

**Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Minerals Core Strategy**  
**Stakeholder Meeting 2**  
**25<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

**Outcomes from the Red Group – Facilitated by Tim Snell**

**Workshop 1 – Key Issues for Minerals Planning**

The group considered a number of key issues associated with the planning for future mineral planning and extraction in Dorset. One member of the group started the debate by using the case study of Ball Clay and the pressures facing this specific industry. The issue discussed can be summarised as:

1) Sustainable reserves for the long-term 'v' protection of the environment

Ball Clay is a finite resource, it is located in often environmentally sensitive areas such as AONBs, SSSIs, SACs etc. The designations often have a stranglehold over the industry. The industry is however very important in terms of Dorset's economy and employs a significant number of people, thriving on the international demand for the material. The economy and employees are dependent on supply being maintained, but the environmental restrictions are quite prohibitive. The business Supply will continue to reduce with current environmental restrictions. The issues facing the Ball Clay industry in Dorset are symptomatic, to a lesser or probably greater extent, of the entire minerals industry. Minerals can only be worked where they are found. The group felt that the key to unlocking the environmental prohibitions on the Ball Clay industry, is the guarantee that restoration can provide a good quality replacement environment.

2) Transport issues

The group then discussed the issue of transport, and they felt this is a key issue facing the minerals industry in Dorset. Rail, ship and road options should be considered against the most sustainable options. The group called this 'best utilisation.' It was felt that integrated use should be encouraged (for example lorries travelling in two directions fully laden rather than travelling empty). The group felt that rail and ship transport would represent the more sustainable option, especially with regard to long distance travel. It was recognised however, that there are significant constraints on the use of rail and ships. For example there are few branch lines, few interchanges, and wharves have become subject to significant development pressure, often from highly competitive leisure and residential markets. It was also noted that Dorset's road infrastructure is relatively poor and investment is needed.

3) Local Community and Public Interests

The third key issue discussed by the group was the local community and public interest. It was highlighted that minerals workings directly and indirectly impact upon communities, and the way in which they are managed has a significant quality of life impact. People wish to be more involved in the decision-making process, and want to be informed of changes to working practices. One delegate highlighted the best practice approach of BP in Dorset.

4) Waste minimisation and resource efficiency

The group felt that another key issue facing the minerals industry is the maximisation of existing resources and the minimisation of waste, thus reducing the quantity of material that needs to be extracted. This includes best working practices on construction sites to reuse and recycle materials. One member of the group gave the example of using old tyres for constructing roads, and another member highlighted that most construction operations now reuse all demolition and construction wastes on-site to limit costs. Also landfill is an issue for many aggregated quarries.

#### 5) Employment

It was recognised in the group that the minerals industry employs a significant number of people, which in turn helps to foster a sense of local distinctiveness and preserve the way of life in Dorset. Many minerals related jobs are now highly skilled, for which there is a shortage of people. Given Dorset's significant tourism industry, the non-seasonal nature of minerals jobs makes them very important to the economy.

#### 6) Timescales of restoration and operation

The final key issue identified by the group is that of timescales – both for restoration and operation. Setting high standards for restoration is considered essential. With regard to operational aspects of minerals working, the group felt it is important that people understand minerals operations, and these should be carefully regulated.

#### Other comments

There was consensus in the group the oil exploration and extraction is a relatively environmentally friendly mineral option, and should be pursued, provided the benefits are felt locally.

### **Workshop 2 – Options for dealing with the Issues identified**

The group then considered a series of options for each of the key issues identified above. These are listed below. All were discussed, but the underlined options were carried forward into Workshop 3.

#### 1) Sustainable reserves for the long-term 'v' protection of the environment

- Strategic overview of reserves and environmentally sensitive areas (mapping approach)
- Flexible plan approach to respond to changing circumstances, taking into account restoration ability
- Sequential approach – assessment of need and alternatives informing the selection of the 'least-worst' option
- Policies to identify new consultation zones
- Maximise mineral production in existing sites

#### 2) Transport issues

- Appraisal of transport capacity, infrastructure and sustainable opportunities
- Integration of transport options
- Maximise rail use wherever possible

### 3) Local Community and Public Interests

- Early public consultation on proposals
- Local liaison groups
- Education, public announcements, publicity

### 4) Waste minimisation and resource efficiency

- Work all minerals in one site
- Materials recycling
- Resource efficiency and recycling (energy, water etc)
- Local market assessment (prioritising local markets over distance markets)

### 5) Employment

- Linked to other issues (sustainability arguments)
- Find new sites and keep up supply to support employment
- Career development and skills building (apprentices)

### 6) Timescales of restoration and operation

- Concepts and demands
- Policy requiring submission of restoration concepts and plans with in-built long-term flexibility, linked to local communities' aspirations. Reflecting the whole lifecycle of a site's operation and restoration

## **Workshop 3 – Delivering the Options**

The Group considered each of the options they identified against a number of sustainability objectives. The options were assessed as either having a positive, negative or neutral impact. The results of this assessment are shown on the attached matrices. Where comments or caveats were identified, these are reflected in the matrix.

Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd  
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