

Site Address: Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley Road, Broadwaters, Kidderminster

Description of the development: Proposed sand and gravel quarry with progressive restoration using site derived and imported inert material to agricultural parkland, public access and nature enhancement

Application reference: 19/000053/CM

Appellant's name: NRS Aggregates Ltd

Appeal reference: APP/E1855/W/22/3310099

Appeal start date: 7 November 2022

I am writing as a local resident, who agrees wholeheartedly with the previous speakers who have objected this quarry for the reasons so articulately shared during this appeal process. I have already written several letters of objection, this is the transcript of the speech made at the hearing today, Tuesday Feb 28th 2023.

I would like to focus of the negative impact of this application on local residents and their health and wellbeing, including access to open green spaces, in order to walk safely to school, or for leisure/fitness purposes.

As a member of an NHS Children's Therapy Team working in the local area with children from 0-19yrs we are increasingly seeing the negative impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on children's physical and mental wellbeing. The opportunity for unstructured play and exercise that helps to develop resilience and confidence in young people and helps reduce obesity, develop strength and stamina, which is vitally important, and this is what the proposed site of the quarry already offers. Children are 'sensitive receptors', the dangers of silicosis mentioned so many times during the hearing today, especially with rise of asthma in children and impact of respiratory illness post Covid 19.

By placing a quarrying in greenbelt land that provides an open, free, space overlooking far reaching views, will remove an extremely valuable asset from the local communities. A place and space that can be accessed safely by all old, young, families to walk, run, ride bikes and horses, and walk dogs.

The Nice Guidelines (NG90), Section 1.1.5 recommends being physically active, ie when playing and when travelling to school, college, and early years settlings. A quarry will severely impact children who use this route to walk to school.

NHS England / All Our Health -Gov Uk recommend regular exercise:

For Adults 75 mins intense activity per week,150 mins moderate activity per week

60 minutes moderate to vigorous activity per day for children -up to several times a day

Walking is recommended to support long term health conditions, our mental and physical wellbeing and is noted to be the 'perfect exercise' to develop strength and stamina. How will local people who have used these bridleways and footpaths for years be able to take their exercise safely with a

quarry smack bang in the middle of our villages? How will this adversely affect their mental and physical wellbeing, from hearing from speakers today, I think the answer is very clear, badly.

This week £240,000 has been allocated by DEFRA to support with alerting areas of high pollution levels, to try and reduce pollution and exposure to it, in Worcestershire. There is a Wyre Forest District Council 'Consultation on Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning document' currently being circulated, that looks at the value of access to green spaces and exercise, to support long term health in the population. Health inequality is also being looked at, the land at Lea Castle Farm provides a free place for children to play and explore.

The inherent dangers of a quarry site , if agreed, are something that will have to be managed, as there are so many children in close proximity, how can the Appellant ensure that accidents will not happen?

As discussed poor air quality is a real concern, to all local residents, and regardless of reports saying it won't impact us, , if the local community perceive that there are risks of air pollution, noise, vibration, quarry traffic , site danger, plus the permanent destruction of beautiful open countryside, it will have a detrimental impact on the lives and health of the local residents, because they will not come and walk here anymore. This will have a negative impact on the physical activity of the whole population, particularly the young and old. We are very aware of the impact of reduced activity, and the health problems that it causes-poor mental and physical health, obesity, diabetes, etc.

The unacceptable impact on the natural and sustainable environment will be for ever. The mental and physical impact will also be hard to measure but I think you will see how many people have sent in their objections and turned up today to speak out, that this means a lot to us all.

I ask you please with the greatest respect to not allow this quarry to be passed, the risks to the local communities, the environment, road safety and the Greenbelt are too high.

Kind regards

Joanna Phillips