

ID.42 Transcript of David Jones

From: david jones <daveypjay@yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: 07 March 2023 15:49

To: Aldridge, Steven <saldridge@worcestershire.gov.uk>

Subject:

Good Morning/Afternoon,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am David Jones, proud to be an elected Parish Councillor and organiser of numerous fundraising charitable events on Cookley's Playing Field. The title of this appeal before you begins Lea Castle Farm, it should remain just this, situated in the middle of our community as nothing more or less, as it has, since 1633. Here we are again, a very anxious Community united in the hope that Common Sense prevails once again. Three times this application has been rejected by the Democratically elected Councillors of Cookley and Wolverley Parish Council, Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council. Our MP is also actively opposed and has clearly laid out his objections to Parliament as recorded Hansard Volume 673, debated 17/3/2023.

Since attending this Appeal, I have not heard anyone from the floor speak in favour of this, obviously discounting those employed by NRS and paid a healthy sum to do so, I do wonder if they would be in attendance as Volunteers promoting this Quarry.

The Communities of Cookley and Wolverley are blessed with a good many volunteers who are the lifeblood of the numerous events and fundraising, many of them are here today and I salute you all for your resolve. It's been a long road but we are a cohesive community who care about our future. Cookley Village Hall and Playing Fields will be directly affected by the prevailing wind from the Quarry. Every year it hosts numerous events- bonfires and music festivals, Weddings and Sport where up to 3000 people gather. The famous singer Toyah Wilcox played one year and commented to the audience on what a romantic backdrop it was for her performance. The planning for future events will be jeopardised and diminished by the prospect of dust and health concerns by this Six Day Quarrying Operation.

The proposed Quarry has hung like a dark cloud in the back of everyone's mind for the last seven years. My understanding from this appeal is that it now centres around the acceptable effect it will have on the Green Belt, if it's to disappear from view and use for at least twelve years then I would suggest that's quite a significant negative impact.

The footpath that runs through its middle to the backdrop of the Malvern Hills was a Godsend during the Covid Pandemic, the lock down particularly, when people were also struggling with their Mental Health.

Should the quarry now proceed, the twisted irony sees the very real prospect of a return to wearing face masks once again. It was pointed out that this will only be for twelve years. Returning to my old friend, Mr twisted irony, many of our community are ageing and attend far more funerals than Weddings - should we really have to spend our remaining days in the midst of this hoping to see if the promised Picnic Table appears on the top of the patted down Earth at its end. Or worse, watching our children and grandchildren for signs of respiratory illness due to the invisible clouds of dust. I walked the path today- the prevailing wind was blowing straight towards the homes of Westhead and Woodlands Road and on to the Playing fields as it usually does.

NRS cite many organisations who have not actively objected to The Quarry - yet these organisations have not actively endorsed it either. This itself speaks volumes- let this not be agreed in the face of faint equivocation when there is emphatic consensus in its opposition.

On behalf of all the Community that obviously care so deeply about our Community I ask you to reject this Plan and allow us to get on with our lives in the environment we love.