

Subject: Strong Objection to Lea Castle Quarry Proposal

I am writing to express my strong objection to the Lea Castle quarry proposal. The thought of this project being reconsidered, especially after previous objections and compelling evidence, is deeply concerning. I strongly believe that allowing this quarry to proceed would have severe, irreversible impacts on the community, environment, and public health.

The proposed quarry site is dangerously close to our village, affecting residents, schools, and the already strained road network. Adding heavy vehicles transporting extracted sand will only exacerbate traffic issues and pose a serious safety risk to the many families, schoolchildren, and elderly individuals who use these roads daily. Moreover, the noise and dust from the quarry could have significant long-term impacts on the quality of life and health of everyone in the area.

The environmental damage is a key issue as well. This area is home to various wildlife species that have already faced disruption from ongoing housing developments. Forests and fields serve as critical habitats and provide essential resources like nectar for bees, which in turn benefit human and environmental health. As a local beekeeper, I know firsthand how delicate these ecosystems are. This proposal would further threaten these ecosystems, leading to a likely reduction in local bee populations and negatively impacting the crops they pollinate.

Flooding is another major concern. The area's water table would be heavily affected by sand extraction, with potential to worsen flooding for nearby homes, businesses, and farmland, as well as along our canal and pathways. This is a critical issue for our community, as flooding already occurs quickly here. Increasing this risk would devastate local businesses and disrupt daily life.

Additionally, the impact on air quality cannot be overlooked. The dust generated by quarrying operations would impact the health of residents, especially those with respiratory conditions. I worry for my husband, who has COPD and asthma, as well as my son, son-in-law, and young grandchildren. This dust poses an unjust risk to our community's most vulnerable, including schoolchildren, the elderly, and individuals with existing health conditions.

Given these serious concerns, it is alarming that this proposal is even being reconsidered. People in our community are distressed and disheartened that a second hearing has been granted, despite clear evidence of the dangers. We will continue to oppose this proposal in every possible way, advocating for the preservation of our land and wellbeing.

There are alternative, less damaging methods for sand extraction that do not carry these risks. The council must prioritize the health, safety, and environmental integrity of this community by rejecting the Lea Castle quarry proposal.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I hope that, in the interest of common sense and the well-being of all, this proposal will be denied once and for all.

**Sincerely,
Mrs Jacqui Rudall
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Cookley
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