

32, Bridge Road
Cookley
Kidderminster DY10 3SB
Nov 11th 2024

Lea Castle Quarry @ Worcestershire.gov.uk.
For the attention of Sue Harrison and
The Inspector, J Woodcock Bnat Res MURP Dip Law
METPI
Dear Sir,

I have attended part of each day
of the Enquiry about the proposed quarry
at Lea Castle Farm and have listened to
some compelling evidence by speakers
against the proposal.

I spoke at the Enquiry on Nov 5th
voicing some of my concerns about the
proposal. One of these was about the
HGVs travelling from the proposed quarry,
North, up the A449 towards Wolverhampton,
past the junctions that allow exit from
Cookley village, and the many collisions
that have occurred at them. This includes
a fatality.

After listening to retired policeman
Andy Webber, pointing out the many dangers
at the junction of the B4189 with the A449,

I wanted to draw attention to other hazards on the A449 if, daily, 100+ HGVs turned right (south) at this junction.

Many will do so, as it is the fastest, most direct route to the M5 and the motorway network.

The traffic travelling on the B4189 across the A449 at this junction, is particularly busy at rush hours and school collection times. Collisions regularly occur here. Vehicles from the 800 houses planned for Lea Castle Village will add to this.

400 metres after turning right on to the A449 the 100+ HGVs will enter the built up area of Broadwaters.

A few hundred metres further on, a large stream runs alongside the A449. After a period of extreme rain, the stream overflows and floods the road bringing traffic to a standstill.

With our changing climate, heavy rain is becoming more frequent.

Only 6 weeks ago traffic lights necessary at roadworks to repair the damage created by heavy rainfall and flooding, caused tailbacks as far as the B4189/A449 junction. In the opposite direction, traffic tailed back down the steep Barnsleys Hill (A449) to a mini-roundabout, where it joined traffic that tailed back on the A451 from Kidderminster town centre. This chaos lasted for several days.

The only other way to access the town centre from Cockey, and avoid the long delays, was to turn off onto the B4189 and travel past the 'proposed quarry' entrance! Many local people did so.

Huge container lorries travelling to and from Titus Steel Wheels in Cockey village also use this A449 route to the motorway network on their way overseas.

A further point that concerns me greatly is - what guarantee is there that restoration work will be completed?

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The land where a quarry was excavated a few years ago, and is situated very nearby, was never restored to its original state.

This was with the landowners consent! The same person owns the land this proposed quarry site is on!

If NRS Aggregates cease to exist as a company, how can they complete the restoration?

By contemplating offering a bond of £75,000 to cover unfinished restoration, suggests that NRS Aggregates have already thought about this being a possibility.

Mr Chris Whitehouse, from Worcestershire County Council, stated that the above figure would need to be at least 10 times bigger to even begin to cover the cost.

All this is extremely worrying.

I have attached what I read out at the enquiry on Nov 5th.

Thank you for listening to my concerns
Yours Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hope Rushon

04248074 HOPE RUSHON

Aug 14/14