

# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF EVERTON AND HORDLE

It is now clear that the HCC planners, the Minerals Industry and the local landowners propose to turn our green and pleasant corner of Hampshire into yet another gravel and landfill site when there is :

- a) no need for additional gravel sites and
- b) a demonstrably falling demand for sand and gravel.

Recently the Secretary of State rejected an appeal by New Milton Sand and Ballast against refusal of planning permission at Downton Manor Farm by Hampshire County Council. However, within weeks of this rejection HCC now propose in their recently published Draft Plan, to select as a preferred site "Greater" Downton, comprising 326 acres of Downton Manor, Yeatton and Leagreen Farms. These three farms straddle the A337 from Downton Lane to Barnes Lane west to east and from north of Milford to south of Hordle. The Draft Plan is now in the consultation phase, ending on 12 December.

Batchley and Kings Farms between Hordle and Everton are only two of the many additional farms between New Milton and Lymington at risk in the future, once mineral extraction is established in our area. The HCC Draft Minerals Plan identifies these as part of the Forest 'Mineral Resource Area' as well as a smaller number of sites identified as 'Landfill Potential Areas', including a possible site next to Everton. If the Greater Downton farms are to be included as a preferred single site in the final Minerals Plan, we are advised that, due to changes in Government policy, it is likely that any opposition to planning applications will fail.

**HERITAGE** (Hordle and Everton Residents In Tandem Against Gravel Extraction) requested HCC to hold a Public Meeting with local residents to explain their views and to listen to ours as part of that consultation. HCC officials refused this on the grounds that "*public meetings on planning issues are counter productive*". **HERITAGE** are holding a public meeting on Friday 23 November to discuss the issues and hear your views. Hordle Parish Councils together with the NFDC and your MP Desmond Swayne, are all totally opposed to this proposal.

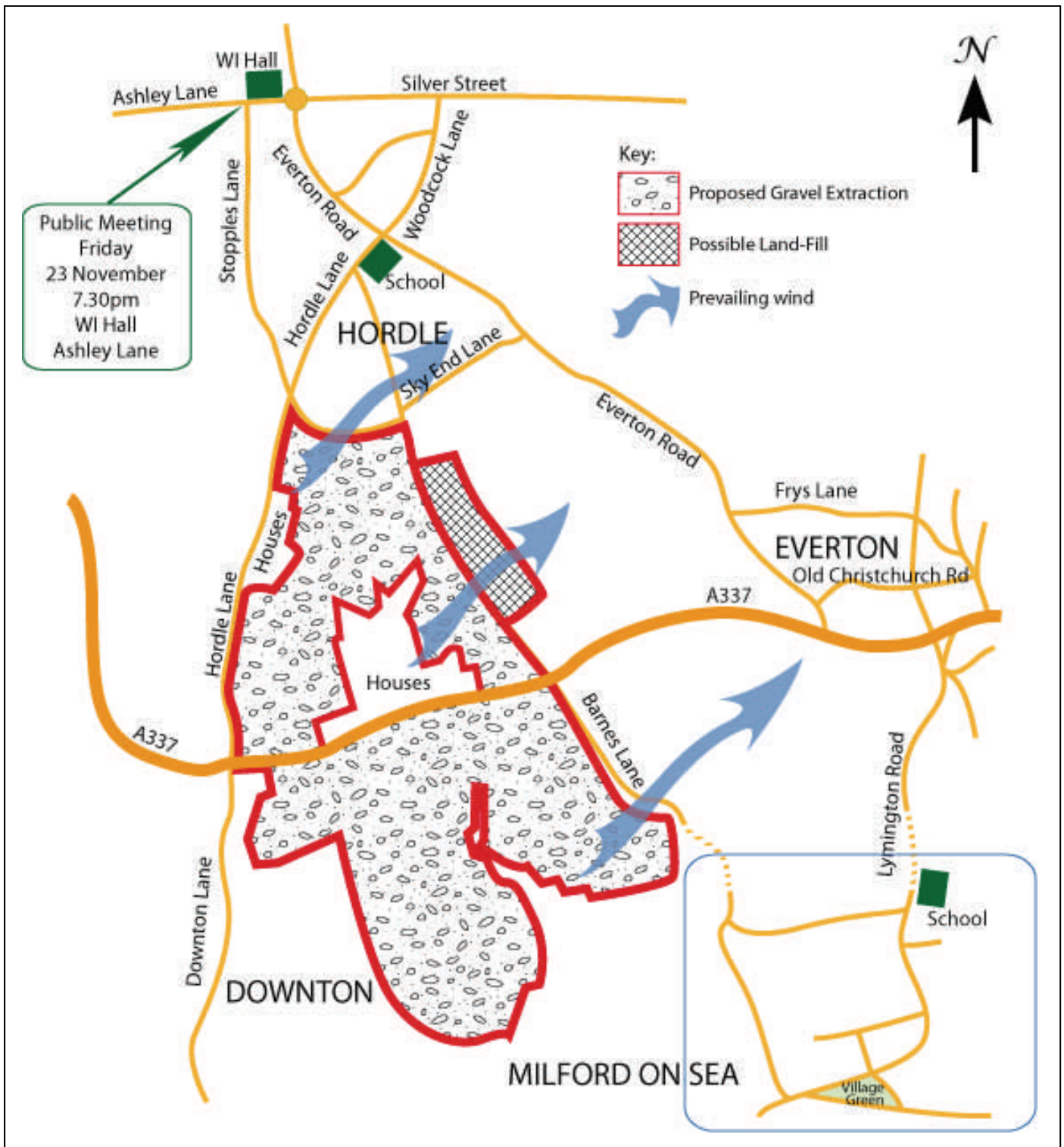
**Objections to the proposal must be received by HCC by 12 December 2007. It is vital that every member of every household in this area writes expressing their strong objections to: The Policy and Development Team (re: Hampshire Minerals Draft Plan), Hampshire County Council, Environment Department, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UD.**

## The Issues:

- ◆ For a theoretical shortfall of 0.5 million tonnes of gravel, HCC propose enabling the minerals industry to extract 3.9 million tonnes of gravel from the Greater Downton area.
- ◆ Why has the minerals industry allowed the existing Preferred Ringwood Plumley Wood Site not to come on stream: is it to enable the opening up of a totally new area for extraction?
- ◆ Why is the Greater Downton proposed "Preferred Site" not to be considered as an "over 2.5 million tonnes" site and therefore qualify for greater scrutiny? The Plan states, in this context, that the Greater Downton site consists of 3 farms and therefore doesn't warrant this special scrutiny.
- ◆ HCC suggests that residents should choose between Greater Downton or a New Milton/Ashley site! Why should either site be exploited for commercial gain? It is absurd that the proposal is based on historic figures, which far outstrip the actual demand for minerals.
- ◆ It is clear from the Plan "New Forest Mineral Resource Area" that the planners and the industry intend to develop a series of mineral quarries, stretching from New Milton to Pennington and south to Keyhaven.
- ◆ Noise and dust from the workings, known to be a problem near such workings, will be blown across Everton and Hordle by the prevailing south westerly wind.
- ◆ There will be large volumes of HGV Traffic on the A337 and surrounding roads from this proposed large mineral quarry, much larger than Efford, for which, the industry claims "Greater Downton" is a replacement.
- ◆ There will be a massive impact on tourism and, as a result, the local economy.
- ◆ There will be serious impact on the quality of life for the residents of a densely populated rural area.

**HERITAGE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIGHT THESE PROPOSALS  
PLEASE MAKE A DONATION - SEND CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "HERITAGE"  
234 Everton Road, Everton, Lymington S041 0HE**

**ALL RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO WRITE TO THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TO OBJECT, IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS, TO GRAVEL EXTRACTION IN THIS AREA. SEE THE MAP OVERLEAF➔**



## PUBLIC MEETING

**Friday 23 November in the WI Hall, Ashley Lane, Hordle at 7.30pm**

Our web site [www.heri-tage.org.uk](http://www.heri-tage.org.uk) will be updated regularly with the latest situation and advice on how you can help us.

Email us via the website, or call Angela Meads on 01590 642130  
 or Maureen Connelly on 01590 641849

**BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, COME ALONG TO THE MEETING  
 TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS, AND WRITE TO  
 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**