DELEGATED REPORT

Recommendation Made: 12 June 2008

Reference:- 08/00473/HEDGE **Parish:- Earl Shilton Town Council**

Applicant:- Mr Andy Bathie
National Grid
Windsor Street
Birmingham
B7 4DN

Location:- Gas Pipeline Off Leicester Road Earl Shilton Leicester Leicestershire

Proposal:- PROPOSED REMOVAL OF HEDGEROWS

Introduction:-

This is an application, under The Hedgerows Regulations 1997, to remove two sections of hedgerow on land off Leicester Road to the ~~south~~ north east of Earl Shilton. The reason for the removal is to allow the diversion of a gas pipeline required due to the construction of the Earl Shilton by-pass.

Once the work has been completed it is proposed to replant the hedgerow with native species.

No relevant planning history

Consultations:-

No objection to the application from:

Leicestershire County Ecology
The Councils Arboriculture Officer
The Councils Conservation Officer.

Development Plan Policies:-

Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan.
NE5- development in the open countryside.

The Hedgerows Regulations 1997

Appraisal:-

The main issues in respect of this application are to establish if the hedgerow to be removed is considered as important under The Hedgerows Regulations.

Historical maps of the site indicate that the hedgerow used to be to the side of a trackway but did not form any parish boundary. Leicestershire Ecology section have visited the site and surveyed the number of species present. They conclude that there are insufficient species present to cause the hedgerow to be classed as important and therefore it can be removed.

The Councils Arboriculture Officer has noted that once the works have been completed, it is proposed to replace the hedgerow with new specimens to a specification provided by Leicestershire County Council; a specification he is happy with.

The photographs indicate that the hedgerows to be removed have been covered with netting to prevent birds from nesting this season.

Notes to Applicant:-

1 Bats, nesting birds, great crested newts and certain other species are protected by law. If any such species are discovered before or during the works the works must be suspended and the local office of Natural England contacted for advice.

2 This permission does not grant approval under the Building Act 1984 and the Building Regulations 2000 (as amended) for which a separate application may be required. You are advised to contact the Building Control Section.

3. As from 6th April 2008 this Authority are charging for the discharge of conditions in accordance with revised fee regulations which came into force on that date. Application forms to discharge conditions and further information can be found on the planning portal web site www.planningportal.gov.uk.

Contact Officer:- Sarah Humphries Ext 5680