

**Statement of Councillor Mary McDonnell re Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley Road, Broadwaters:**

1. I am a District and Town councillor for Broadwaters. I am also a retired solicitor- see point 4 below. But I am making this statement on behalf of concerned residents in the ward I represent.
2. It is impossible to overstate the strength of feeling of the residents against a quarry in this location in the middle of an area of Greenbelt. They feel, quite simply, the proposed quarry is in the wrong place.
3. I have seen the statement of fellow Broadwaters councillor Mary Rayner and I fully endorse everything she has said. Regarding health issues, Councillor Rayner points out the effects on local populations of dust and particulates caused by quarrying in surrounding areas within a radius of 1000 metres of a quarry. 38 Degrees recommends there should only be a quarry within an area of 10 households within that radius. 10 households! Well, just in Broadwaters, there are 1004 households within a 1000 m radius of the proposed quarry. That does not include Cookley or Wolverley. And there is also a total of 5 Schools within the 1000m radius: St Oswald's, Cookley Primary, Heathfield, Wolverley Cof E Secondary and Wolverley Seabright Primary.
4. I mentioned before that I am a retired solicitor. This got me a job as a Crown Prosecutor for the CPS and, in that role, I conducted trials of assault charges and the like. Why am I mentioning that you may ask? Well the relevance of this is that- say we had a trial listed of a disturbance in a pub- we would have 7 witnesses turn up at court the 1<sup>st</sup> time. But, if the trial didn't go ahead for lack of court time for instance, we would be lucky to have 2 witnesses turn up at a subsequent court date 6 months later. People experience fatigue, disillusionment etc and I fear that not as many members of the public will attend this 2<sup>nd</sup> Inquiry as attended the 1<sup>st</sup> one. They may also assume (wrongly) that the evidence they gave last time will still stand. There may also be fewer residents present as observers. One of my immediate neighbours in Wolverley attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Inquiry but I don't think they will be attending this time. I am not saying NRS didn't have the right to appeal but some residents may not understand really why they are back here doing it all again.
5. And there are just a couple of pieces of evidence given to the 1<sup>st</sup> Inquiry that I would like to pass on to the Inspector. As it was before I was elected, I did not speak at that inquiry but, being present as an observer, I firstly remember a young father phoning in from his van while he was working away in Cornwall. This young man was in tears and distress at the thought of there being a quarry in this location and very concerned about the likely health effects on his 2 young children. He said it would amount to the industrialisation of the Greenbelt. Secondly, I remember another witness saying passionately that NRS's proposals to reinstate the site and make it into an attractive park when they have extracted all the

sand and gravel will in no way compensate us local residents (of whom I am one) for the 10 years of noise, dust and extreme inconvenience we will all suffer if the quarry gets the go ahead. Please take notice of the strength of local feeling and do not let this happen.

*M McDonnell*

5 November 2024

Mary McDonnell, District and Town Councillor, Broadwaters Ward