

THE THIN END OF THE WEDGE

In a packed Village Hall over 120 residents gathered at a public meeting on the 16th February to discuss the consequences to the village of ARC Planning Application, to the County Council to extract gravel (see map) from an area to the NE side of the Village lying alongside the route of the A17 Relief Road and roughly in the centre of land between Drove Lane and Stapleford Lane. The site is on either side of an oil/gas pipe line and is Grade 3 agricultural land.

Messrs Sloan, Mosely and Steeples represented ARC whilst Mr Smith represented The County Council Planning Department. The meeting was also attended by County Councillor Mrs A. Yates and District Councillor Mr. Ridge.

Invited to address the meeting Mr Smith said that the stage reached in the planning application was consultation with all interested bodies including the District Council, Parish Council and water authorities. The public meeting called by the Parish Council was an ideal way to listen to the view point of the village.

The next stage after consultation was that the application would go to the Director of Transportation and Planning who would invite the District Council to comment on his recommendations before submitting the Planning Application to the County Council Environment Committee on or about 6th April.

The representative from ARC explained that the application referred to some 92 acres of land of which 52 acres, split in four phases, would be worked for sand and gravel extraction.

All the extracted sand/gravel would be used solely for the Newark Relief Road and the site would be worked for approximately 130 weeks from April (i.e. during the construction of the Relief Road).

There would be access to the site from Drove Lane and all vehicles would enter or leave the site via Drove Lane to the A46. The representatives of ARC were prepared to enter into a legal agreement to that effect.

There would also be a further period of some 18 months - 2 years whilst landscaping took place.

Under questioning the ARC representatives agreed that they held mineral rights for 1650 acres of land in the Coddington area, but as such they had no long term plans for the area.

It was possible that there could be future requirements but any further extraction would be subject to planning applications on each occasion.

Concern was expressed for childrens safety and ARC stated that it would be a continual pumped site whilst extraction took place and that after restoration the site would be fenced to agricultural standards.

A number of schemes for the restoration of the site would be considered dependent on the final amount of mineral extracted.

Residents mentioned that there were already some gravel pits in a 15 mile radius of the site - why couldn't they be used? It was explained that the original tenders of the Relief Road has been considered by the Department of Transport as too expensive which was why a second round of tenders had been submitted and why the current application had been raised. The construction of the relief road, which many villagers wanted to see constructed, depended upon the price being right so far as the Department of Transport was concerned. The extraction of gravel from Coddington was not a pre-requisite for the construction of the relief road.

Concern was also expressed at possible flooding in the area, whether the extraction would alter the water table and the affect it might have on local artesian wells. No tests had been carried out on the possibility of flooding, but would be carried out if the application went ahead.

The County Council would be in touch with the Internal Drainage Board, on this matter and would also need to know of the future use of the site when restored. All these matters would be taken into account by the Planning Committee.

Mr Smith for the County Council agreed that the site in the application was not in the County sand and gravel plan, although a site at Langford Lowfields owned by Tarmac was. There was also a proposal for gravel extraction for the bypass near the Sugar Beet Factory.

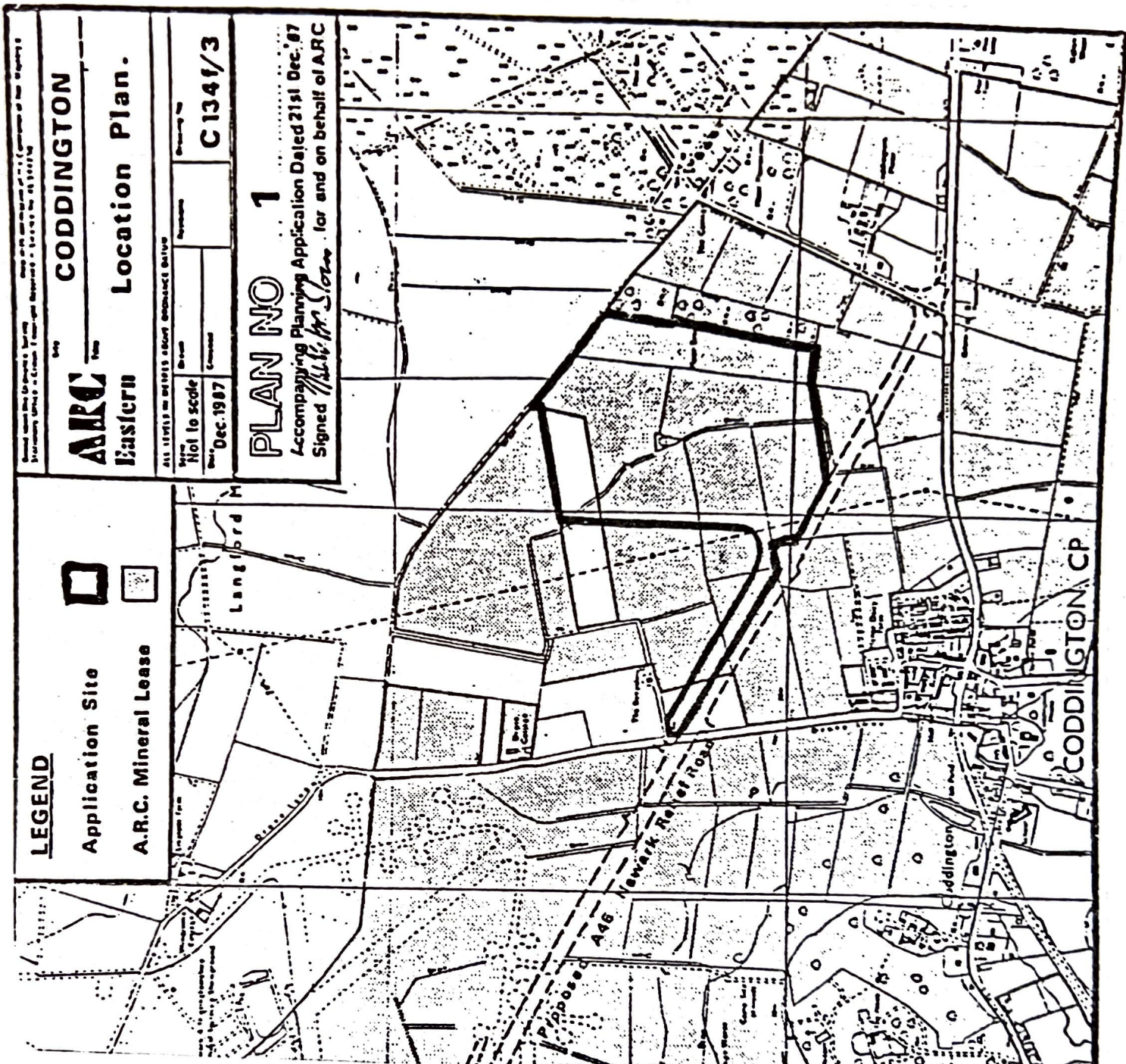
Residents also expressed concern at noise levels from the site. ARC representatives said that it would be a twelve hour six day operation, but that there would be no heavy machinery on site apart from some screening operations for drainage materials.

The diesel water pumps, although running continuously, would be screened and baffled to limit noise on the surrounding area. If they proved too noisy they could be replaced by electric pumps.

The depth of the working pit would be approx 5 metres, there would be no residential accommodation on site and the number of ARC employees on site would be in single figures. The County Council could control noise emission as a condition of the planning application.

Asked by Parish Council Chairman Mr Allen, how the meeting felt about the application, the majority were not in favour of the plan proceeding, with 5 abstaining.

When one resident asked how the community would benefit from the scheme, the only sure thing was that if the second wave of tenders were acceptable to the Department of Transport the long sought relief road would be built sooner rather than later and this would be the only benefit to the village. However given that ARC own the mineral rights around Coddington, it could be seen that in the long term it could be the thin end of the wedge.



BORROW PIT

The Parish Council opposed the planning application by ARC for a borrow pit on the grounds that:-

- a) there were plenty of established gravel pits in the area which could provide gravel.
- b) they were also concerned about noise levels on the site from the pumps and equipment.
- c) transport routes to and from the site.
- d) there were mature oak trees on the site.
- e) problems with the water table and drainage following extraction of minerals.



WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

Members met at the Grange Hotel for a 'Christmas Dinner' on 26th January when all enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

On February 9th 'Know yourself through your handwriting' was the title of an interesting talk given by Mr Duncan McIntosh. He analysed members handwriting which produced some intriguing and amusing results.

Mrs Pam Bosworth's 'Hat Show' took place on March 6th.

On March 19th the Spring Council Meeting held at Center Parcs was attended by several members, with the Birthday Party taking place on 22nd March.

Future Events

April 12th 'The Flying Angel' Mrs Rosemary Collard of 'Mission to Seamen'

May 10th A.G.M. followed by a social evening.

May 16th A Group Meeting will be held at Collingham when Mr J.C. Slingsby A.N.A.E.A. will talk about antiques.

June 2nd Outing to Cambridge. If you are interested please contact Mrs Wendy Parrett. Tel 72687.

June 14th A guided tour of Historical Newark and afterwards at County House.

June 21st Garden Party.

July 12th Mystery Tour.

The W.I. are looking for new members. If you are interested, do come to any of our meetings or contact Mrs Jan Philips. Tel 72900

PROPOSED CAREVAN SITE

It is understood that Colsk Developments have appealed to the Department of the Environment following Newark and Sherwood District Councils refusal to allow a carevan site on the grounds of Coddington Hall near Old Hall Gardens.

Although no official notice has been given it is believed that an enquiry may take place in April/May.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY

The Parish Council noted that the East Coast Railway would be electrified in April. British Rail officials are to speak at schools in the area to remind children of the danger.

"West View",
Balderton Lane,
Coddington,


Dear Sir,

I read with interest your article dealing with the Parish Council's concern over preservation of trees in the village. It is truly admirable that we have a Parish Council with such strong views on the subject of preservation. However, in certain cases I cannot help but wonder if the personal interests of some members of the Council are taking priority over those of the community as a whole.

I have lived in the village for nearly 12 years, and enjoy the life very much. However, I do believe the village should be a friendly community for people to live in. If the interests of an individual are about to be affected by a decision made by the Parish Council then surely that individual should be invited to put their point of view to a full Council meeting. This action would remove any suspicion of Councillors' personal interests taking precedence over the community interest.

To use the offices of a democratically elected body is both cowardly and sinister. Let us please have a little bit of honesty and let us be more welcoming to people joining our excellent community. Preservation is fine, but it also extends to the individual's rights.

Yours faithfully,



Paul McVay

In reply to Mr McVay's letter it is understood that the Parish Council always undertake site meetings with the proposer of all major planning items brought to the Parish Council's attention by the District Council.

LITTER

Following representations by a resident, Mrs Mary Carver, the Parish Council are to look at ways in which all local groups can contribute to keeping the Village tidy.

SAFETY FIRST

The Parish Council are concerned for the safety of pedestrians on the corner of Drove Lane by Manor Dairy Farm and intend to ask the County Council to place a pavement there.

in the NEWS

Village will tackle litter

POSITIVE action is needed to tidy up Coddington, particularly in the Old Newark Road area, the parish council was told on Tuesday.

Blocked ditch

Homes in Stapleford Lane, Coddington, are having drainage problems because a ditch is blocked by rubbish, the parish council heard on Tuesday.

The council is to write to Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and District Council, to ask for the ditch to be cleared.

Talking too long

Coddington Parish Council meeting are too long, said Mrs Janet Smith at Tuesday's meeting.

"We seem to be discussing the same things over and over again," she said.

The council decided that it would try to reduce agendas in future.

Villager Mrs Mary Carver told the council that a campaign was needed to clear the village of litter.

Parish councillor Mrs Janet Smith expressed sympathy with Mrs Carver, and congratulated her on her efforts to pick up litter.

Mrs Smith said the problem was particularly bad between Coddington Primary School and the village shop.

"It is up to parents to educate their children not to drop litter," she said. "There is very little litter when the children are not at school."

Mr David Beck hoped the school could help with the problem, but pointed out that it was not just children who dropped litter.

The council decided to put the matter on the agenda for the annual parish meeting and to ask the school for its help.

Village Scouts, Cubs and Guides will be asked if they can help with clearing up litter.

Tenants lobby Lords

COUNCIL house tenants from Coddington's Harvey Avenue Estate travelled to London yesterday to lobby members of the House of Lords over a housing Bill presently before Parliament.

The Bill would give private landlords the right to buy council estates unless enough residents block the move.

Chairman of Harvey Avenue Estate Tenants' Association Mr Harry Adamson said the Government claimed the Bill would increase tenants' choice but seemed to be about increasing landlords' choice.

"New landlords could buy council estates unless more than half the tenants let the landlord know they objected," he said.

Voted

He said new landlords were likely to give less security of tenure, charge more rent and increase homelessness in the area.

"All of this seems unfair," he said.

Transport for the trip was organised by a tenants' action group formed in response to the Bill and public meetings are being held to keep tenants informed.

Newark and Sherwood District Council tenants from Winthorpe and Newark's Yorke Drive estate voted at a meeting in the Bridge Community Centre on Tuesday against transferring to private landlords.

Newark town councillor Mr Derek Green, who chaired the meeting, told the 140 people present about the implications of the Bill.

"It is vitally important that tenants understand this Bill or they could vote themselves into a situation of paying massive rents," he said.

The meeting agreed to fight the Bill's passage through Parliament by writing to Newark MP Mr Richard Alexander and lobbying Parliament after Easter. They will also be monitoring prospective landlords.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT- NIKRAP

Councillors believe that including formal academic qualifications in job adverts leads to discrimination against applicants what done badly at school.

Reading Chronicle

Wife wanted for Egyptian, 59 years, owns flat, looking simple, she familiar qualities.

Egyptian Gazette

Councillor John Graves said, "If these toilets are for those in the cemetery, they would have to be moved back and screened from the view of residents".

Worcester News

Wanted urgently, Assistant to sell hot meat pies to Hitchin Post Office queue. Could easily become full time.

Hitchin Comet

Dates for your DIARY



All Saints', Coddington

☪☪☪ April 1st. GOOD FRIDAY.

7.30. p.m. SERVICE OF DEVOTION.

On this day we remember the suffering and death on the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. A day of observance and devotion for all Christians.

☪☪☪ EASTER DAY. April 3rd.

On this day we rejoice and thank God for the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

7 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION.

9 a.m. FAMILY COMMUNION.

6 p.m. EVENSONG & SERMON.

We welcome you to these and to all ^{our} acts of Worship and Praise and Thanksgiving.



PLEASE NOTE THURSDAY 7th APRIL BINGO in aid of Coddington Village Hall funds



DOMINO. KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

A domino K.O. tournament was held at The Plough on Tuesday 2nd Feb by kind permission of David and Barbara Calvert.

The event was extremely well attended and raised a magnificent £110.85 for the Whiston Gate Home for the Physically Handicapped People of Nottinghamshire. (Minibus appeal).

The winners of the dominoes were:-

Main Competition 1st Fred Tomlinson, 2nd Steven Tomlinson, 3rd Susan George
4th Peter Hewardine.

Secondary Competition 1st Maurice Britton, 2nd Coral Butler, 3rd Philip Tomlinson, 4th Pete Robinson.

Special thanks are due to Dave and Jean Burge who presented a cooked ham and cobs. Thanks are offered to everyone else who assisted in so many ways including the donation of raffle prizes.



Coddington C. of E. Primary School

Many thanks for all the support we received from parents and children for our 'Red Nose Fun Day' on February 5th. Most of the children, staff and several parents joined in the festivities and we raised over £67. 00. for Comic Relief.

Congratulations to Mr. Spray and his wife who gave birth to a baby girl, Lucy Charlotte, in January, 1988.

Preparations are going ahead for our annual visit of choir, band and recorder groups to Lincoln Music Festival.

Class 3 recently visited Marnham Power Station and had a most interesting time.

Preparations are going ahead for our 4th Year Field Trip to Whitby in July.

Threat to post offices

SIR—Sir Bryan Nicholson may have persuaded The Daily Telegraph, but he hasn't persuaded us. Contrary to claims in your report (Jan. 18) there are 108 village post offices in Cornwall under threat from the new Post Office arrangements. Almost all our remoter villages will be affected.

The reduction to part-time opening will be matched by a cut in salary for the sub-postmaster or mistress. It will also reduce the value of the business, result in a poorer service to the community, and bring the threat of future closure as a result of declining patronage. Sir Bryan claims that this arrangement is voluntary. We have had voluntary part-time post offices for three years. It is the fact that this new plan is *compulsory* that has created such a storm of protest. Indeed, "the wishes of the community" have to our knowledge not once been considered.

OLIVER BAINES
Countryside Officer, Cornwall Rural
Community Council, Truro

GARDEN FENCING RUSTIC POLES
STAKES & RAILS

R. S. Gray & Son.
Timber Merchants.

STAPLEFORD LANE
CODDINGTON

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The opinions expressed in CCN are not necessarily those of Coddington Parish Council.