

Hello,

I would like to put forward my objection to the proposed Quarry. I was unable to make last weeks meeting so I wrote a letter, however it was felt that It couldn't be read out and heard without me being there in person.

Seven years ago I made the decision to move my eldest daughter from our local primary school to Heathfield Knoll School. This decision was made as her little sister (Thea) had just been diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis at two weeks old. Cystic Fibrosis is a life limiting condition primarily effecting the lungs. I needed a school where all three of my children could be in smaller classes to lower the risk of Thea picking up coughs, colds and chest infections, but most importantly a school where there is outdoor space and where children thrive both inside and outside of the classroom. All three of my children are currently very happy and doing well at the school.

Like other children with Cystic Fibrosis, Thea has daily challenges and has recently undergone extra tests and a surgical procedure. If the proposed Quarry goes ahead this will (with no doubt in my mind) directly affect Thea's health further. Vehicle emissions from heavy plant machinery passing the school, emissions from the on-site vehicles/ machinery and the dust particularly in dryer weather will all impact on air pollution. We have been educated by her medical team from Birmingham Children's Hospital and Worcestershire Royal Hospital that increased air pollution puts Thea at a higher risk of exacerbations, infections and reduction in lung function. There are many articles and years of research to evidence this.

Thea already faces too many challenges, many more than most children. Thea simply can not be at a school where there is a higher level of air pollution, undoubtedly this would be the case if the Quarry is approved. I would have no choice but to look at an alternative provision for not only Thea but her sisters also. This upheaval would be so unfair on all three of the girls.

Our community needs to be putting our children first and we should all be protecting those more vulnerable.

Kind regards  
Victoria Newton