

Good morning

My name is Yolande Biggs, I live in Cookley approximately a five minute walk from the North Lodge entrance to the Lea Castle estate.

Having objected to the proposed quarry at every stage since it was first mentioned over five years ago, I feel compelled to write again.

I've attended meetings, consultations and both public inquiries. During all of these I haven't heard one thing that has made me believe that quarrying in the greenbelt, in the middle of schools and significant residential areas is appropriate.

Last week we listened to a report from a police officer who has extensive knowledge of traffic measures etc and carries out forensic works post accidents. What an awful job that must be sometimes! I do not understand why Worcestershire County Council accepted the Highway measures using such scant information, eg. Traffic survey carried out on one occasion in December. When a second survey was carried out several years later, the number of motorbikes had increased by a huge percentage, yet the NRS report dismissed that as insignificant. The officer's HGV evidence was also highly concerning with regards to blind spots, stopping distances and mud on the roads.

Rule 6 party's evidence regarding inert waste given that HS2 has been cancelled and the timings of the Lea Castle village works no longer aligns was significant. The impact that this has on the travelling North element for the proposed 60% of the HGV's is significant.

Regarding inert infill itself, given that NRS is having to fill in a quarry that is right next to the junction of the M5, what economic and environmental sense does it make for them to drive past there to infill at Lea Castle? How likely is it?

With regards to noise and dust. It took me a while to realise what receptors are. How dehumanising! The affect that this quarry will have on PEOPLE; babies, children, men, women, the elderly, wildlife, horses etc will be detrimental to say the least. The experts dress it up in their reports and acceptable levels are discussed. When you currently experience no quarry noise and no quarry dust, how is any level acceptable?

The experts are being paid to portray a positive picture but put simply this proposed quarry is in the wrong place. The number of mitigating measures being proposed illustrates this, they seem determined to shoehorn it in at all costs.

It was interesting to hear our MP quoting that in Canada it would not be allowed in such close proximity to residential areas. It is surrounded on all sides by houses and businesses.

Lea Castle estate is our jewel in the crown. Our last bit of greenbelt, a sanctuary. Walking over on that estate is instantly calming and it is very well used by a great many. The mental and physical health of thousands of people benefit from this space. It needs to be protected.

My last point is regarding restoration. Our village has no trust in what is being 'sold'. Firstly, if only one or two thirds of the materials removed are being replaced, the site will not be restored. Secondly, given the landowners previous performance e.g. landslip in Lea Lane and should anything happen to the particular division of NRS making the application in the meantime, I have no confidence that the work will be carried out.

I ask that the appeal is dismissed and that steps are taken to remove this land from the minerals register. Just because the minerals are there doesn't mean that they should be extracted and blight so many lives.

Thank you

Regards

Yolande Biggs  
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