

Christopher Mucklow  
84 Lea Castle drive  
Lea Castle  
Kidderminster  
Worcestershire  
DY10 3FP

Subject: Objection to Planning Application for Sand and Gravel Quarry at Lea Castle Farm

Dear Sir,

I am writing to formally object to the planning application for the proposed sand and gravel quarry at Lea Castle Farm. I believe the quarry poses a substantial threat to public health, road safety, and the environment, particularly in light of the planned development of Lea Castle Village, as well as the proximity of several primary and secondary schools. I personally live in the area and believe it will have an impact upon myself and my family.

#### Impact on the Local Population

The imminent development of between 600 and 1200 new homes at Lea Castle Village will significantly increase the local population, directly impacting the community surrounding the proposed quarry site. With local infrastructure already under considerable strain, adding quarry operations will exacerbate issues such as dust pollution and noise disturbances. Residents, including vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly, would be exposed to higher levels of particulate matter, known to have severe health consequences, especially for those with pre-existing respiratory conditions which I suffer in the form of asthma.

#### Road Safety and Increased Traffic

The introduction of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic linked to the quarry would greatly elevate the risk of road accidents, especially along the A449 and Wolverley Road, which are not equipped to manage high volumes of industrial traffic. This risk is particularly alarming for motorcyclists, who are more vulnerable to accidents caused by road debris and heavy vehicles.

Local school children who frequently cross these roads to reach nearby schools would also face a serious safety threat due to increased HGV traffic. The lack of a pedestrian crossing on the A449 exacerbates this danger and should be a major consideration in your review of this application.

## Environmental and Health Concerns

Although NRS Aggregates Ltd has proposed mitigation measures in their appeal, the environmental risks associated with the quarry remain severe. Dust emissions and noise pollution are key concerns, with studies by the Institute of Air Quality Management highlighting that particulate matter from quarries can travel considerable distances, potentially affecting many residential areas. Reports have questioned the effectiveness of these mitigation measures, noting that localized weather conditions may disperse dust beyond the quarry boundary.

This increase in air pollution could severely impact the health of Lea Castle Village residents, along with those in Cookley and other nearby neighbourhoods, by worsening local air quality and elevating the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

## Green Belt and Ecological Impact

The proposed quarry site lies within a designated green belt area intended to protect open spaces and natural landscapes. Extracting sand and gravel from this area would lead to the degradation of this essential green belt landscape, and there is insufficient assurance that the area could be adequately restored following quarry operations. In addition the area on the opposite side of the A449 has planning permission submitted to develop further housing. This increases the importance of the greenbelt on the area.

In conclusion, I urge the planning authority to deny this application on the grounds of significant and irreversible harm to the community's health, safety, and environment. Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that you will weigh these concerns with the utmost seriousness, in light of the potential impacts on the community.

Sincerely,

Chris Mucklow