

LEA CASTLE QUARRY CONCERNS AND RELATED ISSUES

DUST

It is well known that workers employed in quarrying, stone working, sand blasting etc can suffer from the disease Silicosis unless provided with full protection by employers. Findings in at least 3 countries, but not, as yet, in the UK, have indicated those living close to quarries can also develop this debilitating and ultimately fatal disease.

What is a fact, however, is those that already suffer from breathing difficulties such as heart and lung disease and asthma can be made much worse with the inhalation of silica (sand) dust. **It would be of interest to know within our local care homes how many people this may apply to. In addition, there will be, within this catchment area, pupils and staff who have similar health issues.**

Furthermore, dust is also classed as a nuisance causing stress to residents due to it landing on washing, cars, garden ponds and animals.

NOISE

Again, there is the legal responsibility placed on employers to protect the hearing of their workforce. The local population will also be affected, not by hearing loss as such, but by nuisance noise which again can cause mental stress and lack of enjoyment of their surroundings. In addition, try teaching next to a noisy environment.

TREES

There are some fine specimens of aged trees on the site, some of which have a Tree Protection Order placed on them by this very local authority. If planning permission is granted does this mean the TPO is not worth the paper it is written on? Does it also mean that lowly Mr Smith who has removed part of a TPO tree detrimental to his property is then pursued through the courts but for those wealthy landowners such vandalism is overlooked? The Tree Preservation Officer must feel really valued.

TRAFFIC

It is stated that there will little increase in traffic related to the quarry and that may be so but large lorries are known to damage road surfaces. Consideration does need to be given not just to the risk to road users but to the air pollution and environmental warming due to said traffic. Unless, of course, the lorries are electric vehicles?!!

LEA CASTLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

At roughly the same time that the quarry activity may commence the destruction of the 2 fields on the other side of the A449 will begin with the construction of 800 houses, a parade of shops,

a community centre, employment units and a school squashed into that acreage. Although not yet agreed, this goes before the planning committee in the next few months.

Not only will there be dust, noise and traffic from the quarry, but this will be compounded significantly by this large development. Furthermore, once completed the amount of traffic issuing from and to the new housing estate will be large increasing risks and pollution even more.

FARMING ISSUES

Finally, a completely different take on the change of use of farmland to becoming a quarry is to consider our own country overall. We, as you know, are an island cut off from the main body of Europe and beyond. This means much of our foodstuffs are flown or floated to these isles. The world is now becoming increasingly dangerous as exemplified by the Head of the American CIA and our own Head of M16 recently appearing publicly to say as such. It is even more necessary now for the UK to be as self-sufficient and as sustainable as possible. Farmland is vital to produce much needed crops and livestock to meet this need. If this landowner does not wish to be a farmer then let a REAL farmer take over the land and provide for not just the local community but also for the UK as a whole. All humans surely can see the sense in this.

Gill Hill

The Crescent, Cookley.

27th September 2024.