

Dear all

I am writing, hoping I am not too late, to put forward my objections to the proposed quarry site at Lea Castle Farm.

My objections fall into three categories:

1. Mental health impact
2. Environmental
- 3 Health and safety and safeguarding

1. As a mental health first aid instructor I am helping to coach the nation about the importance of exercise for positive mental health. 1 in 4 adults currently experience mental health struggles at any given time. Exercise has been proven to be as effective as antidepressants when treating depression and now new research suggests anxiety too. This proposed quarry removes footpaths that people regularly use to travel between Wolverley and Cookley and enjoy walking through.

The changing landscape of this small area is huge right now with a new development on Stourbridge Road and Lea Castle already with more planned. Reducing green fields and opportunities for people to connect with nature and greenbelt land will have a negative impact on the mental health of the residents of the surrounding area. With the current coronavirus situation this quarry is just adding additional concern and mental health issues in the community. Local residents are fed up with fighting plans in this area and could really do without the pressure of this right now - otherwise the area may face a mental health crisis.

2. As a local resident, in one of the roads closest to the development, I am concerned about the reduction of green belt and land in the area. We have already had Stourbridge Road to Hurcott destroyed by the new development, also Lea Castle for which many beautiful trees have been removed and 800 new homes proposed in the area again. I don't feel this area can take any more development or disruption. I am concerned about noise pollution as we already have that from the building sites and who knows what Lea Castle will bring without the quarry plans. The air pollution from the trucks and lorries needed will be huge and at a time when we are all trying to reduce our carbon footprint. The area has new developments that add many families moving in which already heightens the pollution through their use of electrical items and vehicles etc. The quarry will add massively to this too. We are aiming to be carbon neutral in the near future so how does this proposition work towards that?

3. My main concern is for the health and safety and safeguarding aspects of the project. My children attend a primary school and secondary school less than half a mile from the site and we live right by it. I have grave concerns around the mineral dust and air pollution on the long term health impacts of children in the area. How well has this been researched in a longitudinal way?

The second point is the road it is on is so small and narrow. Some cars go on the pavement to go past if there is a lorry or large van already and the lorries straddle the

path also. The path is narrow and I see many children walk along here to and from school without parents (secondary) despite the council asking them not to. How could this project ensure those children remain safe during their journey when huge vehicles from the quarry will be going up and down and cars and lorries are forced to go on paths to avoid collisions with them. This is a huge concern for me!

I really think this area truly needs a break from development and health impacts both physical and mental.

Please, I implore you to find an area that is not built up, not residential for this quarry. I am always flummoxed to wonder why these things have to happen in residential areas and not in the middle of nowhere the same for new housing developments too...

I hope you consider my points.

Kind regards

Mrs Morgan and family