

Planning for Minerals and Waste – February 2013



The preparation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan has reached the next stage, with the Inspector confirming that **the Public Hearing will be resumed for two days on 13-14 March 2013.**

This newsletter provides a summary of the events which took place in 2012 as part of the preparation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan – a policy document that will ensure the right minerals and waste development in the right place at the right time, up to 2030. Details of the next stages of plan preparation during 2013 are also included.

Recent progress

Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, the New Forest National Park Authority and the South Downs National Park Authority (the ‘Hampshire Authorities’) are working together to prepare a comprehensive plan to protect Hampshire’s environment, maintain Hampshire’s communities and support Hampshire’s economy by enabling sustainable minerals and waste development.

The Plan was submitted to government on 29 February 2012 and Mr Andrew Freeman was appointed by government as the independent Planning Inspector to oversee the public examination of the soundness of the Plan – that is, to decide if the plan has been positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. As part of the examination, the first stage of the public hearing took place in Winchester on 6-15 June 2012. All elements of the plan were discussed and the Hampshire Authorities were pleased that much of the document passed this scrutiny.

After the first stage of the hearing was completed, the Inspector asked the Hampshire Authorities to consider some areas where changes might be appropriate, to ensure that the Plan is sound. Changes were proposed to take into consideration changes in national policy and new evidence that was presented during the hearing sessions.

A Schedule of Proposed Changes was published for comment on Monday 22 October 2012. The deadline for comments on the changes was 5pm on Monday 17 December 2012. Over 130 respondents made representations on the changes.

After consideration of these representations the Inspector has concluded that he will resume the hearing (on 13 and 14 March 2013) and has published some Issues and Questions to guide the hearing sessions. These are available at www.consult.hants.gov.uk

Next Steps

At the hearing in March, the Inspector will discuss:

- Procedural and conformity matters
- Vision and spatial strategy
- Location of development
- Safeguarded sites
- Development and expansion of existing wharves
- Safeguarding of wharves
- Silica sand
- Whitehill Bordon
- Public health, safety and amenity
- Land-won aggregates
- Michelmersh Brickworks

The hearing is in public, and therefore anyone can attend and observe the proceedings. Only those invited by the Planning Inspector however, may participate.

If the Inspector decides that he has collected all the necessary evidence he will close the hearing and finalise his report which will confirm whether he considers the plan to be a sound document and suitable for the Hampshire Authorities to adopt as planning policy. If this is the case it will replace the current policy, the 'Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy', and all future planning applications for minerals and waste development will be assessed and determined on the basis of the policies in the Plan.

The Hampshire Authorities will need to consider the findings of the Inspector's report, which may include recommended changes to the HMWP, and decide on the appropriate course of action. We will provide you with further information when we reach this stage of the process.

If you have any questions relating to the Public Examination and the hearing in March, please direct them to:

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<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/planning/mineralsandwaste/planning-policy-home.htm>

Otherwise please contact us in one of the ways listed below:

Email: planning.policy@hants.gov.uk *Phone:* 01962 845 515 *Website:* <http://consult.hants.gov.uk>

Address: County Planning Policy Team, Economy, Transport and Environment Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UD

Please note that you have received this newsletter as we hold your contact details on the planning policy consultation list. Please contact us if you wish to be removed from this consultation list or change to electronic or paper notifications.