

## **Report for Marchwood Parish Council Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

### **Weather Problems**

The authority has been very stretched coping with the unusually high volumes of snow and ice in Hampshire this winter. The problems have been more severe north of the county but did impact everywhere. Gritters were out frequently and there was good co-operation between the County, Districts and Parishes, trying to clear and grit pavements. It did bring about a sudden demand for grit and salt bins everywhere. HCC will be reviewing its resources in the light of the experience.

### **Bus Services**

I have organised the next meeting of the Marchwood Bus Services Focus Group for 7pm on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February. Mr Alex Hornby from Solent Blue line has been invited and confirmed he will attend. I would welcome any Parish Councillors who would like to come along.

### **Power Station**

I chaired the final meeting of the liaison group, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. The power station is now fully operational and the handover from the contractors to Marchwood Power has taken place. There is to be a private official opening in February, but an Open Day, BBQ & displays in the summer, especially for Marchwood residents.

Marchwood Power are to shortly organise a tour of the new facility for the members of Marchwood Parish Council and the Liaison Group.

### **Highways Matters**

The Traffic Commissioners have formally advised me that they are not prepared to hold a public inquiry into the growth of HGV traffic at Marchwood Industrial Estate.

There is no decision yet on whether HCC will try to enforce a two way restriction, or a one-way restriction on HGV traffic using Hythe Road.

I have been interviewed by solicitors acting for one of the parties involved in the fatal road traffic accident at the Twiggs Lane Junction in 2008, in particular about concerns I had highlighted in e-mails to the authority.

### **Waste Matters**

I have had a meeting with Cllr Mel Kendal and Mr Paul Archer, Deputy Director of the Environment regarding my concerns about future proposals for waste handling in the Marchwood area and what it might mean in terms of additional and heavier HGV movements.

Barrie Foley, Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority, expressed a keen interest in what I was trying to achieve and accompanied me to the meeting.

I have detailed the content of the meeting on my web-site. I'm not being permitted to see various reports and documents. My Freedom of Information request to see these has been declined. Intend to pursue matters further as I believe it is in the public interest, particularly the interests of Marchwood residents that information about future plans is shared openly.

### **Marchwood Quarry**

Despite support from Marchwood Parish Council and two residents that attended the Regulatory Committee and spoke out against the proposals, the committee voted by a fairly narrow majority to allow quarry activity continue off Bury Road for a further 12 years and, worse still, for excavation to be undertaken within 10 metres of woodland (Sparrows Copse).

I'm trying to establish whether it might be possible to raise a further block to the plans, on the basis that the work will undoubtedly cause harm to the environment, including the trees, the nesting sites for herons and the possibility of it being a home for dormice.

It's the fourth time I have attended the Regulatory Committee in about a year and each time spoken at length against plans that will increase or prolong HGV movements. On each occasion, the Regulatory Committee have decided that the wishes of the commercial interests concerned must over-ride the wishes of local people. I'm truly sorry!

### **Any other issues / Contact**

As always, I'm very happy to assist with any County Council related items.

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