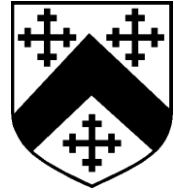


Lea Parish Council

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Lea Life Newsletter Special Edition

"Foreword from Lea Parish Council: This newsletter is to inform residents about the potential development of a sand and gravel quarry in the village. It introduces the new working group Friends of Lea Marshes who are seeking to protect the Site of Special Scientific Interest at Lea Marshes."

Proposed Quarry at Lea Marshes

The landowners of Lea Marshes propose that the site be included as a new sand and gravel quarry in the emerging Lincolnshire Waste and Minerals Local Plan. This new plan will replace the existing one and run until 2040. The potential site is located opposite Lea Park across the A156 and down to the River Trent.

In May 2025, a landowner presented the case for quarrying Lea Marshes at the Village Annual General Meeting. Lea Parish Council asked residents to vote on the proposal. Except for the landowners, the vote was unanimously against it. A group of residents formed the working group Friends of Lea Marshes to gather information and help the Parish Council and residents understand the implications of having a quarry in the village. This will enable residents to form an opinion if Lea Marshes is included in the Lincolnshire Waste and Minerals future plan.

Lea Marshes is currently not selected for development

Proposals to quarry Lea Marshes have been rejected by Lincolnshire County Council, who are responsible for preparing the Waste and Minerals Local Plan. Approved locations aim to minimise the environmental impact of sand and gravel extraction by focusing on existing quarries and increasing their capacity where possible without causing undue harm to nearby settlements.

Sand and gravel extraction from Lea Marshes would involve a new quarry, not an extension of an existing one. The proposed site is approximately 200 meters from a Site of Special Scientific Interest and very close to the Lea settlement. This is contrary to the County Council's preferred policies. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/minerals-and-waste-local-plan>

Strong policies oppose quarrying the Lea Marshes

The Neighbourhood Plan, prepared and adopted by the Parish Council, contains specific policies to protect views across Lea Marshes. Quarrying would permanently alter these views and contradict the adopted plan. Lea Parish Council submitted a range of constraints on this potential site during the initial consultation, highlighting adverse impacts on both Lea residents and the Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Therefore, there are strong policies opposing quarrying on Lea Marshes.

Residents may need to give their opinion

Lincolnshire County Council will undertake a further consultation process in 2026 before a final Waste and Minerals Local Plan is completed and then subjected to a formal enquiry in public. The Friends of Lea Marshes group have been working to confirm the policy position and to identify any relevant issues known as 'Material Considerations'.

Protecting the marshes is an environmental priority. Extracting sand and gravel is noisy and is likely to considerably increase the background noise level in Lea. It will add a very significant number of local HGV movements and increase environmental damage.

To be clear again, Lea Marshes is currently not a favoured site for development and Lincolnshire County Council have indicated that this is unlikely to change.

However, if Lea Marshes is selected for development, Lea Parish Council and The Friends of Lea Marshes will consult local residents to submit their opinions and any concerns they may have.

Information about the Friends of Lea Marshes can be found online at:
<https://lea.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/homepage/lea-parish-council-friends-lea-marshes-1>

**If Lea Marshes is selected for development,
The Friends of Lea Marshes thank you
in anticipation of your engagement**