

INFORMATION SHEET

PROPOSED ELLIOT PIT

This information sheet has been prepared to provide some general information about the proposed sand and gravel pit near Thorndale. Please note that detailed information, including the technical reports and Site Plans, is available on the Township website. We encourage anyone with an interest in the application to attend the Information Session which will be held virtually on April 7th starting at 7pm. There will be a brief presentation and a chance for anyone attending to ask questions. For a link to join the meeting please email melanie@esherplanning.com

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

An application has been filed with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry which would permit a sand and gravel pit operation. The proposed pit is 14.2 hectares with an entrance onto Thorndale Road. This is a relatively shallow sand and gravel deposit, with an average proposed depth of 3 metres. Sand and gravel will be extracted with an excavator and loaded onto trucks. The processing involved sorting the material into different sand and gravel products, mainly by screening and sorting the aggregate.

WILL THERE BE ANY BLASTING?

No. This is a sand and gravel pit proposal, not a quarry proposal. There will be absolutely no blasting.

WHY HERE?

Aggregate Resources are a place-based resource, and their location is determined by geology. This part of Thames Centre has gravel deposits, and this area has historically supplied sand and gravel to support local construction. The aggregate deposit provides construction materials that are used locally in building roads, houses, schools and infrastructure. Provincial and local planning policies protect aggregate resources so that they can be made available as close to markets as possible. Provincial and local planning policies also require that a proposed gravel pit has measures in place to protect the environment and the community. The application will be reviewed by Provincial agencies as well as the Township and the County.

HOW ARE LOCAL RESIDENTS BEING PROTECTED FROM NOISE AND DUST?

As part of the application, a noise impact assessment was completed. This study looked at the sound generated from the equipment at the pit and measured the impacts to the nearest homes. The Province has noise guidelines that must be followed. To meet these guidelines, with the pit operating at maximum capacity, the noise report provides details about the location and height of berms that need to be constructed to mitigate noise from the pit operation. At the proposed pit, a 3 metre high berm must be constructed along the east boundary of the site, approximately 200 metres to the west of Nissouri Road. In addition, there are requirements to have acoustic barriers around the plant equipment on the floor of the pit.

Under the Aggregate Resources Act any licensee is required by provincial regulation to mitigate dust on site. The limits established by the province for air quality are science based and are designed to protect people and the environment. The main sources of dust are the machinery operating in the plant site and the main haul roads. The plant machinery is equipped with dust controls as required by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The haul roads are treated with dust suppressants when required. Only MECP approved dust suppressants are used, the most common of which is water. In addition to this, operators limit the amount of disturbed and maximize the rehabilitated area which minimizes the source of dust. Berms are required to be vegetated immediately which serves to prevent dust from leaving the license area.

WHAT ABOUT WATER SUPPLIES?

The proposed pit will be an above water table pit. There will be no extraction into the groundwater table. There are no chemicals used in the pit. A groundwater study was completed and based on this evaluation, there are no impacts to local water wells anticipated. This study will be reviewed by the technical experts at the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED OPERATING HOURS?

The proposed hours of operation at 7am – 7pm Monday-Friday and 7am – noon on Saturdays. There will be no operations on Sundays or Statutory holidays.

HOW LONG WILL THE PIT BE THERE?

The proposed licensed area contains approximately 950,000 to 1 Million tonnes of sand and gravel. At the proposed rate of extraction (maximum 300,000 tonnes per year) the life expectancy of the pit is approximately 5 years.

WHAT ABOUT SAFETY?

Pit operations are governed by the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The operator is obligated to protect workers from noise, dust and other safety measures. The Ministry of Labour routinely visits pit operations to ensure compliance.

In terms of community safety, the application will be reviewed by provincial agencies and the municipality to assess impacts on local residents. This includes impacts from noise, dust, traffic. The application includes measures to mitigate impacts.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- ❖ Attend the Information Session on April 7th at 7pm
- ❖ Send your comments, concerns, and objections to melanie@esherplanning.com and ARAapprovals@ontario.ca (please include a mailing address with your comments)
- ❖ When the related Planning Act applications are submitted (zoning and Official Plan amendments) to municipality will host a public meeting. Notice of the meeting will be sent to landowners within 120 metres of the site and will also be posted on the Township website.