

To residents of Plumpton, Plumpton Green and East Chiltington

NOVINGTON SANDPIT (the “Sandpit”) – JUNE 2006

Some of you may know that the Sandpit, which lies between Plumpton Lane and East Chiltington, is reopening later this summer. The owner/operator, the Dudman Group, operates seven sites in and around Sussex and has bought the Sandpit, gained planning consent and is now gearing up for extraction of sand over a ten year period.

You should be aware that planning consent has been granted for the pit to be doubled in size and extended towards the east to within 50 metres of Stantons Farm Cottage. A 5 metre high earth bund will be laid around the site, public access prohibited except along a newly defined footpath, floodlighting installed and working hours on site restricted to 08.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday with morning working on Saturdays. However, truck movements will be permitted between the hours of 07.30 and 18.00 Monday to Friday and again for part of Saturday. Truck movements controlled by the operator will be southwards to the Half Moon junction only, although there is little that can be done to control trucks operated by others. Restoration ultimately will leave two lakes across the site.

East Sussex County Council has imposed conditions on the planning consent and monitoring provisions exist at that level. One of the planning conditions imposed was the requirement to set up a Liaison Group with members from the operator, the County Council, Parish Council and residents. This Liaison Group will be a conduit for information flow, complaints, concerns and potentially, praise for the operation of the Sandpit. An introductory meeting was held on 19 June at which roughly 50 residents attended together with the owner/operator, the newly appointed pit manager, the owner's consultant and a member of East Sussex CC's Highways Department. Four residents put their names forward to act as members of the Liaison Group. Paul Nicholson has volunteered to co-ordinate the group.

Those most affected by the Sandpit's reopening are residents directly opposite the site and south along Plumpton Lane, and those in East Chiltington who immediately abut or overlook the site. They obviously need to be well represented on the Liaison Group. However, the whole of Plumpton and East Chiltington is potentially impacted by this; any residents who wish to be involved should put their names forward. The Liaison Group will have 10 members so it would seem sensible to limit the number of resident members involved to between 4 and 6 although there will be plenty of opportunity to be involved indirectly.

If you are interested in being involved then please telephone or e-mail Paul Nicholson on any of the contact points below. Please mark any e-mails "SANDPIT".

We have to move quickly so your early response is important – please respond by Wednesday 28 June. Once set up, the Liaison Group will ensure that all residents in the area are kept up to date with the operation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this note.

Paul Nicholson
20 June 2006

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