

4. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

An opportunity to enable members of the press and public present to comment upon any item on the Agenda.

5. ESSEX COUNTY AND BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

To receive reports from Essex County and Braintree District Councillors on matters relating to Witham.

6. TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

To receive details of the Town Mayor's engagements attended for period 28th June to 27th July 2021 ([attached](#) at page 4).

7. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

To receive the Town Clerk's report ([attached](#) at page 5).

8. COUNCILLOR P.M. RYLAND MEMORIAL

To receive a report and suggestion from Members ([attached](#) at page 6).

9. QUEEN'S JUBILEE/40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

To consider suitable events for next year to include –

(a) Lighting of a Beacon on 2nd June 2021

To receive email from EALC ([attached](#) at page7)

(b) Commemorative Art Work

To receive a request from the Town Mayor.

10. COLEMAN'S FARM QUARRY

To receive public consultation information ([attached](#) at page 8) and consider the way ahead

11. REVISED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CIVIC YEAR 2021/2022

To endorse the Climate Audit's Panel's decision to meet quarterly instead of twice a year.

12. WAR MEMORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

To receive a representation from a member of the public ([attached](#) at page 17)

13. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PARTNERED TOWN OF ABLAR

To receive a letter from Aβlar ([attached](#) at page 18)

14. TOWN HALL SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

To receive a short update ahead of progressing to 'Stage 4 - Report' stage.

Order Note: A short presentation will be delivered by officers.

15. FREEDOM OF WITHAM POLICY

To consider and renew the Freedom of Witham Policy ([attached](#) at page 21)

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **Environment Committee held 12th July 2021**

Minutes 1 – 15 (inclusive)

(b) **Planning Applications and Transport Committee held 28th June and 12th July 2021**

Minutes 1 – 30 (inclusive)

17. PETITION HUB PAGE

To receive a motion from Councillor Jay seeking a petition hub page on the Town Council website and the proposed first petition ([attached](#) at page 22).

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

TO RESOLVE That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A (S5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

19. LEGAL MATTERS

To receive an update from the Town Clerk on outstanding legal matters and transactions.



James Sheehy
Town Clerk

JS/GK/21.07.2021



ITEM NO: 6

Officer Report: Town Mayor's Engagements

Issue:

The Town Mayor undertook the following engagements between 28th June to 27th July 2021 –

3rd July – Attended and was one of the judges at the Town Council Dog Show

5th July – Hosted the first History Group meeting since the start of the pandemic

7th July – Took part in the Finding Your Active

9th July – Attended the official photo call to mark the Town Council gaining ownership of the River Walk

15th July – Was a VIP judge for the Witham Schools Collaboration Art Competition at Witham Library

21st July – Attended the District Scout AGM at Prances

Advice:

To receive and note.

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Town Clerk's Report

Agenda Item 7

Matters Arising

This report details all relevant matters arising that have occurred since the last Town Council meeting. Matters may feature on multiple reports, as they remain outstanding.

MINUTE	RESOLUTION	DIRECTION
10/17.06.2021	Commission of investigation into play equipment across Witham	Officers undertaking enquiries
12/17.06.2021	A full CCTV report be prepared and submitted to Full Council for review.	Awaiting C.A.P Recommendation approval
13(c)/14.06.2021	Town Clerk investigates figures and projections for earmarked reserves to make a full proposal.	<i>Delayed</i>
15/14.06.2021	Investigation into reserve balance options	Officers undertaking enquiries
16/14.06.2021	Town Council applies for Quality Council at this time and for Quality Gold next year.	Currently progressing
44/28.06.2021	Town Council takes part in the Queen's Green Canopy and works in partnership with the Witham Tree Group.	Initial enquiries underway

Notifiable Correspondence

This report details all relevant correspondence raised & received in response to a resolution. Correspondence remains outstanding on this list until fully satisfied by Full Council or its respective committee.

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE	STATUS
29 th April 2021	District Councillor Gabrielle Spray: Willow Tree Felling Report	No reply yet received

Summary outcomes of Officer Meetings (Projects Only)

This report provides headline outcomes of decisions taken by officers in relation to the progression of a discharge of projects that have been approved by Council. This does not include administrative or management meetings.

MEETING	DATE	OUTCOMES
Capital Expenditure Group	13 th July	<i>Initial Cut Throat Lane Allotment inspections completed and action points set out for putting administration in order.</i>

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ITEM NO: 8

Officer Report: Councillor P.M. Ryland Memorial

Issue:

This matter was discussed at Minute 45 of Town Council on 28th June 2021 and it was agreed that the family would be approached to ascertain what a fitting memorial would be.

Following discussions, they asked for a bench in James Cooke wood.

It is understood that the money raised in memory of Paul would be given to the Tree Group, who would plant a memorial tree.

Members have since suggested that it would be a lasting tribute to Paul to accelerate planting in the town. Members will be aware of the ongoing issues with tree maintenance on both the River Walk and particularly in James Cooke Wood. Also that a decision was taken not to plant anymore commemorative trees on the River Walk as space was becoming limited, although in special circumstances an exception would be made. This decision was taken to ensure that the River Walk would retain its balance of open space, wild areas, etc.

Members have suggested that a small group be set up to work in partnership with the Tree Group. Members will remember at Minute 44 of Town Council, it was agreed under Plant a Tree for the Queen's Jubilee to work in partnership with the Tree Group. Barry Fleet has suggested that the Town Council take this forward with both the Tree Group and Sean Taylor, Braintree District Council's Landscape Officer, as BDC will also be progressing this idea.

Advice:

To approve the purchase of a memorial bench and to consider the way forward.

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Agenda Item 9(a)

Dear Chairman, Councillors, Clerks & Partners,

Further to my email a few weeks ago, I am writing to remind you about how local (town & parish) councils can be involved in Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

We would like to encourage all member-councils to take part in the lighting of Beacons on Thursday 2nd June next year to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in a similar way to how many parishes assisted with the Diamond Jubilee Beacons of 2011/12. Please see the documents linked below for instructions on how town & parish councils can be part of this special anniversary. If you have any questions then please do get in touch.

A summary of the documents is as follows;

- 1) The first edition of the Guide To Taking Part which will be updated monthly on the following website: www.queensjubileebeacons.com through to 1st June next year as more and more communities join the project over the next eleven months.
- 2) The recent Buckingham Palace Press Release outlining the Jubilee weekend of the 2nd – 5th June next year of which The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons is part of. See it [here](#).
- 3) A covering letter outlining the event, and how councils can take part on 2nd June next year. See it [here](#).
- 4) The Guide To Taking Part. Please put this up on your Websites and use it in all forms of social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to pass the word. See it [here](#).

I hope that your council are able to take part during this important and historic event. I would recommend placing an order as soon as possible to ensure the council secure their beacon. These beacons take time to be prepared and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure you give yourself enough time, it would be best to arrange this by the end of September, and at the latest by the end November. The beacons are used for all Jubilees and for Coronations so can also be seen as an investment by the council as they will be used again.

All the information you need for this community event is included in the comprehensive guide linked above (item 4). I am happy to field any questions you may have though, so please get in touch should you have further queries.

I hope this message finds you well, and that you are able to assist in this important celebration for Her Majesty The Queen.

Kind regards,

Eli Haines

Mr Eli Haines, CertHE, DipABRSM
Communications Officer
Essex Association of Local Councils

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Agenda Item 10



Consultation Leaflet re Planning Applications at Colemans Farm Quarry

July 2021

Background

Brice Aggregates Limited (“BAL”) owns and operates Colemans Farm Quarry. Operations at the site originally have the benefit of a planning consent for the extraction of an estimated 2.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel together with the provision site access and ancillary facilities: with restoration to agriculture and water-based nature conservation habitats.

Since becoming operational in April 2017, the site has become an established supplier of quality sand and gravel to the local construction and concreting industries. A ready mixed concrete plant has recently been installed to enable the business to further meet its’ customers’ needs.

The operations on site have gone through separate phases of planning (as is often the case with mineral workings) with the last consent ref ESS/40/10/BTE granted in January 2020.

The currently approved working plan is shown on Figure 1 below.

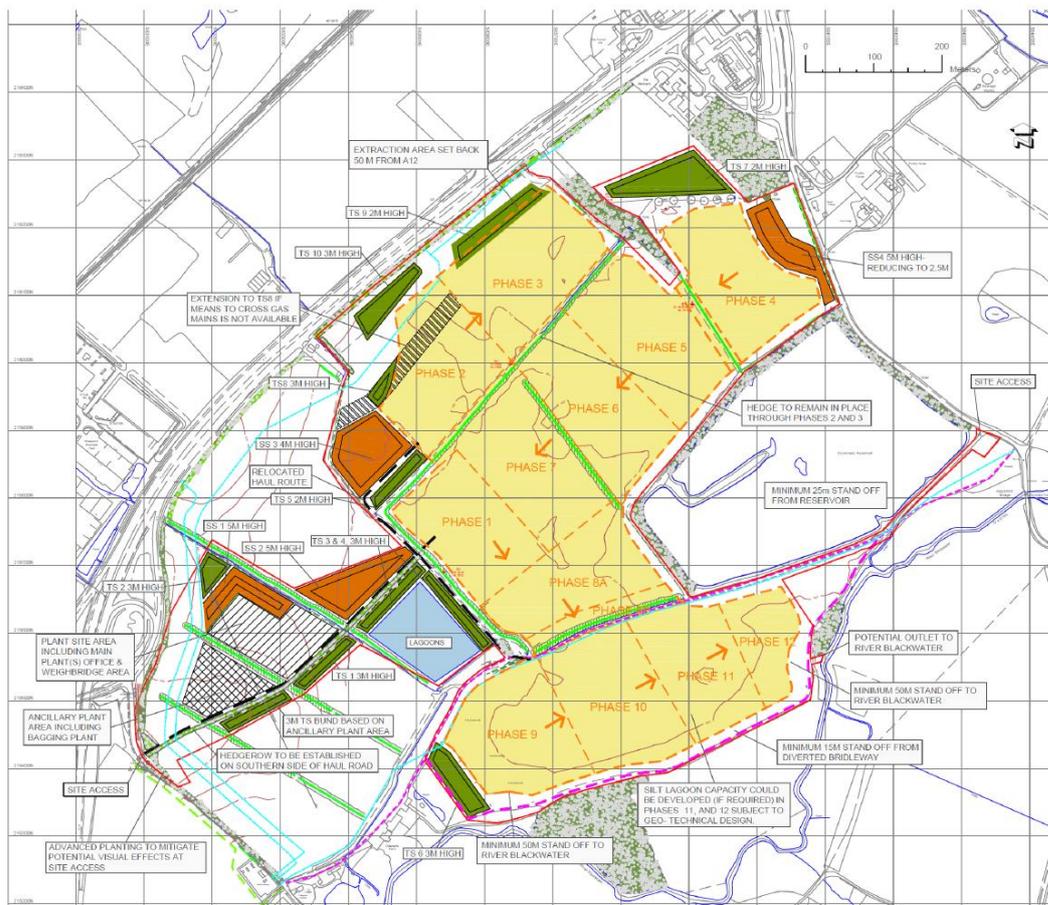


Figure 1 – Approved Working Plan

This shows thirteen phases of working, with operations on site currently situated in Phase 3 in the north of the site.

A simplified version of the approved restoration plan for the current site is shown on Figure 2 below.

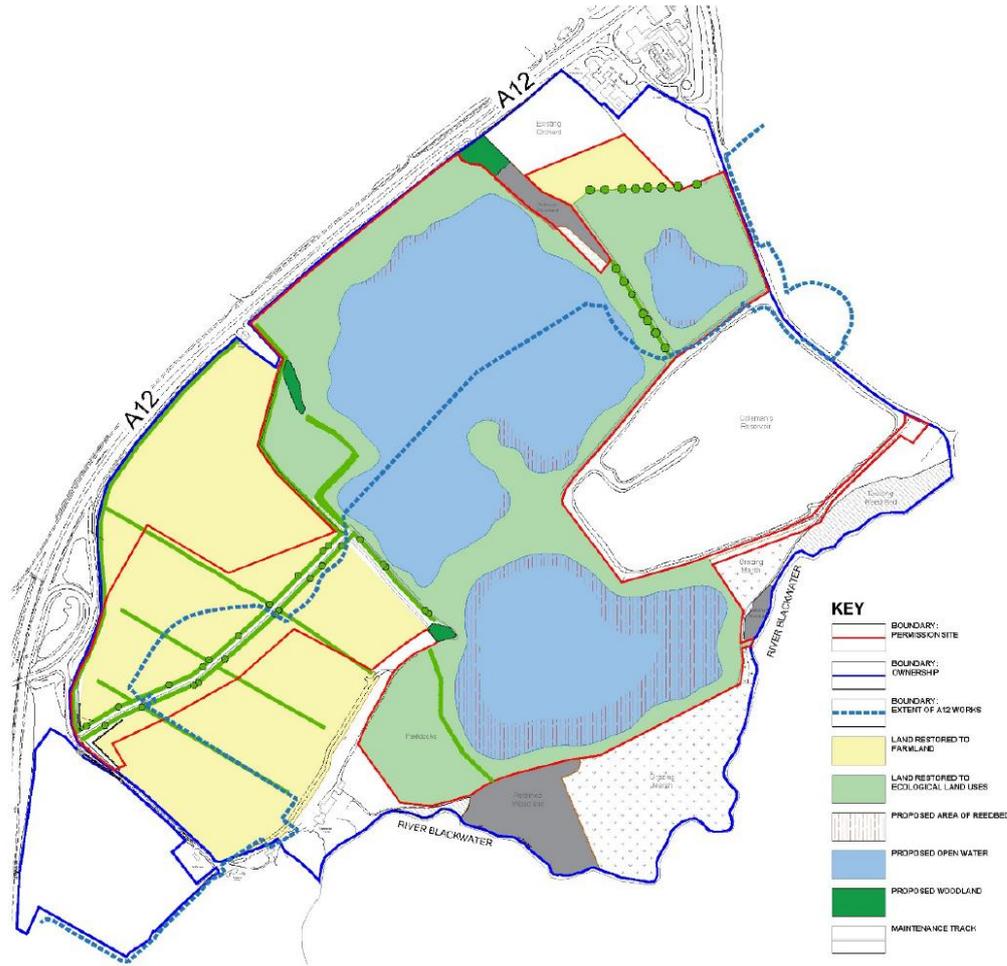


Figure 2 – Simplified Version of Approved Restoration Plan

This shows the creation of a range of nature conservation habitats as well as restoration of parts of the arable land that pre-existed the quarry.

The A12 forms the northern perimeter of the site and provides the main means of access to export the construction material products to the market which the site serves. The site currently benefits from almost immediate access onto the A12 at Junction 22. A secondary access onto Braxted Road also provides access to local markets in the Tiptree area.

The proposals currently being developed for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme by Highways England's A12 Project Team (“HE”) and its delivery partners envisage a number of changes in junction layouts, a general widening of the carriageway from two to three lanes in both directions and the provision of a new off-route realignment between Junctions 22 and 23.

The off-route realignment in proximity to Junction 22 runs through the BAL site. The scope of these proposals was set out in a Preferred Route Announcement brochure issued by HE in October 2019 and is currently subject to consultation by HE.

Relative to the operations at the quarry, the Preferred Route Announcement confirmed that between Junctions 22 (Witham North) and 23 (Kelvedon), the A12 would be realigned on a new route that passes through the northern section of the approved BAL site. Quarrying operations are ongoing in this area with Phase 3 currently being worked in proximity to Rivenhall End.

Much of HE's preferred route corridor within the quarry for the new A12 has already, or is shortly due to be dug with the worked out quarry void extending to approximately 6 metres deep. The expected boundary of A12 works is shown by the light blue dashed line on Figure 3 below with much of the route of the new A12 passing through land that is currently expected to be restored to lakes.

Should the A12 proposals come to fruition following examination by the Planning Inspectorate (Development Consent Order application due to be submitted in Spring 2022 with a decision expected late 2023).

A number of notable changes would be generated by the realignment of the A12 relative to the operations at the site, including: -

- a) a need to ensure that the current void space under the preferred route area is restored to enable the realignment and construction of the A12 to proceed in a timely manner; and
- b) there will be a need to remove remaining minerals in the preferred route area to ensure that these are not needlessly sterilised by the construction of the A12. Such an approach is consistent with national and local policy guidance.

There are other notable changes such as a potential need to relocate the plant site and site access on site. However, at this point in time there is not enough information available to develop suitable schemes. These matters would therefore be addressed either through the A12 DCO process or under a further phase of planning for the site.

The Proposal

In order to address these matters, and following extensive discussions and consultation with the A12 Project Team, BAL have developed an innovative proposal which also has the benefit of supporting the timely delivery of the A12 road scheme.

The proposed working plan is shown on Figure 3 below. This shows seventeen phases of working, with a proposed extension (shown as Phases 5, 6 and 7) to the west of the currently approved extraction area. Phases 1 -3 inclusive have already been worked. Of the consented 2.5 million tonnes, approximately 2.0 million tonnes remains to be worked in the currently approved site.

The proposed extension includes an additional 265,000 tonnes of high-quality sand and gravel. A planning application has already been submitted to Essex CC in their role as the MPA for this extension and this is currently on consultation.

The proposal being developed by BAL seeks to amend the working and restoration schemes to enable BAL to extract all accessible mineral reserves from within the corridor affected by the A12 improvements.

BAL would also facilitate a restoration back to original surface level of this area by importing with inert materials prior to the commencement of A12 construction works.



Figure 3 – Proposed Revised Working Plan

Subject to the grant of consent for the proposed western extension, it is proposed to enter into Phases 5, 6 and 7 later this year and complete extraction of these phases by mid 2023.

Following this, quarrying is proposed to resume in the areas of the approved quarry site unaffected by the A12 scheme throughout the remaining consented life of operations.

As part of the upcoming application, the remainder of the approved site will also be subject to a revised restoration scheme in order to ensure a sustainable after use delivering an equivalent overall area of ecologically valuable “Priority Habitats” as the currently approved scheme.

The proposed scheme would continue to have a balanced focus on lowland meadow, reedbeds and other wetland habitats, consistent with the sites status as a flagship restoration scheme under the Minerals Local Plan. Two different options under consideration, see Figures 4 & 5 below.

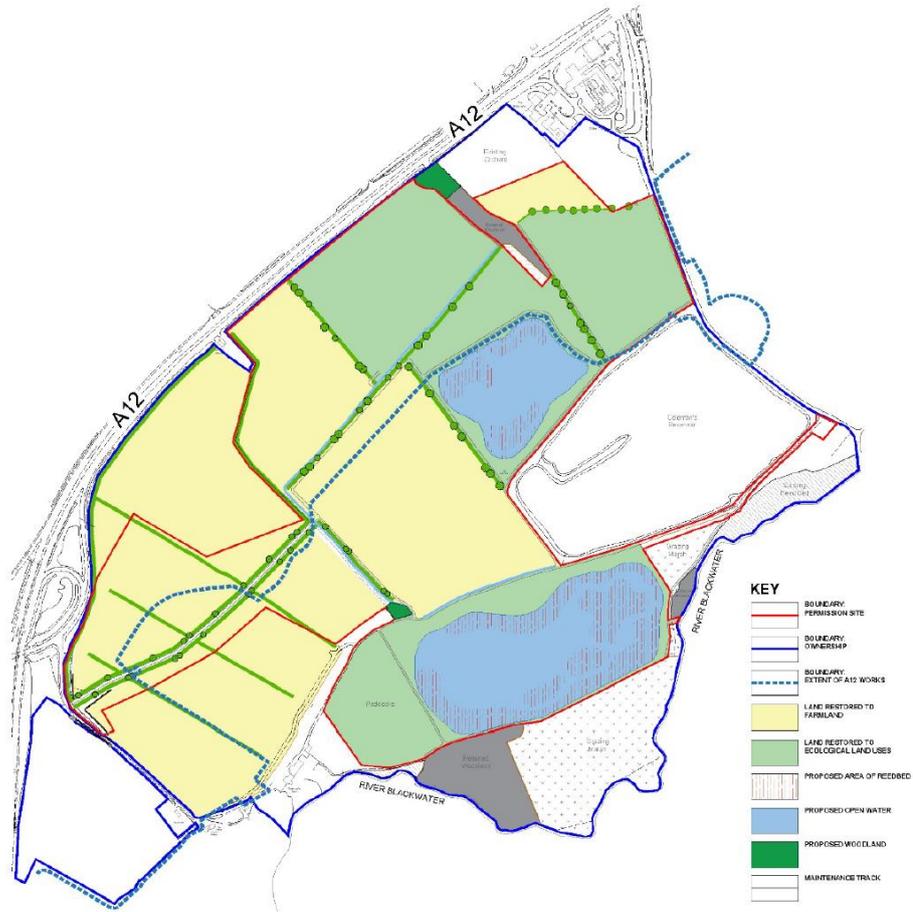


Figure 4 – Proposed Revised Restoration Plan, Option I

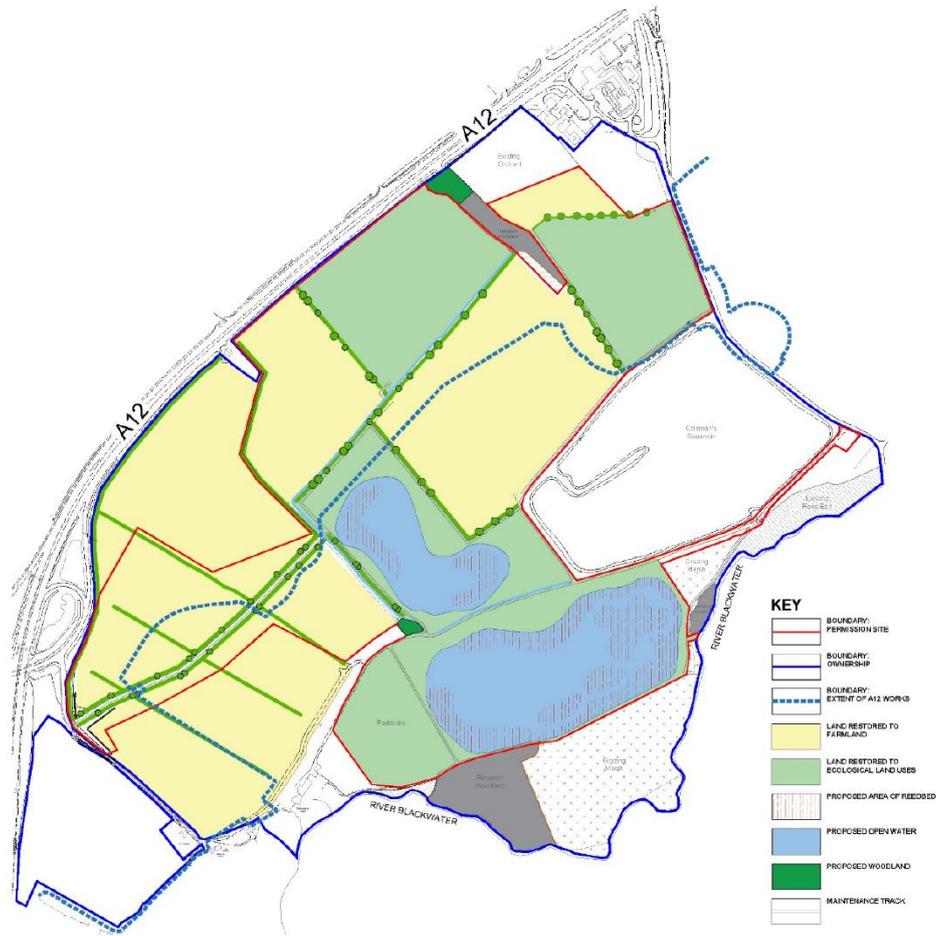


Figure 5 – Proposed Revised Restoration Plan, Option 2

Both of these options have the same overall objectives, and both would deliver the long term landscape and ecological benefits associated with the existing approved plans and schemes.

Consistent with the currently approved schemes for the existing site, it is proposed that the establishment and development of these habitats will continue to be supported by management plans agreed under suitably worded planning conditions.

In order to provide these habitats an additional volume of inert restoration material is proposed to be imported into site and deposited to make up the restoration landforms.

Inert restoration material typically consists of waste clays and soils excavated from construction sites in the local area. It is by definition chemically stable and odourless and is commonly used as fill material to restore quarry sites across the country to sustainable after uses.

Much of the inert materials generated by construction sites contains elements of stones and old rubbles; BAL are proposing to integrate a recycling operation into this proposal to ensure that this

aggregate fraction can be recovered for reuse and resale to the building industry. This maximises the sustainability of the operation by promoting the recovery and reuse of recycled aggregates as well as enabling the company to provide a consistent supply of cohesive fill material into the restoration of the A12 affected land to make it most suitable for roadbuilding.

This increased activity on site will generate an additional requirement for HGV movements into and out of the site. Currently the site is permitted to handle 150 HGV movements daily, it is proposed to increase this to 330 HGV movements daily. All of this increase in traffic will be routed via the main access onto Junction 22 of the A12. Traffic levels using the Braxted Road access will remain unchanged at minimal levels (typically 0-5 HGV movements daily). The increased level of 330 HGV movements has been demonstrated as within the capacity of the highway network surrounding the principal access to site.

Summary

This proposal is being brought forward by BAL at this time in response to the A12 scheme being promoted by HE. If granted planning permission, it will support the timely delivery of the A12 scheme by providing a suitable surface at pre-quarrying ground levels on which the road can be built. These proposals have been developed in consultation with the A12 Project Team. The proposals include a substantial delivery of biodiversity gain across the remainder of the site unaffected by the A12 scheme once restored.

The below table provides additional clarity and rationale behind the key aspects of BAL’s proposal.

Interaction with A12	This proposal is being promoted by Brice Aggregates independently of the A12 scheme. The A12 Project Team have been extensively consulted and the proposals are intended to support the overall delivery of the A12 construction programme
Effect on this proposal of the A12 works being cancelled	Should the A12 works be aborted / cancelled then BAL will deliver the proposed restoration as shown on the above plans (Figures 4 & 5) within the currently consented timeframe (by 2034)
Importation of inert waste – A12 land	Restoring the land within the new A12 corridor to surface level requires a substantial volume of restoration materials in addition to those available on site. A restoration led by the importation of inert waste will enable the creation of a suitable landform on which to construct the road.
Importation of inert waste – remainder of site	With the expected loss of much of the site to the A12 scheme, the remainder of the site still has to provide a substantial amount of “Priority Habitat” in its restoration. In order to provide the necessary landform for creating new reedbeds and meadow land, additional inert waste will be required throughout the remainder of the scheme. Inert waste will not be imported into or deposited on the workings immediately adjacent to the River Blackwater.
Recycling of inert waste	The recycling operation will enhance the overall sustainability of the site by ensuring that usable aggregates contained within imported inert waste can be extracted for reuse by the building industry, in line with local and national policies in promoting the circular economy. Additionally, by removing aggregates from the inert waste, the residual material will be better suited to filling the void with enhanced cohesiveness suitable for building the road upon.
Suitability of site for inert waste handling	Inert waste arisings within Essex are of the order of 4 million tonnes per year. Much of the processing of this is conducted within operational

	<p>or former quarries given their availability of space and suitable equipment, as well as highway access and ability to operate with minimal impacts upon noise, dust, landscape and other environmental concerns within the locality. Colemans Quarry will remain subject to an equivalent, rigorous monitoring regime for such matters as at present. An Environmental Permit will also be required which will be sought from and ultimately regulated by the Environment Agency. A number of local quarries currently process and use inert waste as fill material e.g. at Sandon, Danbury, Stanway, Great Leighs, Great Dunmow and Ardleigh.</p>
Need for additional inert waste management capacity	<p>The Essex and Southend Local Waste Plan (2017) identified a substantial shortfall of inert waste deposit capacity within the county of approximately 7.05Mt, as well as a projected shortfall in recycling capacity. Lying at the heart of the County with excellent access on and off the A12 at Junction 22, Colemans Quarry is well placed to assist in making up the shortfall in local inert waste handling capacity.</p>
Revised restoration scheme	<p>The revised restoration scheme has been designed to provide an arable / meadow landscape for the A12 to be built upon within HE's indicated preferred route corridor. Should the A12 scheme not progress / be cancelled then this arable & meadow landscape will remain. The provision of "Priority Habitats" will be equivalent to the currently approved restoration scheme.</p>
Revised restoration on rest of site	<p>Consistent with the currently approved schemes the remainder of the site will be restored to an enhanced biodiversity landscape featuring a number of open water bodies with extensive reedbeds, and lowland meadow as well as smaller areas of flood plain grazing marsh and open mosaic habitats. The provision of "Priority Habitats" will be equivalent to the currently approved restoration scheme.</p>
Revised working scheme	<p>The revised working scheme will see quarrying paused on areas outside of the A12 preferred route corridor upon approval, with extraction and restoration focussed on the land under the A12 preferred route. Once these affected areas are worked and restored prior to the commencement of A12 construction, then quarrying and restoration of the remainder of the site (outside of the A12 scheme corridor) will resume. Such an approach will see the A12 able to be delivered on time whilst allowing for the timely extraction of existing mineral resource.</p>
Increase to 330 HGV movements daily	<p>The increase in HGV movements is necessary to support the increased activity on site and ensure that the land affected by the A12 can be restored successfully in a compressed timeframe. This HGV movements figure is within relevant junction design capacities and has been subject to quantitative assessment and the requisite Highways England risk assessments. This figure will only apply to HGV movements from the main entrance onto Little Braxted Lane / Junction 22 of the A12.</p>
Unchanged HGV movements from secondary Braxted Road access	<p>In response to local concerns about excessive lorry movements on the local road network, BAL are not proposing to increase traffic movements from their secondary access onto Braxted Road. These will remain unchanged at a low (typically 0-5 HGV movements per day) level.</p>
Unchanged lifespan of quarry	<p>The rate of extraction and output of sand and gravel from the site is not proposed to change, as such the current deadline for the conclusion of quarrying and restoration in 2034 will remain.</p>

<p>Future provision of access to quarry</p>	<p>As part of the A12 scheme, the site access and some of the infrastructure (e.g. weighbridge and office facilities, processing yard area) may need to be relocated. With clarity on these matters being subject to further detail on junction / carriageway design from HE which is not yet available, it would be premature to consider these presently. They will be dealt with by subsequent planning applications or within the scheme DCO as appropriate. The intention however throughout will be to ensure that BAL can continue to operate Colemans Quarry throughout the construction of the A12 scheme and continue to supply building materials and services to the local construction industry.</p>
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The proposal described above are to be submitted by BAL to Essex County Council as two separate planning applications which together will comprise the overall proposal. The application relating to the extension has already been submitted and is currently out for consultation. The application relating to the existing site will be submitted over Summer 2021 incorporating feedback from local communities, and other interested user groups.

BAL would be interested to hear the views of local residents on these proposals, in particular on the options presented for the restoration of the site.

Feedback should be marked as relating to the Colemans Farm Quarry proposals and submitted by email to head.office@dlwalker.net by close of business on 30th July 2021.

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Agenda Item 12

8, Newland St.
Witham
22 June

Dear Madam Mayor,

I drove through the tiny village of Langford on Sunday and was so impressed by their dignified figure of the Soldier, facing the War Memorial in the churchyard. It made me very ashamed of our War Memorial Garden, where the figure -(and a very thin and flimsy one at that)- has been missing for maybe two years. Apparently it fell over and has been stored in the British Legion Hall ever since, awaiting welding by "The Council", or so I have been told. I think we should make every effort to honour our War Dead and have the figure restored. I pass it every day and feel saddened by this lack of respect.

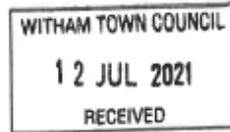
Yours hopefully,

Victoria Zarb



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Agenda Item 13



Stadt Aßlar
STADTVERORDNETENVORSTEHERIN

Stadt Aßlar | Postfach 1180 | 35607 Aßlar

Mrs. Angela Kilmartin
Town Mayor Witham
Newland Street
Witham Essex CM8 2FE

UNITED KINGDOM

*„Europa ist die Zukunft, jede andere Politik Vergangenheit.“
Roland Dumas*

Sehr geehrte Frau Kilmartin,
sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,
liebe Freunde unserer Partnerkommunen,

am 14. März 2021 fanden in Aßlar Kommunalwahlen statt, bei der eine neue Stadtverordnetenversammlung gewählt wurde. In der konstituierenden Sitzung am 26. April 2021, wurde ich zur Stadtverordnetenvorsteherin gewählt. Meine Vorgänger, wie die Herren Otto Muskat, Karl Jürgen Meinecke, Erhard Peusch, Bernhard Völkel und Paul Djalek, werden Sie sicherlich etwas besser kennen.

Parlamentarische Erfahrung habe ich als Stadtverordnete und stellvertretende Fraktionsvorsitzende der FWG in den letzten 15 Jahren sammeln können.

Leider hatte ich bisher noch keine Gelegenheit, alle unsere Partnerstädte und befreundete Kommunen zu besuchen. Einige von Ihnen werden mich aber sicher von verschiedenen Veranstaltungen in Aßlar kennen. Ich bin überzeugte Europäerin und werde mich für die weitere enge, freundschaftliche und partnerschaftliche Beziehung zwischen unseren Städten einsetzen. Unsere Partnerschaft wird auf dem Papier geschlossen, aber mit Leben erfüllt wird sie durch unsere Bürgerinnen und Bürger und durch einen lebhaften und freundschaftlichen Austausch.

07.07.2021

RATHAUS

Mühlgrabenstraße 1
35614 Aßlar
www.asslar.de
T 06441 803-0

SPRECHZEITEN

Montag	8:00 – 12:00 Uhr 13:30 – 16:00 Uhr
Dienstag	7:00 – 12:00 Uhr 13:30 – 16:00 Uhr
Mittwoch	8:00 – 12:00 Uhr
Donnerstag	8:00 – 12:00 Uhr 13:30 – 18:00 Uhr
Freitag	8:00 – 12:00 Uhr

BANKVERBINDUNGEN

Volksbank Mittelhessen eG
IBAN DE77 5139 0000 0010 0473 07
BIC VBMHDE5F

Sparkasse Wetzlar
IBAN DE90 5155 0035 0020 0001 05
BIC HELADEF1WET

Postbank Frankfurt/Main
IBAN DE05 5001 0060 0050 1906 07
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Ust.-ID-Nr. DE112 590471
Gläubiger-ID DE79ZZZ00000048696



Stadt Aßlar
STADTVERORDNETENVORSTEHERIN

Ich hoffe sehr, dass es nach den Monaten der Kontaktbeschränkungen durch die Corona-Pandemie bald wieder möglich sein wird, diesen regen Austausch mit allen unseren Partnerstädten erneut aufleben zu lassen.

Ich grüße alle Bürgerinnen und Bürger der Stadt Witham sehr herzlich und freue mich schon jetzt darauf, Sie bei unseren gemeinsamen Partnerschaftstreffen kennenzulernen, sei es hier bei uns in Aßlar oder bei einem Besuch in einer unserer Partnerstädte.

Mein Wunsch ist es, dass wir auch weiterhin in einem friedlichen und freiheitlichen Europa leben können, um unseren Kindern eine gute Zukunft zu sichern.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Katharina Schäfer

Ihre Katharina Schäfer
Stadtverordnetenvorsteherin

Local elections were held in Aslar on 13 March 2021, with a new city council meeting. In the constituent meeting on April 26, 2021, I was elected head of the city council. You will surely know my predecessors like the gentlemen Otto Muskat, Karl Jürgen, Meinecke, Erhard Peusch, Bernhard Volkel and Paul Djalek a little better.

I have gained parliamentary experience as a city councillor and deputy chairman of the FWG over the past 15 years.

Unfortunately, I have not yet had the opportunity to visit all of our partner and befriended communities. But some of you probably don't know me from various events in Aslar. I am a convinced European and will work for the further close, friendly and partner-like relationship between our cities. Our partner is closed on paper, but it is filled with life through our citizens and through a lively and friendly exchange.

I very much hope that after the months of restricted contact due to the Corona pandemic, it will soon be possible again to revive this lively exchange with all of our partner cities. I warmly welcome all the citizens of Witham and I am already looking forward to getting to know you at our joint partner meetings, be it here in Aslar or during a visit to one of our partner cities.

It is my wish that we can continue to live in a friendly and liberal Europe in order to ensure a good future for our children.

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Agenda Item 15

Freedom of Witham

The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) enables Parish Councils the ability to award the status of honorary freeman on 'persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services.'

The Council can grant the honour by passing a resolution with a two thirds majority.

Qualifications for freedom differ from town to town but generally fall into two categories 'patrimony' (inheritance) and 'servitude'.

It will be important to keep record of those who have been granted the Freedom of Witham and Members might like to consider a framed scroll that names can be added to as and when necessary.

The following policy is therefore suggested –

The Town Council has the power to grant persons who have rendered eminent services, the freedom of the town. Careful consideration needs to be taken to ensure that this honour is not diluted. People to be considered need to have given exceptional voluntary service to the town over a long number of years.

A nomination for the Freedom of Witham will be considered by the Town Council and a two thirds majority is required to pass the motion.

Agreed by Town Council Minute 57 – 18.1.2016

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Agenda Item 17

To motion for a petition hub page to be added to the WTC website where local 'important issues' petitions can sit. The process for a petition to be able to sit on the page should be that each petition comes through the council as for cllrs to vote on it fairly.

This is a fantastic opportunity for

- proper joint up collaboration between cllrs and residents
- highlights real *you said we did* style representation
- encourages residents to look at WTC as a means for an authentic voice for locals
- illustrates we have teeth and don't simply nod by issues because 'that's just how it is'

Part 2

First petition request = **No more, we don't want phase four.**

This petition is to fight against the proposed Phase 4 Rivenhall Park development.

Grounds:

Main issues:

1. Witham does not have the infrastructure to support all the new homes/people
2. Mass development taking away large areas of open green space

Background:

- Bellway have already secured phases one – 222 homes and two – 163 homes. Phase four proposing 230 new homes in Witham
- Bellway have already secured the Gimsons development in town with a planned development of 68 new homes in Witham
- Redrow – 630 homes with Countryside applying for 400 new homes
- Sanctuary – 150 homes off Conrad Road

Cllr Jay

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