

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>Item 12: Notification of invoking of permitted development rights for mineral exploration</p>	<p>Officer Presenting: Principal Planning Officer</p> <p>Author: Principal Planning Officer</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To appraise Members on receipt of notification from Mount Castle Trust advising it wishes to invoke permitted development rights for mineral exploration on lands in Baronscourt. Correspondence was received on 28th October 2020 and is attached in Appendix 16.

2 Background

- 2.1 Part 16 of the Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 provides permitted development for minerals exploration and stipulates the circumstances in which development is permitted. Mount Castle Trust has advised it has a Minerals Prospecting Licence MCT 1/16 and has had prospecting rights issued for lands around Baronscourt in 2016.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Mount Castle Trust wish to investigate and evaluate the extent and commercial potential of its barite deposits within its Mineral Prospecting Licences. Information on barite is included in Appendix 16. Part 16 of the Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 legislation only requires notification to be made to the relevant authority. In this case only notification has been submitted and therefore as the planning authority, Council is acknowledging the submission. Any formal decision on the matter could only be provided through the submission of a Certificate for Lawfulness of proposed use or development or development (CLUD).

- 3.2 Officers have considered the notification and would advise Members the exploration will be carried out through mini sampling borehole drilling with a hand held mini core drill. The specifications of the equipment is included in the applicant's submission in Appendix 16.
- 3.3 The development will be completed within a 3 month time period. Details of the location, target minerals, details of plant and operations and anticipated timescale have all been provided. The site is not within AONB or ASSI. No explosives will be used and the equipment is less than 3m in height and not within 3km of an airport. No trees will be felled and no construction or excavation will take place, only the drilling of boreholes. No vegetation will be stripped and any divots/sample holes will be replanted and the land will be restored to its former condition in so far as it is practicable within 28 days of cessation of operations.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications on this update paper.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members note the submission of the notification and the draft reply from officers for consideration in respect of this case.

Background Papers

Appendix 16 – Correspondence from Six West on behalf of Mount Castle Trust received 28th October 2020

Appendix 17 – Draft response from officers to Six West