

My name is Dean Talbot I have lived in Cookley for over thirty-five years with my family whilst working in the heavy steel industry as a Hydraulic Engineer. The industry that I've worked in is well known for the fine particles of dust (called Tish) along with carcinogenic chemicals.

In the last inquiry there was virtual speaker, that spoke from his work Van about his concerns of his children in his life possibly contracting diseases like silicosis. Well I'm that person 20 to 30 years on that has contracted a disease like silicosis which has affected my lungs & heart. The condition I have is called Sarcoidosis which I'll call Sarcoid today as the full name is a bit of a tong twister for me.

Sarcoid is a disease characterized by the growth of tiny collections of inflammatory cells (granulomas) in any part of your body — most commonly the lungs and lymph nodes. But it can also affect the eyes, skin, heart and other organs.

The cause of sarcoid is unknown, but experts think it results from the body's immune system responding to an unknown substance. Some research suggests that infectious agents, such as chemicals, dust can cause a potential abnormal reaction to the body's own proteins (self-proteins) could be responsible for the formation of granulomas in people.

There is no cure for sarcoid, but most people can do very well with no treatment or only modest treatment. However, sarcoid may last for years and may cause organ damage which in turn can lead to eventual death from organ failure and therefore sarcoid isn't recorded as the cause of death which is pretty much the same as silicosis sufferers.

What I suppose I'm trying to point out here is because there's been no reported deaths of silicosis from the general public it doesn't mean that there haven't been any deaths from silicosis due to the way deaths are recorded historically in the U.K. I know this happens because my wife's cousin died a couple of years ago and it wasn't until we went to his funeral that I found out that he suffered from sarcoid but his death was recorded as pneumonia.

In my case it's active and aggressively attacking my lungs at the moment and attacked my heart in November 2019 resulting in a heart attack and now is suspected to be attacking my eyes, skin and liver.

For my health concerns of others in similar circumstances to myself, for which there are quite a number in this area, along with the young that are developing as they grow I fear that the proposed Quarry at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley Road which is in the middle of three / four main residential communities & five schools will be detrimental to the public at large.

The real cost of this will not necessary be seen straight away in the young but in their later life when they start with health issues and then who will be picking up the tab certainly not the Quarry operator or the land owner, but the local authority and the NHS who will be paying for years to come.

You will note I have started out with an outlay of my life and my choice of employment. Knowing what I know now I probably wouldn't have worked in the dusty environment of a steel works.

It's certainly not my choice to have a Quarry so close to residential properties and polluting the atmosphere with dust that can cause harm to the residence of Kidderminster, Cookley and Wolverley.

My final thought is those that impose this Quarry on others should be made to pay for the damage it causes to people's lives, long term even long after the quarry is finished.

Thank you for letting me express my views