

DORSET MINERAL PLAN EXAMINATION

25th – 27th September and 2nd – 4th October 2018

Responses from East Stoke Parish Council in addition to those made to the Draft pre-submission plan in January 2018;

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS RELATE TO SITE AS-06, THE GREAT PLANTATION

Has the Plan been positively prepared?

It has already been noted that two substantial documents produced on behalf of Dorset Council have wrongly placed The Great Plantation, as being situated in the Parish of Bere Regis, when it is in fact in the Parish of East Stoke. These documents are the Heritage Assessment of November 2017 and the Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations of November 2017.

These documents are of significant importance, and give misleading information to those who might have wished to research the site prior to commenting on the draft pre submission plan. East Stoke Parish Council considers these documents to be Fundamentally Flawed.

Do you consider the Plan to be consistent with National Policy?

In the case of site AS06, it is not. The site is entirely officially designated as Access Land (CRoW). Although the area proposed for development is smaller than that originally put forward, it will take up a large area Hethfelton Wood and is bound to impact upon the remainder of the wood.

This relatively small area, rich in biodiversity and heritage, is much valued locally and in the wider area as a ‘breath of fresh air’ and can be considered as of benefit to public health. It has been suggested that it is little used, but that is not the case; its use is restricted by limited parking space, but it is known that visitors often have to drive away for lack of such space. Photographic evidence is available. Recently a sign has been pinned up at the entrance to Hethfelton Wood promoting a dog show at Bloxworth – some 5 miles away. Someone must have come from Bloxworth to put this up, and thought it was worth doing so.

The loss of this precious space, and even the reduction which would result from mineral development, would present a serious loss to recreational users. It is now known that there are proposals to meet a Government target of producing some 3000 additional homes, mostly within a 5 mile radius, in the next few years; such remaining natural areas as Site AS06 are therefore of even greater importance, and it is not clear that those preparing the Plan had taken this into consideration.

No mitigation has been proposed for such a loss and it does not appear that there will be an opportunity in the future for public consultation on any mitigation measure that might be put forward.

Mrs. T. Wiltshire

For East Stoke Parish Council

9th August 2018