

RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Ripple Parish Hall, School Lane, Ripple, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 6EU

RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 20 January 2026 at Ripple Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs. M Peters (Chairman), P Turner, I Davis, M Davis and S Petri, C Cllr M Allen (arrived 19:26 LEFT 19:56)

Attendees: Clerk/RFO M Hinde and 5 members of the public

Meeting of Ripple Parish Council Minutes

20.01.26.1	To note apologies for absence and to confirm meeting is quorate
	There were no apologies and the meeting was declared quorate
20.01.26.2	To receive comments from the public – no decisions will be made on issues raised. Any items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting (NB Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that are not specified on the agenda (LGA 1972 Sch 12, paras 10 (2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)
	<p>Resident 1 – asked whether the council would consider contributing towards the churchyard maintenance as they did last year. The council advised they would not be able to make a decision on this immediately as it would need to be added to a future agenda for decision.</p> <p>Resident 2 – discussed agenda item 10. Intention is to call CEMEX into account for the possible dangers from the dust from the gravel extraction. REACT also going to speak to residents who have lost family members from COPD from the last gravel extraction.</p> <p>Resident 3 – planning mainly focused on noise pollution. When questioned air pollution was advised they don't need to do it as there is no risk. This was questioned as if there was a strong wind the dust would be blown. No impact assessment on commercial impact as people may not be able to sell their property if it is next to gravel extraction. Any inhaled dust particles can take 10 years to show a impact. Without monitoring you will not know if silica is in the dust. Cemex made £500 million last year and £13000 is not much to ask for and the equipment could be used on other sites.</p>
20.01.26.3	To receive declarations of interest on the agenda below (Localism Act 2011)
	None
20.01.26.4	To confirm and agree minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd September 2025

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	COUNCIL APPROVED minutes from the meeting held on 23 rd September 2025														
20.01.26.5	To receive Clerks Report and agree actions														
	The Clerk confirmed there would be a new Assertion 10 on the AGAR focusing on data protection. GAPTC will be offering training and asked the council to cover a quarter of the cost as it would be split between 4 councils. Council AGREED to cover the requested cost. Clerk advised that the Lengthsman budget provided by Worcester County Council had nearly all been used and would not cover the Lengthsman costs for the remainder of the financial year but the council had enough in reserves to cover the balance. Council agreed to pay any additional cost out of reserves Worcester County Council have also confirmed that the Lengthsman needs to refresh his training and this had been booked for January.														
20.01.26.6	To receive County Councillors report and agree actions														
	County Councillor report was received as per APPENDIX 1														
20.01.26.7	To receive District Councillors report and agree actions														
	None														
20.01.26.8	<p>Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting:</p> <p>a) To approve Payment of January 2026 payment list below and those paid since last meeting, to note receipts and agree actions:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Customer</th> <th>Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clerk Mileage</td> <td>£6.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk Expenses – Poppy Wreath</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart Cut</td> <td>£780.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ripple Parish Hall</td> <td>£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart Cut</td> <td>£420.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£1,406.30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>COUNCIL APPROVED payment list totalling £1406.30 as per APPENDIX 2</p> <p>b) To approve bank reconciliation up to 31st December 2025 COUNCIL APPROVED bank reconciliation up to 31st December 2025 as per APPENDIX 3</p> <p>c) To approve budget monitoring report up to 31st December 2025 COUNCIL APPROVED budget monitoring up to 31st December 2025 as per APPENDIX 4</p> <p>d) To approve Budget 2026/27 COUNCIL APPROVED budget 2026/27 as per APPENDIX 5</p> <p>e) To set precept 2026/27</p>	Customer	Price	Clerk Mileage	£6.30	Clerk Expenses – Poppy Wreath	£20.00	Smart Cut	£780.00	Ripple Parish Hall	£180.00	Smart Cut	£420.00	Total	£1,406.30
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	<p>COUNCIL AGREED to set the precept at £31,180</p> <p>f) To receive External Auditors report Council received the external auditors report as published on website</p>
20.01.26.9	To discuss residents proposal of adding extra dog waste bins in Ripple
	Council discussed the topic and agreed that the waste bin that is due to be installed will be sufficient.
20.01.26.10	To discuss if the Parish Council wish to support the REACT request to CEMEX to supply a Air Quality Monitoring Statement
	<p>2 members of REACT presented their case and confirmed that CEMEX have advised they do not feel this is needed. Council reviewed the document in APPENDIX 6. Cllr Turner questioned whether any meaningful data would be released if this equipment was purchased. Councillors were unsure if CEMEX would listen now their planning application has been approved.</p> <p>COUNCIL AGREED to write to CEMEX in support of Air Quality Monitoring. Chairman to go back to Robert Marsden.</p>
20.01.26.11	To receive an update from Cllr M Davis on the recreation ground
	<p>Cllr M Davis confirmed that as the council had received 2 grants from Natural networks they have a responsibility to liase with their representatives. From the last review the Wild flower seeds resulted in 12 indicator species of good quality meadow on the site. The council are advised to get advice before there is another cut. It was agreed that a picnic area will be created as requested by residents. It was advised that the council should leave the door open to expand the meadow should the residents response be positive. A path wide enough for a mobility scooter will be installed. Residents and Councillors should be aware that a Perennial meadow takes longer to establish than a annual meadow.</p>
20.01.26.12	To assign 2 councillors to complete the Internal Control Review
	COUNCIL appointed Councillors I Davis and P Turner to complete the internal control review.
20.01.26.13	To appoint an internal auditor
	COUNCIL AGREED to appoint Oliver O’Kane
20.01.26.14	To discuss the dead elms on the recreation ground
	COUNCIL AGREED to get a quote from Alex Portch who completed the work last time. Clerk advised if the quote is over £500 3 quotes would be required
20.01.26.15	Planning – to discuss the following applications
20.01.26.14a	Application Number: M/25/01848/FUL

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	<p>Description: Change of Use of existing buildings (units 1-8): - units 1, 3(a & b), 4 & 8 for Class E(g) (Business) use, units 7 for Class B2 (General Industrial) use; units 2, 5 & 6 for Class B8 (storage and distribution) use (Retrospective) and construction of new parking areas</p> <p>Location: Ryall Court Farm, Ryall Court Lane, Holly Green, Upton Upon Severn, Worcester, WR8 0PF</p>
	COUNCIL AGREED they had NO OBJECTION to this application
20.01.26.14b	<p>Application Number: M/25/01974/FUL. Associated Ref:M/25/01973/LB</p> <p>Description: Change of use of incidental building to holiday let and reinstatement of stable door and associated works</p> <p>Location: Iydene House, Uckinghall, Tewkesbury, GL20 6ES</p>
	COUNCIL AGREED they had NO OBJECTION to this application
20.01.26.14c	<p>Application Number: M/25/01891/HP.</p> <p>Description: New first floor above existing single-storey extension</p> <p>Location: 2 Ploughfield Close, Holly Green, Upton Upon Severn, Worcester, WR8 0RY</p>
	COUNCIL AGREED they had NO OBJECTION to this application
20.01.26.14d	<p>Application Number: M/25/01841/HP.</p> <p>Description: Rear single-storey extension; new window and door to East elevation</p> <p>Location: Garden Cottage, Strensham Road, Ryall Grove, Upton Upon Severn, Worcester, WR8 0PS</p>
	COUNCIL AGREED they had NO OBJECTION to this application
20.01.26.14e	<p>Application Number: M/25/01859/FUL. Associated Ref:M/22/01073/FUL</p> <p>Description: Variation of condition 20 (demolition/construction work hours) of planning permission M/22/01073/FUL allowed at appeal reference APP/J1860/W/24/3345062 (Construction of 25 dwellings (100% affordable). This includes a mix of one, two, three, and four bedroom properties and the construction of a new internal road, parking, SUDs infrastructure, and Green Infrastructure (including public open space))</p> <p>Location: Land At (os 8637 4103), Furrow Close, Holly Green, Upton Upon Severn, WR8 0RT</p>
	COUNCIL AGREED they had NO OBJECTION to this application
20.01.26.14f	<p>Application Number: M/26/00034/OL</p> <p>Description: Replacement of existing 10 low voltage overhead lines, and 9 poles</p> <p>Location: Street_record, School Lane, Ripple</p>
	COUNCIL AGREED they had NO OBJECTION to this application

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20.01.26.15	To receive items for the next agenda
	Churchyard Maintenance
20.01.26.16	To Agree date of the next meeting March 17 th 2026

Meeting Close: 20:33

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APPENDIX 1

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN ALLEN

REPORT TO RIPPLE PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2026

Good evening.

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

CHANGES AT COUNTY HALL

The leader of WCC, Cllr Jo Monk has removed Cllr Taylor from the cabinet. He was until a few months ago the deputy leader and then headed the Local Government Reorganisation team. Cllr Wharton is now the deputy leader.

REFORM ADMINISTRATION APPOINT ANOTHER CABINET POST

Bromsgrove councillor Nik Price who was elected in May has now been appointed to the post of delivery, operations, governance and efficiency (DOGE)

BRIEFING AND BUDGET

The legal deadline for WCC to vote through a budget is the 11th of March, or 1st of April if the Secretary of State becomes involved.

The County Council is battling a budget shortfall for 2026/27 of more than £70m and has requested permission to have the option to increase council tax by 10%.

In addition, the WCC has had to ask central government for Exceptional Financial Support of £65M, on top of the £33 the last administration had to ask for last year.

An extra 5% increase, so raising the tax to 10% would bring in £18m year on year, while an extra 2 ½% would bring in £9m year on year.

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Just for interest I thought you would like to know that last year Highways carried out 30K safety related fixes.

CHANGE OF BUDGET MEETING DATES

The council meeting date of 19th February has been cancelled.

A new council meeting date of the 26th of February has been set, with a reserve date of 6th of March lined up for another meeting if required.

One of the reasons for the change is that the application for Exceptional Financial Support will not be decided by the government until around the 20th of February.

PAVEMENT REFURBISHMENT

Parts of the Ryall Road Pavement are to be refurbished; the work is due to commence on or around the 25th of February. I am pleased to see that my years of pushing have finally been rewarded.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The government have withdrawn their funding for Town and Parish councils to produce a local neighbourhood plan. As from the next financial year MHDC will provide assistance with funding of £10K. Part of producing a LNP is the requirement to do a Housing Needs Assessment, I understand that Andy Ford from MHDC can assist with this.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION SCHEME RETURNS

I have emailed you details about the community recognition scheme.

Warmest Regards

Cllr Martin Allen

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APPENDIX 2

Payment List 20.01.26
Payment Made since 01.09.25

IONOS	19.2
THREE	6
CLERK SALARY	977.02
LLOYDS	4.25
T HUGHES	327.65
IONOS	19.2
CLERK SALARY	977.22
SMARTCUT	780
SMARTCUT	390
SMARTCUT	390
SMARTCUT	390
ZURICH	681.46
CLERK MILEAGE	6.3
PATA	52.35
SMARTCUT	780
THREE	6
LLOYDS	4.25
IONOS	19.2
CLERK SALARY	977.02
THREE	6
T HUGHES	329
WI	80
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	5000
BANK CHARGE	4.25
T HUGHES	329.9
CLERK SALARY	977.02
PATA	37.35
IONOS	19.2
THREE	6
PARISH ONLINE	492
COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT TRUST	198
BANK CHARGE	4.25
IONOS	19.2
TOTAL	14309.29

RECEIPTS SINCE 01.09.25

Warcester County Council	657.55
Warcester County Council	621.15
Glasdon return as duplicate	876
MHDC	15,590
TOTAL	17744.7

PAYMENTS TO AUTHORISE

Clerk Mileage	£6.30
Clerk Expenses - Poppy	£20.00
Ripple Parish Hall	£180.00
Smart Cut	£780.00
Smart Cut	£420.00
TOTAL	£1,406.30

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APPENDIX 3

13 March 2026 (2025-2026)

Ripple Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 28/02/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		28,083.59
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		38,521.89
			66,605.48
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		25,487.10
A	Cash in Hand 28/02/2026 (per Cash Book)		41,118.38
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/12/2023	0.00	
	Current Account 28/02/2026	20,595.59	
	Deposit Account 28/02/2026	20,522.79	
			41,118.38
	Less unrepresented payments		
			41,118.38
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		41,118.38
	A = B Checks out OK		

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APPENDIX 4

Ripple Parish Council
Monthly breakdown of Receipts and Payments
All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026)

15 January 2026 (2025-2026)

	Budget	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Variance
PAYMENTS															
Expenditure															
Subscriptions	1,215.00			1,029.93	47.00									1,076.93	138.07
Newsletter/Adverts/Flye															
Donations	223.00														223.00
Insurance	678.00							681.46						681.46	-3.46
Grass Cutting/Trees	3,998.00		325.00	975.00	780.00			2,275.00						4,355.00	-357.00
Lengthsman	3,016.00		328.10	329.00	329.45	332.15	327.65		658.90					2,305.25	710.75
Chairmans Allowance															
Prof Fees/Audit	259.00														259.00
Clerks Expenses	356.00	5.00	43.60	195.83	23.90	5.00	5.00	11.30	31.00	31.00				351.63	4.37
Clerks Salary	11,378.00	953.62	927.62	953.62	953.62	1,069.17	977.02	977.22	951.02	951.02				8,713.93	2,664.07
Annual Public Meeting	154.00								80.00					80.00	74.00
Hall Hire	159.00														159.00
Repairs															
Vehicle Activated Sign															
Recreation Ground Ref.															
Tree Survey/Maintenanc															
Website	385.00	32.00	16.00		32.00		16.00	32.00		442.00				570.00	-185.00
Admin/Training	200.00	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25				38.25	161.75
Clerks Equipment	100.00														100.00
Defib	230.00					165.00				165.00				330.00	-100.00
BUS															
HANDYMAN															
Waste Bins	250.00		1,460.00											1,460.00	-1,210.00
Recreation Ground	1,692.00														1,692.00
Bench															
Payroll charges				37.35				52.35		37.35				127.05	-127.05
HMRC	1,400.00														1,400.00
Association Membershij															

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APPENDIX 5

Bushley Parish Council Budget 2026-27						
EXPENSES						
Cost Code	Budget 25-26	Actual Expenditure 25-26	Forecast 25-26	Total Forecasted Expenditure 25-26 Actual + Forecast	Variance to budget	Proposed Budget 2026-27
Subscriptions	1200.00	1184.48	0.00	1184.48	15.52	1125.00
Newsletter/Adverts/Flyers/Media	350.00	69.00	0.00	69.00	281.00	0.00
Donations	0.00	220.00	0.00	220.00	-220.00	0.00
Insurance	750.00	661.66	0.00	661.66	88.34	712.00
Grass Cutting/Trees	5460.00	3900.00	0.00	3900.00	1560.00	4551.00
Lengthsman	3200.00	4129.56	1321.40	5450.96	-2250.96	3775.00
Chairmans Allowance	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
Prof Fees/Audit	260.00	252.00	0.00	252.00	8.00	263.00
Clerks Expenses	800.00	327.78	125.00	452.78	347.22	377.00
Clerks Salary	11500.00	7092.50	3629.16	10721.66	778.34	12078.00
Annual Public Meeting	300.00	150.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Hall Hire	160.00	0.00	155.00	155.00	5.00	193.00
Repairs	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00
Vehicle Activated Sign	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tree Survey/Maintenance	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00
Website	500.00	470.00	0.00	470.00	30.00	523.00
Admin/Training	200.00	127.19	0.00	127.19	72.81	200.00
Clerks Equipment	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
Defib	500.00	29.99	0.00	29.99	470.01	172.00
BUS	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
HANDYMAN	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
Waste Bins	1500.00	243.88	0.00	243.88	1256.12	1528.00
Recreation Ground	2000.00	1650.74	0.00	1650.74	349.26	0.00
Bench	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll charges	0.00	103.35	92.10	195.45	-195.45	172.00
HMRC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Association Memberships	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Software	0.00	460.58	0.00	460.58	-460.58	361.00
Election fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Continuation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5000.00
TOTAL	31180.00	21072.71	5322.66	26395.37	4784.63	31180.00

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APPENDIX 6

To: Ripple Parish Council Members

From: Stephen Sherriff – The Butts, School Lane, Ripple. GL20 6EU

Dated: 12th January 2026

Background

It has been brought to my attention that Cemex are reluctant to support the Ripple Parish community with the introduction of an Air Silica Monitoring Station. The estimated cost of such a quality monitor is £13,000. A monitoring station will provide the Parish and surrounding areas with confidence that the forthcoming quarry works on Bow Lane will not have a detrimental impact on the Parish populations health and wellbeing. Any spikes could be relayed to the community to take appropriate measures.

Silicosis is a **very serious, incurable lung disease** caused by inhaling fine particles of **crystalline silica dust**, commonly found in materials like sand, rock, and quartz.

Benefits of Having an Air Silica Monitoring Station for Ripple Parish

1. Real-Time Data on Dust Levels

- Continuous monitoring detects **respirable crystalline silica (RCS)** concentrations in ambient air.
- Provides early warning if levels approach or exceed health-based thresholds.

2. Public Health Protection

- The Ripple Parish Communities near the quarry often worry about dust exposure.
- Monitoring demonstrates whether off-site silica levels are **within safe limits**, reducing anxiety and enabling **evidence-based communication**.

3. Regulatory Compliance & Risk Management

- Helps operators such as Cemex comply with environmental and occupational health regulations.
- Avoids fines, shutdowns, and reputational damage by proving proactive dust control.

4. Trigger for Mitigation Actions

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- If readings spike (e.g., during dry/windy conditions), Cemex as the main operator can **activate dust suppression** (water sprays, mist cannons) or **pause high-dust activities**. This is vital in periods when Cemex operators are not on site, such as Bank Holidays, Sundays.

5. Transparency & Community Trust

- Sharing monitoring data builds trust with local residents and authorities. This I believe is not much to ask for.

6. Legal & Insurance Protection

- Documented monitoring data can defend against claims of health impacts from quarry dust.

Risks of Not Having One

- **Unverified exposure:** No data means Cemex can't prove compliance or safety and residents may be exposed to dangerous levels.
- **Potential for unnoticed exceedances of OSHA/MSHA limits (PEL: 50 µg/m³; action level: 25 µg/m³).**
- **Community opposition:** Perceived risk can often escalate without transparent monitoring and can cause ill feeling to the operator.
- **Regulatory vulnerability:** Harder to demonstrate due diligence in audits or legal cases.
- **Delayed response:** Without real-time data, dust events may go unnoticed until complaints arise or long-term damage to resident's health is unstoppable and irreversible.

What Happens When Sand/Gravel Stockpiles Are Left Dry and Undamped

- **Dry, hot conditions + wind or vehicle movement = high dust generation.**
- Stockpiles of sand and gravel often contain **crystalline silica (quartz)**. When dry, fine particles become airborne easily.
- Without damping, **respirable crystalline silica (RCS)** levels can spike.

Why Gravel and Sand Extraction Is Risky

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- **Silica dust generation** occurs during:
 - Excavating, crushing, drilling, hauling, and **processing sand and gravel**.
- These fine particles can remain airborne and be inhaled deep into the lungs.
- **Occupational exposure** in aggregate and industrial sand facilities is common; over **75% of U.S. mines are sand and gravel operations**, making this a major source of silica exposure. [nssga.org]

How Risk of Silicosis Increases

- **Short-term spikes** don't cause silicosis immediately, but repeated uncontrolled exposures **raise cumulative dose**, which is the main driver of silicosis.
- If workers or nearby residents inhale dust regularly:
 - **Chronic silicosis risk rises** over years.
 - **Accelerated silicosis** possible if exposures are very high for months.
- Community risk remains **lower than occupational**, but without monitoring, you cannot quantify or manage it.

Estimated Potential Impact

- Studies show uncontrolled dry operations can produce **RCS concentrations several times above PEL** near active work zones. Therefore, more robust plans for damping down should be provided by Cemex to cover the periods when operators are not working, e.g., Sunday's and Bank Holidays.
- Without damping and monitoring, **risk management relies on assumptions**,
- **Mitigation Essentials**
- **Damp stockpiles daily** and frequently in dry weather and provide robust detailed plans and details of how the site will damp down during Bank Holidays and Sundays. These plans were missing from the County Council meeting.
- Use **windbreaks and misting cannons** during loading.
- Install **air monitoring stations** at site boundaries for transparency and early warning.
- Communicate results to workers and community.

What Happens in Silicosis?

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- When silica dust is inhaled, tiny particles lodge deep in the lungs.
- The body reacts by forming **scar tissue (fibrosis)**, which reduces lung elasticity and impairs breathing.
- This damage is **permanent and progressive**. [[my.clevelandclinic.org](#)], [[webmd.com](#)]

Types of Silicosis

1. Chronic Silicosis

- Most common type.
- Develops after **10+ years** of low to moderate exposure.
- Symptoms appear slowly.

2. Accelerated Silicosis

- Occurs after **5–10 years** of heavy exposure.
- Progresses faster than chronic.

3. Acute Silicosis

- Rare but severe.
- Can develop within **weeks to 5 years** after very high exposure.
- Causes rapid lung inflammation and fluid buildup.
[[respirator...pyzone.com](#)], [[consumernotice.org](#)]

Symptoms

- Early: Persistent cough, phlegm, shortness of breath.
- Later:
 - Chest pain
 - Fatigue
 - Weight loss
 - Fever
 - Cyanosis (blue lips)

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- Swollen legs (in advanced cases) [webmd.com]
-

Diagnosis

- **Chest X-ray or CT scan** (to detect lung scarring)
 - **Bronchoscopy** (camera inspection)
 - **Lung biopsy** (to confirm nodules)
 - **Sputum tests** (to rule out TB) [webmd.com]
-

Complications

- Increased risk of:
 - **Tuberculosis**
 - **Lung cancer**
 - **COPD**
 - **Chronic bronchitis**
 - **Autoimmune disorders (e.g., scleroderma)** [webmd.com]
-

Treatment

- **No cure** exists; management focuses on:
 - **Avoiding further exposure**
 - **Inhaled steroids** (reduce inflammation)
 - **Oxygen therapy** (for severe cases)
 - **Lung transplant** (in end-stage disease)
- Regular **air monitoring**.

The **risk of silicosis from gravel and sand extraction** is **significant, contrary to Cemex recent statement**, this is because these activities generate **respirable crystalline silica (RCS)**, primarily in the form of quartz.

Exposure Levels

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- OSHA and MSHA set strict limits:
 - **Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL):**
 - OSHA: **50 µg/m³** (8-hour TWA) for construction/general industry
 - MSHA (proposed): Lowering to **50 µg/m³** for mining (previously 100 µg/m³ for quartz) [[msha.gov](https://www.msha.gov)], [[nssga.org](https://www.nssga.org)]
- Exceeding these limits significantly increases silicosis risk.

Community Risk

- Studies show **occupational risk is well-documented**, but **community exposure near gravel pits is much lower** and often misunderstood. *Due to the medium to long term impacts on lungs and health, I believe it is highly irresponsible for Cemex to state there is no risk to health and therefore no need to install Air sampling monitoring. Global evidence contradicts this statement. If villagers and adjacent communities are exposed to Silica in the lungs, it can be many years before the chronic symptoms manifest. This can often be difficult to root cause to the quarry operations and this will be difficult to pursue through legal actions and systems. The risk to villagers' health and their confidence in the Cemex operations, should override any small investment in air quality monitoring and would help facilitate a better working relationship with Cemex.*

Exposure Levels vs Health Outcomes

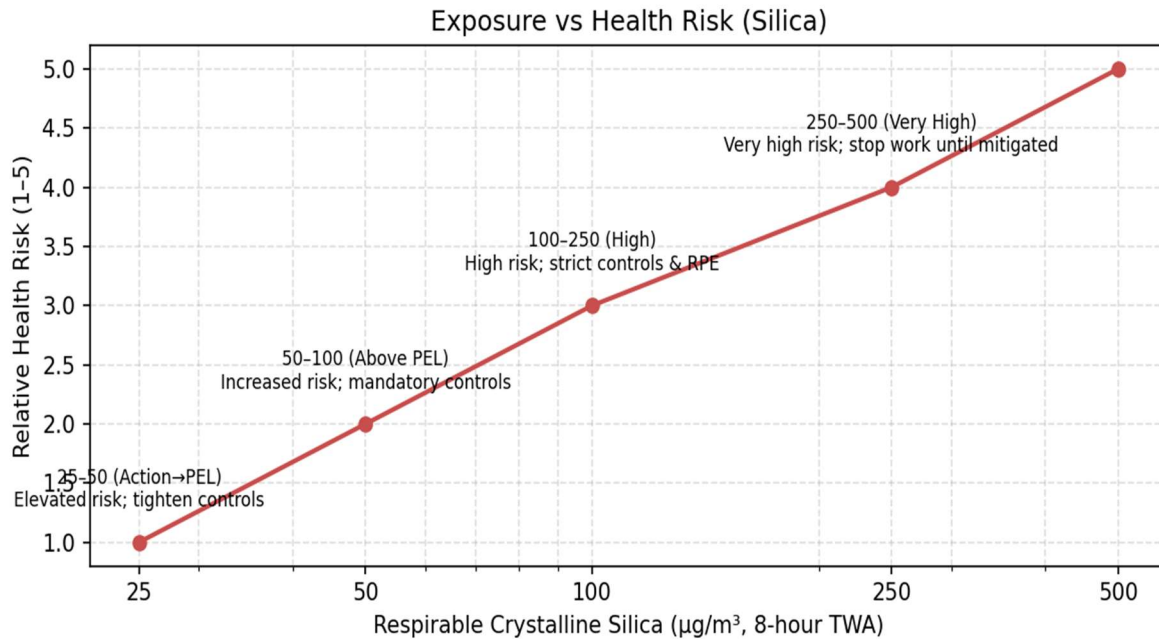
Concept: A log-scale chart mapping **8-hr TWA RCS** against **relative health risk** and required actions:

- **<25 µg/m³** (below action level): *Minimal risk; maintain controls.*
- **25–50 µg/m³** (action→PEL): *Elevated risk; tighten controls & monitoring.*
- **50–100 µg/m³** (above PEL): *Increased risk of silicosis/COPD; mandatory engineering controls & RPE.*
- **100–250 µg/m³**: *High risk of progressive disease; strict controls & respirators.*
- **250–500 µg/m³**: *Very high risk; potential acute effects; stop work until mitigated.*
These bands reflect **OSHA/MSHA thresholds** and mining guidance for respirable dust control

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- **Community risk framing near sand/gravel sites:** differences between occupational vs off-site exposure.



Furthermore, the Council is asked to review and assess the risk to the surrounding large town communities, such as Upton Upon Severn and Tewkesbury of not having an Air quality measuring station installed. I believe this is an important consideration with both of these towns having very large increases in their population during events that are held in the towns. For example, a 40-mph wind, which is not uncommon, could transport silica particles to a large group of people during the summer events in Tewkesbury, potentially impacting circa 30,000 – 40,000 festival attendees. A 30-mph wind could impact Upton Upon Severn.

Travel Distance & Concentration

The table below provides estimated travel distances for respirable silica particles at various wind speeds on a dry day, along with indicative airborne concentrations. Actual values depend on particle size, source strength, and local conditions.

Wind Speed (mph)	Wind Speed (m/s)	Estimated Travel Distance (metres)	Potential Airborne Concentration (µg/m ³)	Notes/Context

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5	2.2	100–200	10–25	Light breeze; particles settle within site boundary.
10	4.5	300–500	25–50	Moderate wind; particles may reach adjacent properties.
15	6.7	600–900	50–100	Increased risk of offsite dispersion.
20	8.9	1,000–1,500	100–250	High wind; dust can travel over 1 km, concentrations may exceed action levels.
25	11.2	2,000–2,500	250–500	Very high wind; risk of widespread dispersion, possible regulatory breach.
30	13.4	3,000–4,000	500+	Extreme wind; dust may travel several kilometres, concentrations hazardous.
40	17.9	5,000–7,000	500+	Severe wind; particles can reach distant communities.
50	22.4	8,000–10,000+	500+	Storm conditions; dust may travel up to 10 km or more.

Current Population

- **3.12 KM from Ripple - Upton upon Severn:** Approximately **2,900 residents** (2021 census). [en.wikipedia.org]
 - **5.58 KM from Ripple - Tewkesbury (town):** Around **20,360 residents** in the built-up area (2021 census). [en.wikipedia.org]
 - **Tewkesbury Borough** (wider district): About **95,000 people**. [[totalpopulation...tion.co.uk](https://totalpopulation.co.uk)]
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Festival Impact

Upton upon Severn hosts several major festivals (Folk, Jazz, Blues, and Sunshine Music Festival).

- The **Sunshine Music Festival** alone attracts **around 8,000 visitors per day** during the August Bank Holiday weekend. [worcesternews.co.uk]
- Combined with other festivals (Folk, Jazz, Blues), the town can see **tens of thousands of visitors across the summer**, meaning the population temporarily multiplies by **3–5 times** during peak weekends.

Tewkesbury has its famous **Medieval Festival** and other events:

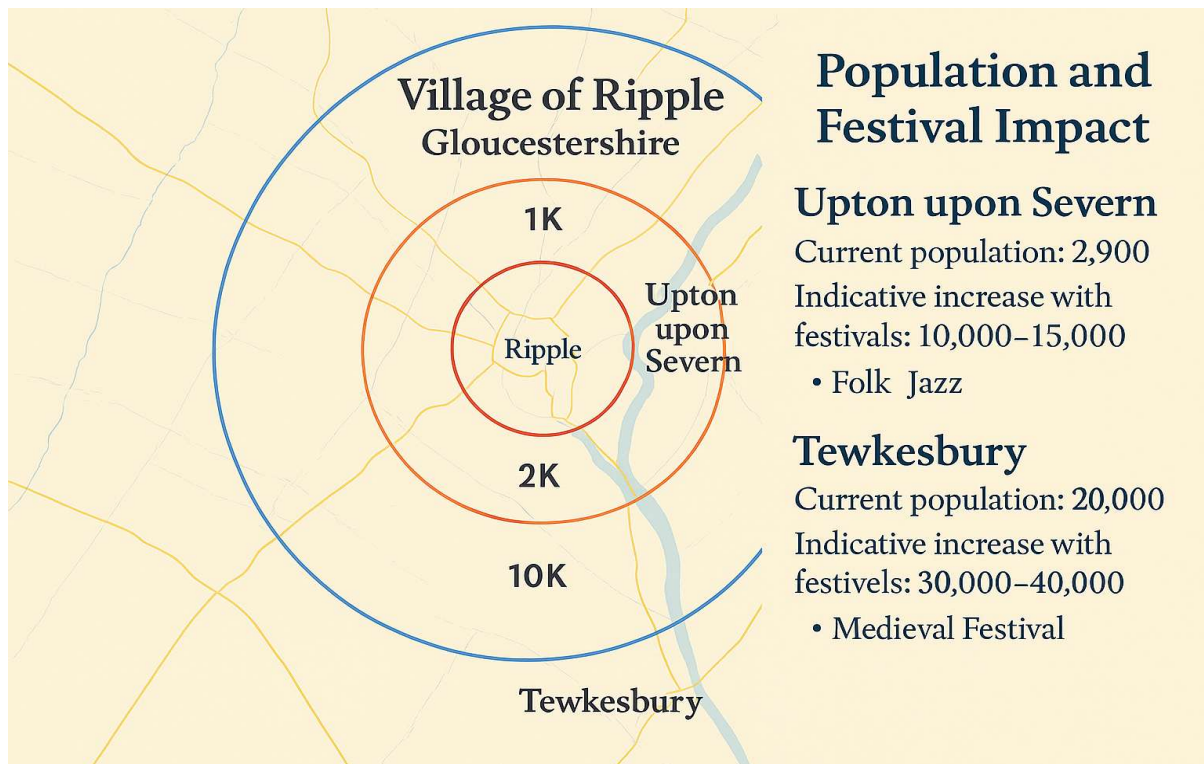
- While exact figures vary, the Medieval Festival typically draws **thousands of visitors**, often pushing the town's population up by **50–100% for the weekend**, depending on weather and programme scale.

Indicative Population and Risk Increase

- **3.12 KM from Ripple - Upton upon Severn:** From ~2,900 residents to **10,000–15,000 people** during major festival weekends.
- **5.58 KM from Ripple - Tewkesbury:** From ~20,000 residents to **30,000–40,000 people** during its largest events.

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Sand & Gravel Quarry-Related Cases

- **Documented cases:**
 - In New Jersey (1979–2011), **81 confirmed silicosis cases (14% of total)** were linked to mining, including sand and gravel operations. [nj.gov]
- **Community exposure:**
 - Research shows **occupational risk is well-documented**, but **community-level risk near sand/gravel sites remains very low**, provided dust suppression and monitoring are in place. [frontiersin.org]

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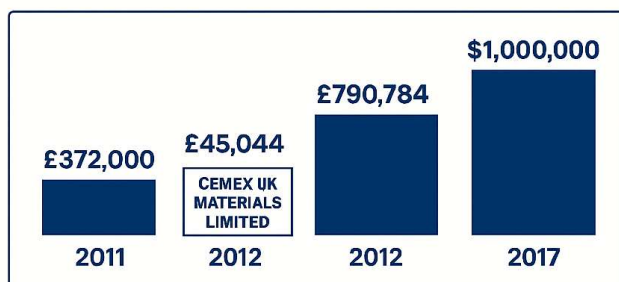
CEMEX UK HEALTH & SAFETY BREACHES

AIR QUALITY COMPLIANCE

DOCUMENTATION BREACHES

Cemex UK has faced multiple enforcement actions from the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) for workplace safety violations, including breaches of air quality standards due to inadequate dust control in quarry and cement operations.

TIMELINE OF FINES



KEY TAKEAWAY:

- Effective air quality management remains critical for compliance and reputation

Effective air quality management remains critical for compliance and reputation

Cemex - Documented Breaches (UK)

- **2017:** Cemex UK Operations Limited fined **£1,000,000** for a workplace safety or health violation (HSE case). [\[violation...sfirst.org\]](#)
- **2012:** Cemex UK Operations Limited fined **£790,784** for a similar violation. [\[violation...sfirst.org\]](#)
- **2011:** Cemex UK Operations Limited fined **£372,000** for workplace safety or health breaches. [\[violation...sfirst.org\]](#)

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- **2012:** Cemex UK Materials Limited fined **£45,044** for workplace safety or health violation. [[violationt...sfirst.org](#)]

These cases were recorded by the **UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE)** and relate to breaches of the **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**, which includes obligations for dust and air quality control in quarry and cement operations.

Air Quality Context

- While the HSE database does not always specify “air quality” in the summary, these violations typically involve **dust control failures, inadequate suppression systems, or failure to protect workers from respirable crystalline silica (RCS)**—a key air quality hazard in quarry and cement operations.
- Cemex has also submitted evidence to UK Parliament acknowledging air quality challenges and the need for proactive measures in transport and site emissions

Cemex Revenue Global and UK Revenue

- Cemex Global Revenue: £11.91 billion (approx.)
- Estimated Cemex UK Revenue: £500 million (approx.)

Percentage Calculation

- £13,000 as % of Global Revenue: 0.000109%
- £13,000 as % of Estimated UK Revenue: 0.0026%

Cemex UK Revenue

- *Publicly reported UK-specific revenue is not broken out in detail. Cemex UK operates as a subsidiary, but financials are consolidated globally.*

Conclusion

I hope the above information and analysis will assist Ripple Parish Council with supporting the request for Cemex to provide an Air Quality Monitoring system in Ripple during their planned Bow Lane Quarry operations.

Thank you.



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