



Nash Mills Chalk Mines News

Update 3

April / May 2009

Chalk mines questionnaire - Your help needed!

As part of the Borough Council's co-ordinating role we are seeking relevant information on the area from local residents.

So far geological surveys have focused on Pond Road and a section of Highbarns where ground collapses suggested mining activity.

Some people have mentioned relatively small incidents of holes and cracks appearing in driveways, gardens, walls or floors. We are keen to hear about any of these smaller incidents that haven't previously been reported to the Council's Building Control team, as well as about local historical knowledge on ground activity or mining.

Please fill in the survey enclosed with this newsletter which will help us build a more detailed local picture. The survey is also available to download from the Chalk Mines area of the Council's web site (www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarns) if you want to complete it electronically and email it back to us.

Any resident with a concern about any specific incident can contact the Council's Building Control team on 01442 228587 or email building.control@dacorum.gov.uk



Funding and Project Management Update

As local residents will be aware, the process of applying for funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (formerly English Partnerships) is long and detailed. Nevertheless it is pleasing to report good progress is being made and this work is being twin-tracked with that of the project management procurement exercise.

The Council has short-listed eight companies to bid for a four year contract to assist the Council in its co-ordinating role. The procurement process is now over half way through and it's envisaged that it will be completed by June/July.

Once we're in a clear position on funding and project management we'll be able to hold a public meeting so that we can bring residents up to speed.

Information on-line

Find up-to-date information on the chalk mines project on a dedicated area of the Borough Council web site: www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarns

- Chalk Mines News
- Minutes and presentations from public meetings
- Residents Group minutes
- Committee reports
- Advice (including Questions and Answers)

Update from Hertfordshire Highways

Hertfordshire Highways has been working to put in some more robust barriers and improve signage to enforce the road closures that took effect in February.

In response to residents' requests to improve the appearance of the site Hertfordshire Highways has been working with the Borough Council to put in three concrete planters at the road closure point (between 24 Highbarns and the Pond Road junction). There will be some permanent, shorter guard rails around the planters for safety reasons. It has been agreed that Nash Mills Parish Council will provide and maintain the plants in these tubs. Once these are in place the temporary barriers on that part of the site will be removed.

As residents will have seen, three blue cul-de-sac signs have been installed at the entry points to the road closures.

Pavements have been resurfaced at the corner of Highbarns and Chambersbury Lane. Bollards have been put in to protect the pavement from future damage and to maintain sight lines at the junction for safety reasons. Resurfacing of pavements at the junction of Highbarns and Pond Road can't happen until we are clearer about the position in relation to any ground investigations in the area.

Mark Goodyear from Hertfordshire Highways attended the March residents meeting and has been following up on issues raised.

- The knocked down lamp column opposite 24 Highbarns has been replaced. We understand from EDF that work to reconnect the lamp column to the mains supply is scheduled for late April.
- The grassed areas opposite Pond Road will be re-seeded by the end of April, weather permitting.
- More permanent diversion route signs are on order to be installed in May. Other more informative traffic signs are planned for delivery by the end of June.
- Some additional permanent guard rail has been ordered for the road closure point with expected delivery in May.
- Extra carriageway surfacing work outside 38 Highbarns has been ordered – completion is expected in May.

Mark is moving to a new office in Hertfordshire Highways and from April the Hertfordshire Highways contact is Alyson Fricker. Please bear with us through this changeover period over the next month. The new contact details are (01923) 257000 or southwestherts.area@hertshighways.org.uk

Security Issues

Update from Nik Pringle, PC for Nash Mills

Hertfordshire is one of the safest counties in the UK and Dacorum has a low crime rate per head of population. Nash Mills has by far the lowest crime rate in Dacorum. Over the last few years this has fluctuated between four and ten crimes a month in total - about half that of the next safest ward to live in.

Recently the residents around Highbarns raised concerns about a burglary. The offender in question has been arrested and during interview has admitted a number of other offences all over the area.

PCSO Lesley Kirkpatrick starts work in Nash Mills and Kings Langley on 6 April, replacing Charlotte Hills. At the start of her new role Lesley will take on a couple of projects, one of which is to address anti-social behaviour within Nash Mills. This is currently low level nuisance centred around one address. We need to ensure it stops before matters become more serious.

Our preferred means of contact is by **email**. Our contact details are as follows:

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