



Notes of Meeting			
Subject:	HIGHBARNES RESIDENTS GROUP MEETING		
Date:	15.12.09	Time: 18:00	
Location:	COUNCIL CHAMBER, DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL		
Attendees:	Dave Martin, Louise Manders, Joy Tompkins – DBC Mark Skittrall – Hyder Project Management Richard & Jennifer Taylor, Highbarns & Pond Road Residents Geoff Doole – Nash Mills Parish Council		
Apologies	John Clarke, Mike Peters - DBC Nik Pringle, Lesley Kirkpatrick - Herts Police, Linda Sutton - Clerk of Nash Mills Parish Council Lisa Bayley, Mr & Mrs Berkley – Highbarns/Pond Road Residents		

Item	Subject	Action
1	Welcome Dave Martin welcome everyone to the meeting and explained the course of the meeting would be to discuss the Public Meeting and the recent walk over survey with Mark Skittrall from Hyder setting out what will be happening in January and the importance of assistance from the Highbarns/Pond Road residents.	

Item	Subject	Action
2.	<p data-bbox="293 254 850 285">Update from Hyder on Recent Studies</p> <p data-bbox="293 338 1247 443">DM advised that an additional £84,000 funding had been secured and approximately £150,000 had already been put in. DBC have £250,000 for preliminary work.</p> <p data-bbox="293 459 1247 527">MP and DM will be going to HCC on Tuesday, 22nd December, to try and obtain further funding.</p> <p data-bbox="293 548 1247 716">An overview was given as to future actions by Hyder. Items discussed included a geotechnical report by Christmas and further property surveys starting in January 2010. A meeting with HCA will take place thereafter. It was stated that January will be a critical month to move the situation forward.</p> <p data-bbox="293 737 1247 842">MS reported that the results of Hyder’s recent investigations were basically good news and this would be followed up by the geotechnical surveys wherein the data gained would be plotted and analysed.</p> <p data-bbox="293 863 1247 1493">MS stated that the research was almost complete and it was portraying an interesting picture. Research has uncovered a map believed to be the first, produced in 1839 but no historical maps are showing any maps or shafts which is positive. Information gathered shows that John Dickinson owned the fields leading to Nash Mills and records indicate that the Paper Mills used chalk which is not generally used in paper making. This information was brought to light by a historical paper produced on a gentleman called John Turner (1837-1918) whose father worked at Nash Mills and who accidentally fell into a mine shaft. Other evidence found was the memoires of Whittaker, 1864, which suggests lime kilns in Nash Mills, again not shown on any plans. It is believed John Dickinson used chalk as a secret ingredient in his paper making and that this mine is a shaft entry system with possibly 1 layer branching from the shaft and constrained to approximately 22 meters. Brick making was also carried out on this site but it was not until 1873 that an Act was brought in stating the necessity to record mines and then only if there were more than 12 employees working on the site, this would indicate the scale of the mind being recorded as fairly minimal.</p>	

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3.	<p>Agenda for Micro Gravity Testing – scheduled for w/c 11.1.10</p> <p>Hyder reported that the way forward is to use geophysics to map out the mine. They are liaising with contractors they have previously employed when working on mines in other areas. The geophysical survey should take approx 3 weeks. There is a planned meeting with HCA in March by which time Hyder should have an idea of the true extent of the chalk mines.</p> <p>The geophysical survey is planned w/c 11.1.10, the first week will be to set up control points and base stations, there will be no access to properties required at this state. The second and third weeks will be to survey certain properties (Hyder to advise which properties, generally 75-100cm from epicentre). These surveys will be on the gardens only and the intention is to blitz the area, possibly working over the weekends. The information will be processed as quickly as possible, it maybe necessary to widen the survey but until the results have been analysed this will be undecided. To assist the investigations a small amount of the budget will be used for several bore holes and cameras.</p> <p>From the recent walk over surveys it is concluded that there appear to be no other problems only the initial incidents.</p> <p>The help of the Residents/Parish Council was requested to assist with the smooth running of the surveys insomuch as organising access and relaying information which will help keep to the time schedule and stay within budget. The surveyors will endeavour to work around the residents to cause the least disturbance. They will use 2 machines, which work on a 3.5mtr grid and each machine requires 2 operators. There are no problems envisaged, MS will be in attendance 1 day a week, including the 1st day. The technique used is passive and there will be no noise disruption. GD enquired as to whether the laser measurements previously taken were being used, MS confirmed this date was being taken into consideration.</p> <p>The question was raised that if the investigation goes beyond the circumference of the zones and further investigation was required, would funding be available. DM reported that HCA are open to stages of investigation.</p> <p>MS reported that Hyder are happy with progress to date.</p> <p>GD is to confirm who the volunteers will be and RT to discuss with residents the two week property investigations which will commence on the 18th January 2010. Hyder will be drawing up a timetable and forward to DM/JT. JT to write to residents confirming the timetable, this information to be posted asap week commencing 4th January 2010.</p> <p>DM asked if there were any topical issues from either the Parish Council or Residents – Nothing reported.</p>	

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4.	<p>Policing</p> <p>RT advised that the previous scooter incidents have stopped and he felt that progress had been made with this issue.</p> <p>With regard to the planters, RT advised that it had been necessary to replace only 1 or 2 plants.</p>	
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p>RT mentioned, as he had in previous meetings, the equipment left behind by the Highways Dept. This had still not been removed and he was now in contact with Dave Bowman, HCC, to have this matter resolved. DM requested JT contact Brian Scott, DBC, to have these items removed.</p> <p>RT advised that a loose manhole cover by the Sappi works was a problem and that tarmac had been laid straight over the cover which was now working loose. DB to be advised.</p> <p>In the absence of Michelle and Roger Berkley, they had asked RT to mention that they had spoken to an independent surveyor in view of the fact that the property for sale in Highbarns had not been sold having been on the market for sometime. The surveyor had stated that it may be the case that the whole block of terraced houses should be demolished. DM suggested that Hyder contact the Surveyor from Clements Estate Agents to ascertain if they have any information that might be of use to our investigations.</p> <p>RT asked if the case of the "missing water" had been sorted. MS said this is an ongoing investigation.</p> <p>DM highlighted that DBC had recently held an Emergency Planning Table Top Exercise which included members from the Fire, Ambulance, Police, Water Board, National Grid and other services/utilities. The scenario was based on real life issues of the Chalk Mines and the exercise was deemed a great success with all parties.</p> <p>RT queried if Hyder/surveyors would need base whilst carrying out timetable of surveys and offered his home for this purpose.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>JT</p> <p>MS, Hyder</p>
6.	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>This being dependant on Hyder's investigations/reports and is a possibility for w/c 20th February 2010.</p>	