

THE WALCOTE WORD

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QUARRY PROPOSAL

What's happening?

Following the leaflet we distributed to residents of Misterton and Walcote, most of you know Tarmac intend applying for planning permission to extract approximately 8 million tonnes of sand and gravel from and build a processing plant on land to the south of the A4304. The proposed site area covers some 115 hectares and comes close to the edge of Walcote, with the site access almost opposite to the entrance to Misterton Hall. At the moment they've only submitted a Scoping Request to Leicestershire County Council, the planning authority. This is a procedure under which they can ask what information they should supply when they prepare the Environmental Impact Statement that must accompany the actual planning application. If you wish to see the Request and the responses, use this link: [Planning application 2022/EIASco/0044/LCC | Leicestershire County Council \(planning-register.co.uk\)](https://planning-register.co.uk/planning-application/2022/EIASco/0044/LCC)



ONE OF THE FIELDS IN THE PROPOSED SITE

This week your parish councilors met with Tarmac representatives to glean more information about the proposals. Of particular concern is the siting of the ancillary facilities where they plan to process the sand and gravel and have an on-site ready-mix concrete batching plant. If approved this will form the closest part of the site to Walcote and in our view is likely to cause the most pollution in terms of dust, noise and light, although Tarmac says that with the use of mounds and the existing trees, it will be well screened from the village. We are also concerned about an increase in traffic and they have promised to return to us when they have a full traffic assessment. One positive note is that there are no plans to infill the site once each phase is worked but this, like the 20-year timescale for extraction, is always open to review.

We will let you know when the planning application is made. Until then we can't make any formal comment to LCC but we can give some thought as to how we should respond and what information we'll need. At a recent meeting Alberto Costa MP and Cllrs Jonathan Bateman and Blake Pain listened to councilors from your parish and other local councils, as well as various local landowners, and offered information and advice. An action group is proposed with an early task being fundraising. More information will follow when available. If you have any relevant expertise to offer, or would be interested in getting involved in the action group, please send your details of to clerk@mistertonwithwalcote.org.uk and we will pass them on.

A STRANGE FIELD

But maybe some potential?

Have you noticed the field at the corner of South Kilworth Road and the A4304? Whose is it and how did it come to look like that? Well, it belongs to the Parish Council. At the end of the 18th century it was transferred to the Surveyors of the Highways for Walcote for the provision of materials to repair the roads, hence its strange surface. When the highways became publicly maintained it passed through the hands of various local authorities ending up with Harborough District Council. In 2016 we persuaded them to transfer ownership to the parish.

We've considered various options for its use and, with the help of Midlands Rural Housing, a leading provider of rural housing services, are now exploring the possibility engaging with a housing association to provide affordable homes for rent, priority being given to those applicants who have a local connection.

It's early days but if it looks possible the usual public consultation will follow.

STAYCATION?

Or perhaps just an interest in local history

Each Summer the Leicestershire Fieldworkers and others put together a Festival of Archaeology. If you're intrigued have a look at their programme: [Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology – Leicestershire Fieldworkers \(leicsfieldworkers.org\)](http://leicsfieldworkers.org)

Most events are either free or with a nominal charge and many sites are not otherwise open to the public. For something local try the talk and tour on John Wycliffe and Lutterworth on 23 July which will include the Doom painting in St Mary's church.

The Walcote Word is a quarterly newsletter sent out electronically by Misterton with Walcote Parish Council. We hope you've found it informative and if you have any news or photos for future editions, want to help or just unsubscribe, please contact: clerk@mistertonwithwalcote.org.uk. Hard copies will be placed on the Parish noticeboard and in the pub but if you know someone who can't access a computer, please let us know.