

YOUR OPINIONS

Surely now gravel plan will be denied

Ron Jeffries, chairman, Aldborough Hatch Defence Association, Spearpoint Gardens, Aldborough Hatch, writes:

The latest of some 160 or so objections to Brett Tarmac's planning application to Redbridge Council to extract sand and gravel on Aldborough Hatch Farm adjacent to the 153-year-old St Peter's Church is from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).

The MPS state in unequivocal terms that they cannot support the application in view of the proposed diversion of Bridleway 94 from Aldborough Hatch to Barkingside.

The MPS state that the proposed diversion "offers increased criminal opportunity over the existing footpath and will, I expect,

increase the fear of crime. It is likely to reduce the number of people using the footpath, which in turn reduces the potential for illegal activity to be witnessed".

This, together with a castigating criticism by the Environment Agency, concerned that insufficient risk assessments have been carried out regarding the water table and the potential for flooding, must surely mean that Redbridge Council will have to refuse the application.

The sooner the decision is made the better so that Fairlop Plain can see the last of Brett Tarmac and all who sail in her – and we can continue to enjoy the glories of the green belt here on our doorsteps and available to the entire community.