

**Planning and Regulatory Committee**

18 December 2024

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS – PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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**1. Question submitted by Jackie Macey**

Will the Planning and Regulatory Committee be issuing an enforcement notice to Horse Hill Development Limited to ensure that the unlawfully produced oil is not sold for profit?

**Reply:**

The Planning and Regulatory Committee does not have authority to issue enforcement notices which is delegated to officers. Given the current voluntary cessation, the County Planning Authority must carefully assess the expediency of serving an enforcement or stop notice. Officers continue to keep the situation under review to determine should that alter at any time.

**2. Question submitted by Deborah Elliott**

Does the committee agree that six months should have been sufficient time for the Council to conclude its investigation and form a view as to when the Horse Hill site be restored to its former use of agricultural land and woodland?"

**Reply:**

An Enforcement Investigation can remain open for a long time whilst both initial investigation and any subsequent voluntary or formal action is taken. This can significantly exceed six months in many cases. As part of the voluntary cessation by the operator, SCC has made clear its position that the site is to be cleared of all plant, machinery, operational development and miscellaneous paraphernalia not necessary for security and/or environmental monitoring purposes. The expediency of requiring restoration to its previous agricultural/woodland use is being kept under continuous review whilst the process of redetermination remains a live issue.

**3. Question submitted by Sarah Freeman**

What are the findings of the investigation that the planning department has conducted at the Horse Hill site, and how have these informed the next steps in resolving the outstanding issues of there being no current planning permission relating to this site.

**Reply:**

The continued extraction of oil and development at the site is unlawful in the absence of planning permission. The operator has voluntarily ceased operation at the site and is progressing clearance. As part of the voluntary cessation by the operator, SCC has made clear its position that the site is to be cleared of all plant, machinery, operational development and miscellaneous paraphernalia not necessary for security and/or environmental monitoring purposes. The expediency of requiring restoration to its previous agricultural/woodland use is being kept under continuous review whilst the process of redetermination remains a live issue.

**4. Question submitted by Trish Kiy**

Is the committee aware of how much oil has been obtained at the Horse Hill site since this activity became unlawful in June 2024?

**Reply:**

Yes as this is publicly available information.

**Edward Hawkins**  
**Chairman of the Planning and Regulatory Committee**  
**18 December 2024**