

1 Castle Barns
Cookley
Worcestershire
DY10 3RE

9th December 2022

Dear Sir,

RE: Proposed Sand and Gravel – Planning Application reference 19/000053/CM

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

Appellants name: NRS Aggregates Ltd

I wish to object to the proposed planning application for a sand and gravel quarry at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley based on the following: -

(i) Health concerns

This proposal will have a significant impact on the health of residents and communities living in the vicinity as it poses a daily barrage of noise, dust and exhaust fumes produced by 100s of dump truck hauling aggregates which will have serious effects on the health of people's lives living nearby.

We live adjacent to the proposal and have very serious concerns it will have on our health particularly when you can draw on the experiences of the unfortunate residents living near to the quarry in Staffordshire. Because of the lack of action taken by the Environmental Agency, it has resulted in a High Court hearing by a resident in an attempt to stop the serious and harmful affect suffered by a young resident.

It concerns me greatly that a quarry can have such an impact on residents lives and health and once identified very little is able to be done in a timely manner to help those residents.

(ii) The Environment

The proposed quarry would be situated between two rural villages of Cookley and Wolverley as well as Kidderminster (Zion Hill). It will also be near to Broadwaters and therefore affect several thousand residents. It is surely not the right place to situate a quarry in such a beautiful parkland setting in the middle of several residential areas.

In addition to the current housing that will be affected by the quarry, there is a huge development of 600 houses being built on the Lea castle site next near to the quarry site. According to the local development plan this will increase to a maximum of 1400 properties.

The proposal for the quarry will mean that it will be next to a school and will also affect the local school in the village. The mining and quarry process can be destructive to the environment as it has a direct impact on the countryside by leaving pits and heaps of waste material.

The extraction process will also contaminate air and water with sulphur dioxide and other pollutants putting wildlife and the local population at risk. The river soar runs nearby as does the local canal. The new development of 600 properties on the Lea castle site has led to an increase in wildlife coming on to the area displaced by the huge building works taking place. We have seen foxes and badgers and have a picture of a badger on our property caught by our CCTV camera.

(iii) Mental wellbeing

As a result of the pandemic it is even more important than ever to protect our open green spaces. I regularly run through the estate and I have no doubt it improves my mental health having an area of open countryside effectively on my doorstep. I have also seen an increase in other people using the area for walking, jogging and biking and provides a beautiful area for local people to use.

Whilst there is a proposal for access to be maintained it will not deliver the same benefits as people will be passing a quarry producing significant noise and dust nuisance.

(iv) Economic Boost

As a result of such a large development causing considerable damage over 11 years, there is only 11 jobs that will be created, half of which will be specialist jobs so there will be a limited advantage for the local economy. However, when you take into account the noise pollution, dust pollution and traffic congestion and the overall detrimental impact on the area, I would suggest that there is no real benefit.

(v) Planning Application

The planning application has already been rejected by the Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council as well as Wyre Forest District Council. This is due to the fact they have an understanding of the significant impact on residents and the local environment.

(vi) Traffic congestion

There will be a significant increase in traffic noise and pollution with in excess of 150 movements from large dump trucks. This is in addition to the additional traffic generated by the new 600 property housing development at the Lea Castle site.

The junction from castle road on to the A449 is extremely busy and this additional traffic will add to the dangers of this particular junction. There have been a number of serious collisions and unfortunately there have been a number of deaths.

(vii) On-going management of the site

The period for the quarry has already been extended from a substantial 10 years to 11 years. I am very concerned that the quarrying will continue for a longer period due to the amount of sand and gravel on site.

My concerns are also compounded by the severe problems, residents have experienced in Staffordshire and the length of time it takes to rectify any genuine health concerns raised by local residents.

(viii) Increasing need for arable land

The war in Ukraine has made it abundantly clear that there is a real need of increasing the opportunity for food production. This is much more important than using the land for extracting such aggregates. It has been made clear how dependent we have become on important basis foods when we have the opportunity to produce more food in this country.

(ix) Less emphasis on building new homes

The government have recently announced that there is less emphasis on achieving previously held new homes targets. This means there will be less need for such aggregates and at the same time it is now clearer that the emphasis must now be on using such land for food production

(x) Local decision making process

It is important to recognise that this has been considered by the local parish council who refused the application and the County Council who thoroughly considered all aspects of the application and decided that it was not appropriate for the area due to the significant impact it will have on the area and local residents.

Local decisions need to be considered and decided at a local level as it means that all aspects of the application are considered from a local view point. This has already been completed and the application refused.

I trust you tell into account my serious concerns before making a decision on the quarry as it will have a significant on my health and well being.

Kind Regards

Kevin Tebbett

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