

## Compton Bassett Parish Council

### *“Wiltshire and Swindon Proposed Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Document January 2012”*

**Following the publication of the above document, and discussions held during a special Parish Council meeting the objections and issues below would like to be considered.**

- Of all of the identified sites the land near Compton Bassett would only yield 0.45 million tonnes, making this one of the smallest identified sites in the plan. That given with the large area identified on the included map would suggest that the sand layer is not really economic to pursue. In other words the quantity of sand extracted against the area of (valuable farming) land required does not justify development of this site as a priority in the overall plan.
- Restoration options must be considered before any plan is progressed. EU policy is firmly set against landfill with waste, and now that much building waste is recycled, the availability of inert waste to back fill any extraction is problematic. The level of reserves in the Calne Area 1 is modest, at best, as demonstrated by the low volume of sand removed during the recent extension to the Hills workings. Without waste landfill the economic case for the extraction of sand at the Compton Bassett site is questionable.
- There is some evidence to indicate that the current workings have affected the underlying groundwater and aquifer dynamics. Springs have dried up, and in some cases disappeared, and there have been reports of cracking and settling in buildings near to existing workings. No further extraction should take place that may have an impact upon the existing aquifers.
- The Parish Council are very concerned that the sand extraction plans for this site would act as a “Trojan horse” for increasing the existing landfill capacity. From previous experience, other planning applications for the local Hills site which have gone ahead have not been adhered to as laid out in the detailed plans. The Parish Council has little confidence that any future sand extraction would be immediately followed by restoration and not additional landfill