tourism is our second industry, the Haddiscoe church tower tours have had visitors from Europe, contributing to the funds to maintain the church. No-one wants to pay to climb the tower to see the rape of the landscape by digging machinery. They want to see the beauty of the Broadland delta, and the view that Saxon's centuries ago saw across to the neighbouring church warning each other of Viking raiders.

### **Viability of the site**

The recent planning application by a company to quarry sand and gravel at the proposed site was very recently unanimously rejected by the NCC planning committee. A previous application in 2013 was also rejected and then rejected on Appeal to the Secretary of State. The concerns for both were about National Heritage but also this time about dust. The geological survey by the contractor, if you look at the cross section of the land, seemed to suggest that the majority of the gravel lay in the portion of the field closest to the houses. As there should be a 100-metre exclusion zone properly observed, this reduces the area in the field that can be excavated and thus significantly reduces the gravel tonnage that is possible to obtain. With this and in addition the other significant concerns raised above this site fails to be ever a viable consideration for NCC.