

LETTERS AND COMMENT

■ GRAVEL EXTRACTION

Doing nothing not an option

I do love Cllr Streeting's move to apportion "blame", if it could said to be that, for the Conservative stance on gravel extraction in Aldborough Hatch (*Recorder*, December 4).

Redbridge is one of the four designated boroughs in London that the Mayor of London and government directed to extract gravel from; the other east London borough is Havering.

The report that went to full council in 2012, was the Mineral and Extraction policy statement from us as a borough, and, yes, Aldborough Hatch was named because that is the ONLY place in this borough that has been found to contain gravel, where it can be extracted from.

I am sure there are deposits of gravel elsewhere, but I presume residents would object if extraction began under their homes.

As the current administration is new,

they will soon realise that "doing nothing" or not "initially nominating" something, someone or somewhere is NOT an option that any government understands, no matter who is in charge.

If Redbridge Council had failed in 2012 to nominate any area in the borough for potential gravel extraction, the Mayor of London's office, under direction from government, would have nominated an area themselves. If that had been allowed, all control and all conditions would have been taken out of Redbridge Council's hands.

This explanation was given at council and certainly at the Fairlop Gravel Working Party meetings, together with those who sat on the Planning Development Framework Group, of which the Mineral Report was a part, and therefore I am at a loss as to how Wes could have forgotten this.

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