Proposed Quarry Application - Update

No application has yet been submitted to Essex County Council. However, we felt it important to keep you informed of any further activity we have on this proposal. Recently Essex County Council provided a Scoping document on the request of the applicant. This provides details of all the documents and assessments they will need to provide with their application.

The Parish Council asked our consultant, Geoff Gardner to provide a statement and this is given in full below.

Report on Current Status of the Application

It is some time since the public exhibition in May when the applicant team said that an application would be submitted in July/August, but none has yet appeared. Aggreg8 Solutions Limited (the potential 'applicant') sought an Environmental impact Assessment Scoping Opinion (can be seen with other documents on ECC website reference ESS/64/26/BTE/SPO) in September 2026 so instigating the process before a planning application could be submitted for the silicon sand application on the site near the 'Blue Egg'. The applicant's document refers to many reports that 'will be' submitted with the application. The ECC response to the 'Scoping', and several consultees responses, identify several studies that are required. It is unclear whether any have been prepared yet but logically the process is to ask what information is required and to only start preparation when it's been clarified. The scoping exercise is just dipping a toe into the water. These reports are extensive with fees to match. Whether the project proceeds to an application is hard to tell, it would be 'brave' to do all this expensive work with little encouragement of a successful outcome. The ECC's response to the applicant in the Pre Application consultation (June 2023) included '**the proposed development would not be supported in principle by the MPA***.' (original emphasis)'. I suggest we await any further developments, if and when they appear.

Geoff Gardner, MSc, MRTPI
Planning Consultant

*MPA – Mineral Planning Authority (in this case, Essex County Council)