What is the history of cement making on the site?

In summary, although quarrying of one form or another has taken place at this location for hundreds of years, cement making can trace its origins back to 1912 when construction of the Dreadnought Cement Works began. This was completed after WW1.

More recently, the works was mothballed in 2008 following the onset of the ‘credit crunch’ and a huge decline in the demand for construction materials. With little hope of significant recovery in demand, the plant was decommissioned in 2012.

What is this application about?

In essence, this application seeks to continue the restoration of the quarry void. Although there has been some degree of restoration over the years, the company received planning permission to restore an area of the quarry in 2012. This involved the upgrade of the railway line from Foxton to Barrington – the Barrington Light Railway – to bring in inert material to achieve this restoration.

What is this material and where does it come from?

The material is inert and consists mainly of clay and construction arisings from projects in London. Bringing it to Barrington by rail keeps thousands of lorries off the roads, finds a home for this material and achieves the restoration of a large hole in the ground.

What is the timetable for this application?

Although planning permission for the original restoration was granted in 2012, the first importation of material did not begin until the summer of 2015. This was primarily due to the time taken to refurbish the track, strengthen the viaduct, lay new track on the site, construct the off-loading facility and upgrade the three crossings at Foxton Road, Glebe Road and Haslingfield Road.

The permission runs until the end of 2018 and so in order to continue the restoration, this application is being prepared.

When will it be submitted?

Following the decision to apply for permission to continue the restoration through the filling of the void with inert material, the company has been preparing the application and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This consultation exercise allows us to present the application proposals and gain feedback.

Once we have analysed the feedback from today and any subsequent comments in writing or via the website, we will seek to finalise the application and the EIA and look to submit it to Cambridgeshire County Council towards the end of the year.

Although the current permission runs until the end of 2018, the decision making process can take some time for the granting of such applications; so by submitting it before the end of the year, this takes into account this timescale and, if granted, allows the company to plan in detail for the continuation of the project. Naturally, CCC will undertake a wide-ranging public consultation process to seek the views of residents and consultees.
**How long will this continued restoration take?**

The proposals involve an initial development phase of about six months and three operational phases, each of approximately four to five years. These will be followed by a final restoration phase of up to a further year. The detail of these phases is described in the display. The final completion of restoration works could take another two years.

**What's the situation with new housing?**

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) resolved to grant planning permission for up to 220 new homes on the old cement plant site in June 2015. This was subject to a S106 agreement which has now been completed.

The old plant site represents approximately 10 hectares within a total site of almost 400 hectares.

The S106 agreement (a legal agreement between the company, CCC and SCDC) will see over £5 million invested in the village in the school, the village hall, the pavilion, a cycle way to Foxton and various other improvements.

**What is the timetable for the housing?**

A developer will now be sought to build these new homes. In the meantime, we will now be planning for the demolition of the redundant cement manufacturing buildings, including the chimney. The exact timetable and process of the demolition phase will be discussed with the Parish Council and the community in due course.

Once selected, the developer will prepare and submit a ‘reserved matters’ planning application to SCDC which will cover all the detail of the housing development – design layout.

The first phase of demolition will trigger a payment of £100,000 to the Parish Council for any preparatory work relating to the S106 proposals.

**What is the situation with the Community Liaison Group?**

The next meeting is proposed for November. Due to regular contact and consultation with the Parish Council and the District and County Councillors and individuals in the community over the last twelve months in particular, there has not been a formal meeting of the group as such but this will now take place shortly.