

ID.41 Representation of Lisa Whittaker

From: Lisa Whittaker < >

Sent: 07 March 2023 21:48

To: Skinner, Helen <HELEN.SKINNER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: Fwd: Léa Castle Quarry Public Enquiry APP/E1855/W/22/3310099

Hi Helen,

I understand that as I registered to speak I can send a written submission as I was unable to attend the inquiry in person today. My statement is below. Please can you ensure it gets submitted to the planning inspector. Thank you so much. Can you let me know that you have received it and that it will be sent on to the Planning inspector.

Kind Regards

Lisa Whittaker

I wish to state that I object and have always objected to the proposed Lea Castle Quarry for the myriad of reasons already stated by the 'Stop the Quarry' campaign.

As a local resident and a very keen cyclist, I wanted to talk specifically about the importance of the proposed quarry site for cyclists.

Myself and my husband live in the Broadwaters area of Kidderminster and we regularly cycle from our home, off Hurcott Road, down past the 'Rose Theatre', up Sion Hill and onto the bridleway across the proposed quarry site and then cycle on through Cookley and onto the countryside beyond. If we don't cycle on this route then at the top of Sion Hill we have to turn left on to the B4189 past the Lock Pub and then turn right into the old part of Wolverley village. In our experience the B4189 is an extremely busy, narrow and dangerous road for a cyclist. Vehicles regularly go over the 40 miles per hour speed limit and can try to overtake us while there are vehicles coming the other way. As the road is so narrow there is then nowhere for a cyclist to go. Also there have been many times when vehicles have overtaken us with far less than the 1.5 metre recommended passing distance.

The proposed quarry site gives us a relaxing safe green space to enjoy cycling through, providing a route through to Cookley village and beyond.

If the quarry does go ahead, the B4189 will become an even more unsafe road for us and many other cyclists to cycle on. The lorries going in and out of the site will add to the traffic pressure on this already extremely busy road. The proposal has been that all the lorries entering and leaving the site will access it from the main Kidderminster to Wolverhampton Road. In reality this is extremely unlikely to consistently happen and some lorries are likely to go through Wolverley or down Sion Hill and into Kidderminster.

Finally I wanted to add that the bridleway cycle route across the proposed quarry site can contribute greatly towards current government policy to encourage the nation to cycle more. The current 'Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, Report to Parliament 2022' states that it is the government's long-term ambition to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys or as part of a longer journey by 2040. This document also emphasizes how cycling can also be seen to be part of several strategies and policies published between April 2016 and March 2021. These include, the Green Growth Strategy, the Future of Mobility Urban Strategy, the Clean Air

Strategy, The Prevention is Better than Cure Approach, The Sport England Strategy-Towards an Active Nation, and the Childhood Obesity Plan, Chapters one and Two.

The loss of this vital green belt land which provides a safe alternative route to cycling on a very busy, dangerous road would be a great loss to the local community and would be directly in opposition to government cycling, health and environmental policy. Moreover if a quarry is developed the existing road will become even more dangerous for cyclists.