

Westonzoyland parish council statement

Thank you Chairman for allowing us to attend your meeting today.

My name is John Telling and I am a Director of Towns and with me is Ben Coles our Westonzoyland site manager and Hattie Miller our environmental manager.

I would like to say a few words to address some of the misconceptions about our site on Springway Lane and then we are open to any questions that you may have.

Towns is currently applying to two regulators for amendments to our current permissions.

The first is to Somerset County Council to regularise the planning permission previously granted for the site further to a request from the planning authority.

The second is for the Environment Agency. I would like to point out that at no stage has the EA issued a stop notice for our activities on site.

They visited the site regularly and raised no issues with our operations. We did receive a request from them last autumn to pause the operation of our Matec plant while we updated the wording and descriptions on our permit.

We complied with this request and the EA is reviewing our application.

Our Westonzoyland site is designed to produce recycled aggregates from inert materials that would otherwise go to landfill reducing the requirement for virgin quarried material in Somerset at a time where increased construction activity across the County has heightened demand for aggregates.

I would like to emphasise that it does NOT receive any mixed, domestic, industrial or hazardous waste.

It ONLY receives waste soil and hardcore which is both inert and non-hazardous.

The area to the west of Springway Lane is where we receive material and convert it into five products. 2 different sizes of recycled sand and 3 sizes of recycled stone.

All of the products are regularly sampled and tested at external laboratories to ensure the materials meet relevant standards.

The area to the east of Springway Lane is for the storage of the finished products that come from western side.

We do however recognise that we can improve the way we operate on site and have proposed changes to our operations in the documentation submitted to the two regulators

and we are currently working with them to ensure our procedures meet the required standards.

These include areas such as Dust Management, Noise Management, and hours of operation.

We would like to clarify the volumes of material that were processed by the plant in its first two years of operation.

In 2024 – around 1,000 tons above our permitted allowance

In 2025 – we improved our procedures and were under 50,000 tons

We would also like to comment on drainage. There is a drain that runs underneath our site and ends up in a rene at the other side of the Darby's field but our site is NOT connected to that drain.

We do NOT have a soakaway on the site. It was mentioned in an earlier phase of the applications but was never implemented as we now have a **closed loop system** with a **catchment tank** .

Moving on to water. We do have a borehole on site which does not require a licence as we do not extract more than 20m³ a day. We meter the extraction from the borehole and it is currently extracting water at around 8m³ per MONTH.

The plant does require clean water for some elements and that is taken from our mains supply.

We hope this clarifies some of the issues and are happy to take your questions.