

From: Emily Smith

Sent: 07 November 2024 19:38

To: Lea Castle Quarry <leacastlequarry@worcestershire.gov.uk>

Subject: [WCC EXTERNAL] Urgent Objection to Proposed Quarry Development in Cookley – Protect Our Children’s Health

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Dear Planning Inspectorate,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed quarry development in Cookley, primarily because of the significant health risks and lasting damage it poses to our children, families, and local environment. This should be the MAIN point brought to everyone’s attention given it’s nearly a life and death situation that we are trying to avoid.

This proposal presents a serious and unacceptable threat to the health and wellbeing of our community. The daily movement of a large number of heavy goods vehicles through residential areas, close to schools and playgrounds, will drastically reduce air quality. The emissions from these vehicles, combined with dust and particulates from the quarrying process, will expose our children and vulnerable residents to harmful pollutants regularly. These toxic particles pose long-term health risks, particularly to young, developing lungs.

In addition to air pollution, the constant noise from quarry machinery, vehicles, and traffic will disrupt the peace of our neighbourhoods and local schools. This ongoing noise will make it harder for children to focus and learn, while the dust, traffic, and machinery will continue for many years. It’s distressing to think that a whole generation of Cookley’s children will grow up surrounded by this constant disruption.

The loss of a significant amount of greenbelt land makes the situation even more concerning. These areas provide a vital space for outdoor play and recreation, as well as support local wildlife and agriculture. Once taken for industrial use, this land will never be restored to its natural state, leaving a permanent scar on our countryside and jeopardising our environment.

We also have serious concerns regarding the materials planned for infilling after quarrying operations. Without clear assurances that only safe, non-toxic materials will be used, we worry about potential contamination, which could affect our soil and water sources for years to come. The long-term implications of such infilling could leave our community at risk well after the quarry is finished.

For all these reasons—poor air quality, dangerous traffic volumes, excessive noise, destruction of greenbelt, loss of agricultural land, infill risks, and harm to wildlife habitats—I urge you to reject this proposal. Our children’s health, community character, and natural environment must come first.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Smith

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