

I write to object to the planning application for a proposed quarry at Lea Castle, Cookley.

I moved to Cookley 6 years ago to bring my children up in a healthier environment, on the green belt. We lived near a busy double lane road with industrial units at the end of our road. I didn't make that move to be pushed out of a lovely village.

I am a runner as well a keen walker, we are an active family with a dog who requires lots of exercise. We use the proposed site area daily; It's a favourite route for access to neighbouring villages as well as fitness levels and it helps my mental health and well-being. It is ludicrous to locate a quarry here, I feel it is totally inappropriate.

I am concerned about the obvious statistics linked to silica dust;

Research has shown that these particles can degrade air quality as far as 750 meters away, leading to a variety of serious health problems, particularly in children and other vulnerable populations. I live at the top of Castle Road, within the 750 metres.

Silicosis usually develops after being exposed to silica for 10-20 years, by which time the quarry will be done and dusted, literally. How can a plan be granted knowing this is our children/future?

Repeated exposure to silica leads to many known respiratory diseases and infections - just when we are coming out of a global pandemic, this is the last thing we need exposure to.

Silica exposure is linked to cancer. What about local residents who are fit and health conscious?

Silica exposures kill over 1,000 workers a year in the UK, WORKERS alone. Local residents would not choose to this exposure, we aren't being paid to put our lives at risk to earn a living.

I also disagree with the proposed traffic congestion caused by the quarry.

I'm concerned for the wildlife and eco-systems. In these times where we are trying desperately to restore many insects due to their worrying decline, a quarry goes against everything we are trying to do to restore what we have lost. I feel like the quarry proposal is going backwards.

The only people who are for this quarry, are those who want to make money, it has no other benefits for anyone or any thing.

A quarry at the proposed site will be absolutely devastating for the village, the surrounding area and its people.

Regards,

Lorna Richards