

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: 19/000053/CM

Proposed sand and gravel quarry at Land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley

RESPONSE FROM WOLVERLEY AND COOKLEY PARISH COUNCIL FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT RELATING TO THE APPLICATION

Recommend Refusal

Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council discussed the above at their meeting 5th April 2022 following the submission of additional further information which has been thoroughly reviewed. The Parish Council remain resolute to recommend refusal. The reasons given in the first two responses in March 2020 & Sept 2021 (copies attached) remain sound and valid.

The proposed location of the quarry is completely inappropriate development within the green belt and there are no very special circumstances to justify it and therefore it should not be supported. The entire site lies within the heart of the green belt and the adverse effect on the openness of the green belt would be immense and not justifiable. The Council feel that the Quarry will have a negative effect on the cumulative impact of the green belt. There will be a huge and detrimental effect to many residents and businesses through disturbance to local properties, businesses and schools, substantial vehicle movements and increase in traffic, noise levels, significant impact on health, major long term negative impact on Ecology of the area and safety concerns for children.

The Parish Council has noted the many conditions recommended within the various Environmental Statements/ responses to try to mitigate the adverse impacts on the local ecology (woodland, dormice, otters) and indeed the adverse impact on other local important flow sites such as, Hurcott, Podmore Pool, Hurcott Pasture, (all SSSIs). All of these require mitigation strategies and begs the question as to who will monitor the implementation and maintenance of such strategies/conditions.

Traffic Surveys were conducted three to four years ago and take no account of the three sites that are already being occupied at Lea Castle Village 600 houses, Weavers Chase 90 houses and Sion Hill 50 houses which have significantly increased traffic.

The Parish Council is also increasingly concerned regarding the adverse impact of noise, dust and safety of those children walking to the Wolverley school from the new housing at Lea Castle Village, (now partly built and occupied), Weavers Chase (occupied) and Sion Hill (occupied) alongside the Wolverley road boundary wall and having to cross the proposed entrance to the Quarry. This poses a serious health & safety issue. The Parish Council would also like to raise a safety concern regarding the boundary wall, this has already collapsed many times, leans onto the footpath and much of the brickwork is deteriorating, if Quarrying begins on this site it is highly likely to lead to further collapses.

The various impact analysis is mainly focused on that which is generated within the quarry, very little attention has been given to the impact of these operations have externally. Dust, noise, and increased traffic will inevitably adversely impact on the five schools, local children's health & safety, and the residents of the new nearby housing.

The Parish Council remains resolute to recommend refusal

20th April 2022