

## Contact numbers for enquiries and concerns

### Contractors and Engineers

On-site day-to-day progress:  
For BAM Ritchies: to be confirmed

David Lawrence  
Site Engineer – Site Compound, Pond Road  
Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd  
Mob: 07793 369178

### Project Management and oversight:

Mark Skittrall  
Technical Director, Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd  
10 Medawar Road, The Surrey Research Park,  
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7AR  
Tel: 01483 803176  
Mob: 07843 467841  
mark.skittrall@hyderconsulting.com

### Dacorum Borough Council

#### Project Management and oversight:

Shane Flynn  
Assistant Director (Finance and Resources)  
Tel: 01442 228979  
Mob: 07557 190377  
shane.flynn@dacorum.gov.uk

Mike Evans  
Group Manager (Commercial Assets and Property  
Development)  
Tel: 01442 228435  
Mob: 07500 226406  
mike.evans@dacorum.gov.uk

#### For general enquiries:

Marion Rawdon  
Project Support Officer  
Tel: 01442 228631  
marion.rawdon@dacorum.gov.uk

#### For planning concerns:

Nigel Gibbs  
Development Management  
Tel: 01442 228576  
nigel.gibbs@dacorum.gov.uk

#### For structural concerns:

John Keeton  
Building Control  
Tel: 01442 228907  
john.keeton@dacorum.gov.uk

For highways issues:  
Highways Customer Centre  
Tel: 0300 123 4047  
www.hertsdirect.org

Peter Wright  
Highways Locality Officer, Dacorum Area  
Tel: 01992 658334

### The Residents Group

The group meets with DBC officers and Hyder officers as and when appropriate. For more info about the work of the Residents Group, or if you want to talk to residents who have been involved in earlier stages of the work, please contact:

Richard Taylor  
Tel: 01442 404746  
richard.taylor226@btinternet.com

Michele and Rodney Berkeley  
micheleberkeley@hotmail.com or  
rodneyperkeley@hotmail.com

### Other useful contact numbers:

#### Police

If you are in immediate danger and need urgent police, fire and rescue or ambulance assistance call 999 or for non-emergencies call 101.

#### Local police officer, Nash Mills Area:

PCSO Ian Martin  
Tel 01707 354192  
ian.martin2@herts.pnn.police.uk

### Councillors

**Dacorum Borough Council:**  
Geoffrey Doole  
25 Silverthorn Drive, Longdean Park,  
Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8BX  
Tel: 01442 267050  
geoffrey.doole@dacorum.gov.uk

#### Hertfordshire County Council:

Jan Maddern  
29 Swan Mead, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9DQ  
Tel: 01442 401241  
Mob: 07711 066696  
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# Highbarns Newsletter

Update 9

December 2012

Welcome to the latest edition of the Highbarns Newsletter, bringing you up-to-date on what has happened so far, what is currently happening, and what will happen next.



Shane Flynn

Shane Flynn, Assistant Director (Project Governance) remains the Council's lead on co-ordinating the project and Mark Skittrall remains the lead for Hyder, our technical consultants and project managers.

Both can be contacted using any of the means shown in the updated contact list included in this newsletter, along with their teams and other contacts.



Mark Skittrall

## Where have we got to?

Since the last public meeting in September, there has been a good deal of progress in a number of areas, and we have been speaking with everyone directly affected by the mine to try and make the final stages of the work as smooth as possible for all concerned. In particular, we have reached the stage of appointing a contractor to carry out the mine repair work itself: we are very pleased to offer the work to BAM Ritchies.

BAM Ritchies are highly experienced in this kind of work and have been involved in many major land stabilisation projects, including the Cross Rail project which is currently tunnelling under London. In particular, they worked with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to complete the successful repair of the chalk mine at Briars Lane in Hatfield, so are well versed in the kind of problems we face here.

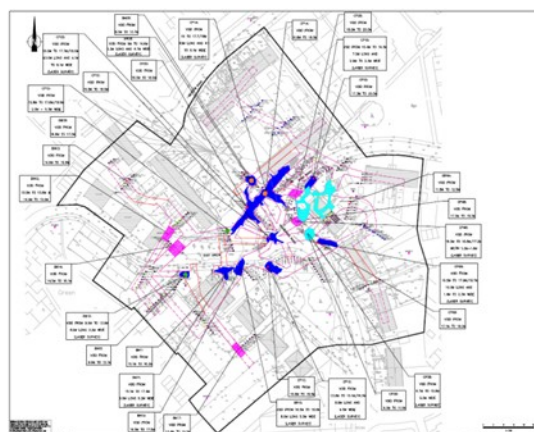
They submitted an excellent bid which took into account the very precise needs of the Highbarns area, and had plenty of good ideas for minimising disruption for residents while the works are going on.

You can find more about them at [www.bamritchies.co.uk](http://www.bamritchies.co.uk).

## Plotting the mine

The first stage of the mine repair works was completed in June. This involved boring into the ground where the mine was expected to be – as indicated by previous surveys – to ‘prove’ its location and check its condition.

This work was carried out by Vinci, and they produced a detailed report in August, which Mark outlined at the last public meeting. The report showed that the mine was where it was expected to be and, importantly, did not appear to extend beyond the edges of the land clearance area agreed with the Homes and Communities Agency. The full extent of the mine cannot be known for certain until the actual repair works are carried out, but the work done by Vinci was very positive in its results.



However, the work did show that more of the mine seems to have collapsed than expected. This is good because it means there are fewer of the open cavities which represent the greatest potential hazard, but not so good because it means more work is required; collapsed ground is harder to secure than open cavities. Even so, all the contractors who tendered for the work outlined plans which should still enable the ground work to be finished by June, as planned.

## Remediation works

Remediation work will not begin before Christmas. BAM Ritchies will draw up a timetable for each stage of the works and will agree with individual householders what needs to be done and when. Remember, the Council is only co-ordinating the work on your behalf and nothing will be done without your consent and approval.

During the tender process, several important aspects of the proposals were discussed, including:

- Scheduling of the work
- Flexibility over the time that properties need to be vacated
- Locating equipment and parking at a location outside of the Highbarns area to reduce the impact on residents’ parking and other traffic
- Day-to-day availability for dealing with questions, concerns and problems as and when they arise
- Onsite security throughout the works
- Full and timely communications with residents

BAM Ritchies provided very clear and positive responses on each of these points.

## Residents’ Group meeting on 19 December

There is a meeting of the Residents Group at the Council offices on **19 December**. This will be the first opportunity for residents to discuss the above issues with the contractor.

If you have any questions that you want an immediate answer to, please contact a member of the Residents Group.

## How will you be affected?

BAM Ritchies are planning to repair the mine in the simplest, quickest and most secure way possible. As soon as they can be certain about timings, they will let you know how you will be affected by the work. Heavy machinery will be needed but, as with the investigation works, everything will be returned to its original condition as soon as the works are completed.



The last on-site activity will involve checking that the work has been successful. BAM Ritchies will require access inside your homes to ensure that stability has been achieved before certificates of assurance can be provided. Again, all the costs of this work have been budgeted for in the funding bid, and everything will be returned to normal once the tests have been completed.

Some properties will need to be vacated during the short period that work is undertaken underneath the premises. If you are affected, we will aim to give you notice one month before the work is due to start, but please note that in the early stages you may get shorter notice. We’ve been speaking with residents about what arrangements you are able to make, and what additional support we need to provide for those who have particular difficulties with temporarily relocating.

## Removal costs and Insurance

Inevitably with this kind of work, there will be some risks to property. In the event that the contractors cause any damage, either through their actions or by neglecting to do something they should have, they’ll be fully insured to cover those costs.

The cost of temporary removal, though, cannot be covered by the contractors, nor can it be met by the Council, as it would then be passed on to other Council Tax payers. Residents in the area have received reductions in Council Tax as compensation for the planning blight caused by the mine. If you do need to relocate temporarily during the works, your insurance company may cover the costs of this - but that depends on your insurance policy. Attached is a letter to insurance companies which is a formal statement that works will be necessary and costs may be incurred. Please let us know if you want further copies of this letter.

## More information

We’ll be publishing more newsletters until the project is completed. We’ll also use local noticeboards and public events to keep you up to date, and we’ll provide opportunities for you to ask any questions you may have. We’ve recently revised the dedicated Highbarns area of the Council website, which you can find at [www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarns](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarns).

If you need to speak to someone about an immediate problem, please refer to the contact list overleaf. Once works begin, BAM Ritchies will be providing a constant on-site presence as well as 24-hour security, so there will be someone available to answer your questions at all times.