

### **34a - Information from Principal Planning Officer at WLBC to Parish Council's Queries**

Thank you for your email. In terms of your queries, I may be able to offer some background to the site, although West Lancs are not the main authority on the draining of the quarry, I do have some knowledge of the matter since East Quarry is located within West Lancashire.

Currently East Quarry is full of water to a depth of approximately 12m and it is the wish of the owner to empty the quarry by pumping flow into Calico Brook North via existing pipework at a rate of 120 l/s over a prolonged period, which is understood to be six months.

The boundary line between WLBC and Wigan Council follows Calico Brook North through land adjoining the quarry site on its eastern side. The land is wholly owned by Wigan Council and is bisected by the brook thus approximately half of its area falls within West Lancashire.

In 2012 WLBC installed a flood alleviation scheme to provide protection to the residents of the nearby Millbank housing estate. Following repeated complaints from the residents and the new Millbank Flood Action Group the EA provided improvements including a camera to monitor water levels. Although the EA undertook the financing and implementation of the works Calico Brook North remains an ordinary watercourse, and is not designated as 'main river'.

Lancashire County Council (LCC) is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) responsible for processing Land Drainage consent applications. The LLFA have confirmed that Land Drainage consent is not required to drain the quarry and neither is planning permission required to empty the quarry of water.

As Calico Brook is the boundary between the local authority areas, Wigan Council is also the LLFA responsible for processing Land Drainage consent applications. Wigan Council have confirmed that Land Drainage consent is not required.

As landowner Wigan Council is concerned that the quarry owner will want to utilise existing pipework across its land, which is believed to have been installed some time ago when the quarry was in operation. Wigan are currently looking at the deeds to the land with a view to preventing the use of the pipework. In collaboration with WLBC the intention is to encourage the quarry owner to manage the operation more effectively. To that end Wigan may permit the use of temporary overland pipework to convey flows to the culvert installed as part of the WLBC flood alleviation scheme. This will address concerns raised regarding flood risk discussed above.

The Environment Agency also have some authority over the proposed operations and have advised the quarry owner that an extraction licence is required and that water samples must be provided to ensure that the quality of the quarry water is within acceptable limits. It is understood that the owner is currently co-operating with the EA.

Officers from WLBC Technical Services team have been instrumental in ensuring that all the relevant Risk Management Authorities were informed of the quarry owner's proposals as soon as they came to light to ensure that they had oversight of the project.

As none of the work or proposed work so far requires planning permission, I am unable to assist further but I would recommend contacting Wigan Council's LLFA or property team for an update.

In terms of any subsequent filling-in of the quarry, this would require consent from Lancashire County Council, who deal with minerals and waste applications. As far as I am aware, no application has been submitted to them at present for the filling of the quarry.

Following any permission that may be granted by LCC for the filling-in of the quarry, any subsequent redevelopment proposals would then require planning permission, which would be determined by West Lancashire Borough Council.

As you can see, there are various stages to any development on the quarry and various agencies that will deal with them. I would suggest that for the draining of the water, you may wish to contact the Lead Local Flood Authorities and/or the EA; for any filling of the quarry, it would be LCC and for any redevelopment proposal it would be West Lancs. So far, there has been no application for the filling or redevelopment of the quarry.

Ann Veevers

Principal Planning Officer

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