



# Highbarns Newsletter

Update 8

June 2012

## Where have we got to?

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



Shane Flynn

We have several new teams of people in place who have been appointed in the last few months to bring the project to a successful conclusion. Shane Flynn, Assistant Director (Finance and Resources), has taken over **from Steve Baker as the Council's lead on co-ordinating the project** now that we have secured funding and are moving on to repairing the mine.

Mark Skittrall, who addressed the public meeting in February, remains **the lead for Hyder, our technical consultants and project managers.** You'll find contact details for both of them, as well as other useful contacts, at the end of this newsletter.

## Investigation of the ground

Following the agreement of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, Hyder undertook to manage the project in two stages:

- Stage 1 - Ground investigation works to check the extent of the mine and to work out how much repair work is needed
- Stage 2 - Remediation works to fill the cavities, repair the mine and to remove the blight to the area caused by the presence of the mine

In February, Vinci were appointed to complete Stage 1 and they have been working quickly to capture all the information needed, using probes to provide a picture of the extent of the mine. This required a huge amount of co-operation from everyone concerned and those working at the site are very grateful for all the help and co-operation that you have given so far, despite a changing picture which has often meant extra work and unexpected short-term changes to plans.

The investigations have progressed well and all the signs are very positive. This phase of the work is due to be completed by the beginning of June.

Please be advised that there are six boreholes located around the edges of the site. These contain groundwater monitoring standpipes. Other boreholes will remain in place for CCTV camera surveys to be undertaken when necessary. For each of these boreholes a lockable steel cover has been fitted and concreted into place, flush with the ground surface. These will remain in place until all works are completed.

## What happens next?

Following their work on Stage 1, Vinci will now clear away all of their equipment and temporary buildings from the site. Hyder will analyse all of the information and design a scheme for treating the mine, which will take until September. We will then appoint a contractor to carry out Stage 2.

You should see site buildings returning towards the beginning of December, and work will start then. There will be a two week break over Christmas, but work will continue throughout the winter and should take about 16 weeks.

The treatment site works should be complete by late April 2013 - as long as there are no unforeseen hold ups or problems - while reinstatement works and removal of the site cabins should be complete by late May 2013.

These photos are taken from a similar set of works on chalk mines found in another part of the country. Our aim here in Dacorum is to achieve the same results by returning everything to normal once the works are completed.



Before



After

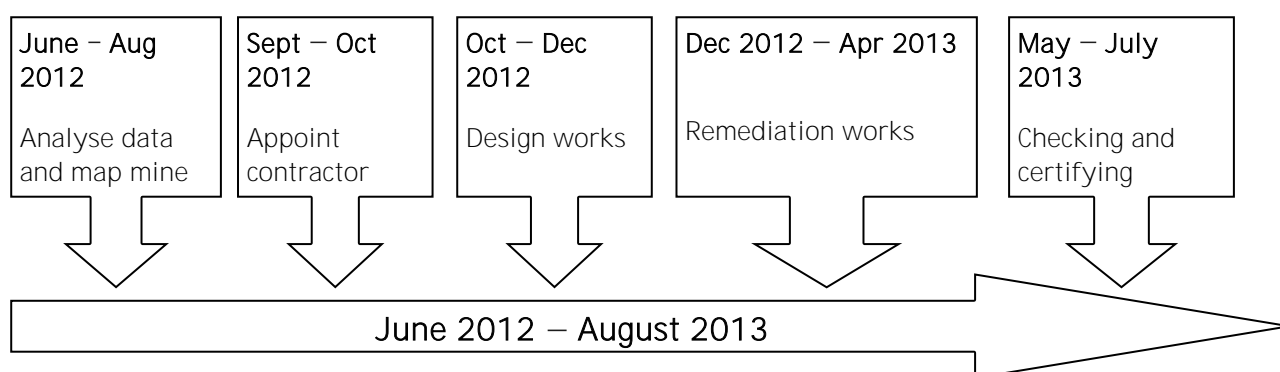
## How will you be affected?

The Stage 2 contractors will draw up a plan to make sure that they can repair the mine in the simplest, quickest and most secure way. As soon as they have developed their plans to a point where they can be certain about timings, we will let you know which houses will be affected by the work and what actions need to be taken to secure each site. 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 activity will involve checking that the work has been successful. This will require access inside homes to ensure that stability has been achieved so that validation reports 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.

It will be necessary for those living in properties affected by the works to move out for the short period that work is being carried out underneath the premises. If you are affected, we will aim to provide notice of the need to vacate your property one month before the work is due to start, but please note that in the early stages of the work, shorter notice may be given. You may want to begin thinking about what arrangements you might be able to make with family and friends.

We will be gathering information about the needs of all residents affected over the summer and will arrange a public meeting to discuss the proposals when we get a clearer picture of what will be required and when.



## More information

We will continue to publish newsletters for the remainder of the project and will also be seeking to use local notice boards and public events to keep you informed and provide opportunities for you to put questions to all those involved in the project. You can also find out more by visiting **the dedicated area of the Council's website:** [www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarns](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/highbarns)

If you have immediate queries about work at or near your property, supervisors from Vinci and Hyder are working at the site full time, and will be happy to answer your questions. Council officers from Housing and Building Control are making regular visits to the site to help ensure that things progress smoothly.

In the autumn we will set up regular drop-in sessions for local residents so that there will be a dedicated time and place for questions and answers at least once every week.

If you have immediate problems and cannot find someone to talk to, please do not hesitate to contact any of the people shown in the contact list overleaf.

## Safety of children in the street

As we are approaching summer, we would just like to take this opportunity to remind parents and guardians that young children should **not be allowed to play in the street in the road closure area**, particularly in areas where works are taking place.

# Contact numbers for enquiries and concerns

## Contractors and Engineers

### **On-site day-to-day progress:**

Paul Goodwin  
Site Agent – Site Compound, Pond Road  
Soil Engineering Geoservices Ltd (Vinci)  
Mob: 07824 560865

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:**

Jennifer Young  
Regulatory Services Technical Assistant (Civil  
Contingencies)  
Tel: 01442 228834  
jennifer.young@dacorum.gov.uk

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

### **For highways issues:**

David Bowman  
Herts County Council  
dave.bowman@hertshighways.org.uk

### **For structural concerns:**

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

### **For planning concerns:**

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

## The Residents Group

The group meets with DBC officers and Hyder representatives 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  
rodneyberkeley@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  
jan.maddern@hertscc.gov.uk