



Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>

Remediation Briefing

Ryebank Fields Community <ryebankfieldscommunity@gmail.com>
To: "head@stjohnsrc.net" <head@stjohnsrc.net>, admin@stjohnsrc.net

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Dear Head Teacher, Chair of Governors; Parents and Carers of St John's RC Primary School,

Many of you will recently have received or heard about a remediation briefing prepared by E3P on behalf of the proposed developers of Ryebank Fields.

We fully understand why parents want reassurance that, if development were ever to proceed, children and school staff would be protected. Everyone shares that objective.

However, we believe it is important that parents also understand what the briefing itself says.

Although the document repeatedly states that any future remediation would be carried out safely and subject to monitoring and regulatory oversight, it also acknowledges that the final remediation techniques have not yet been determined because further site investigation work is still required. It explains that previous investigations were limited by site constraints and that additional investigation will be needed before the remediation strategy can be finalised.

This raises an obvious question. If the full nature, extent and distribution of the contamination has not yet been established, how can anyone confidently state that all necessary safeguards have already been identified?

This is particularly relevant because the Environment Agency has recently required further investigation before an acceptable remediation strategy can be produced. Important questions remain about the contamination beneath the site and how it should be managed.

Many residents will remember that, during public engagement in 2024, representatives involved with the project indicated that sufficient investigations had already been undertaken. The current briefing now makes clear that further investigation is still necessary before the remediation proposals can be completed.

If additional intrusive investigations are required, they are likely to involve further drilling, excavation, sampling and environmental monitoring. As with previous works, members of the community will be entitled to raise concerns and make representations about how those investigations are carried out and their potential impact on nearby residents, wildlife and the school environment.

Our purpose in writing is not to cause unnecessary concern. Rather, it is to encourage parents to read the briefing carefully and to ask reasonable questions about whether reassurance can properly be given before the investigation work has been completed and a comprehensive remediation strategy has been produced and independently assessed.

The safety of St John's pupils, staff and the wider community should always come before the timetable of any development.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Rhetta Moran

Chair, Ryebank Fields Community Group

