

## **ID.26 Transcript of Alex Badger**

Good afternoon, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

As a cookley resident and parent I feel compelled to speak today, I have to be clear about what the proposed sand and gravel quarry actually means.  
We are talking about transforming a village into an industrial area for at least a decade.

Reasons for supporting the quarry at the May 24th hearing were given as 'The digging will only be temporary'. - Digging is something we do in our gardens or at the beach, It is not an appropriate verb for the decade long extraction of 3 million tonnes of sand and gravel from an area of greenbelt.

This comment shows a deep disregard for the actual consequences of the proposed industrialisation of pristine greenbelt, it does neatly exhibit just how detached the quarry supporters are from its negative impact.  
They will be well clear of any negative emissions.

Silica dust- Many of you will have heard of Joanna Mcneil a 34 year old administrator and mother of 2 from Australia who has contracted silicosis after just 7 years working at a quarry office.

Dust is a problem because it cannot be removed from the lungs, it is permanent damage, there is nothing temporary or safe to dust exposure of this nature- Please, please bear that in mind.

11 Years from now, Just because a quarry has been filled in and turfed over does not mean that a toxic legacy has not been cast.  
That's not how dust works.

Silica dust IS deadly and does cause chronic health problems. We use sand in the construction industry because it is a robust, strong mineral. It is great in a building but for those same reasons it is harmful in the lungs.  
This Quarry WILL emit silica dust, the lorries transporting the extracted minerals WILL emit diesel particulates and CO2.  
The air quality WILL be reduced.

Look on the HSE

To drive a HGV into the london ULEZ costs £100 per day. This is because the government deems clean air so vital that considerable financial impacts are placed on vehicles which reduce it.  
The proposed quarry lists 150 vehicle traffic movements per day, so we can see that in other parts of the country a huge cost would be levied on these movements due to the fact they

reduce air quality significantly. This is clear evidence that such traffic movements are considered harmful to residents elsewhere.

It's not just London. It's Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Derby, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Portsmouth, all consider diesel particulates to be enough of a clean air threat that there is a financial incentive to avoid it. There is of course no such charge here.

Worcester Council set the admirable Goal of being carbon neutral by 2050 and halving emissions by 2030.-quarrying greenbelt and moving it around in HGVs is about as fast as you can go in the wrong direction.

The whole proposal is completely out of step with the modern pschie and modern desire to live in harmony with the environment rather than batter it into submission and patch it up once the prize has been extracted.

Only weeks ago the Government launched its Environmental Improvement Plan. From November, every government department will have an obligation to consider the environmental and climate impacts of each new policy and piece of legislation- it finds us at this impasse too late.

Where access to and the improvement of the environment should be within 15 minutes of most people. \*\*It's currently something we have, but it is possibly about to be taken away, a move once again at odds with the modern consciousness.\*\*

Lastly and most strongly of All is the proximity of this industrialisation to schools and the lungs of little ones.

The very young children who will be exposed to silica dust, general increased dust, diesel particulates and also the mental health anguish of their parents and guardians who will have to wrestle with the known dangers of living downwind of a sand quarry and also the economic realities and social connections which will keep us breathing compromised air if this quarry is approved.

And for what benefit of those affected.

In Canada this proposal would not even be seen, it would be thrown out due to the proximity of the site to a residential area, and this is a country that still mines and exports asbestos.

Final note

I've lived in Cookley for only a short time but have found it to be an extremely positive and inclusive place that me and my family now call home.

It is under threat and the reasons for the industrialisation of greenbelt are flimsy. Money and sand now in exchange for clean air, safe roads and peace for the promise of a park and picnic area in 10 years.

This doesn't even come close to a fair exchange.

I urge the inquiry to uphold the wise judgment of Worcester county council.

Thank you