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savills

J Smith Esq  
6 Tunneys Lane  
Ditchingham  
Norfolk  
NR35 2RQ

Michael Horton  
E: mhorton@savills.com  
DL: +44 (0) 1473 234813  
F: +44 (0) 1473 230886

30 Princes Street  
Ipswich IP1 1RJ  
T: +44 (0) 1473 234 800  
savills.com

Dear John

A couple of years ago, the Estate entered into an option agreement with Lafarge Aggregates Ltd, an established and well respected mineral operator, in respect of land at Fen Farm. The option in effect gives the company the opportunity to take a lease on the site, should planning permission be forthcoming for the extraction of gravel.

The company has started work on the range of detailed environmental and other assessments that need to be undertaken, before a planning application can be submitted. This is still some way off. I have spoken with the company's Senior Planning and Estates Manager and he has confirmed that it is standard Lafarge Aggregates policy to meet with the Parish Council and key local residents to discuss the company's proposals once they are in outline format. This is normally by way of a public exhibition before the application is finalised and submitted.

I understand that the exhibition is likely to be held late June/early July, at a time and location that will give the local community the maximum opportunity to meet the Lafarge team and its consultants and discuss the project.

I am, coincidentally, meeting with the Senior Planning and Estates Manager at the end of this month and will give him your contact details and advise him of your interest.

One of the reasons we selected Lafarge Aggregates as our preferred potential mineral operator is that this is exactly the kind of responsible attitude we were looking for in any operator. The company's approach very much reinforces our own commitment to keeping the local community informed of any developments on the Estate, as promised at the Estate walk last year.

Yours sincerely



Michael Horton  
Director