

STATEMENT FROM JUDY HINKSMAN, RESIDENT OF COOKLEY VILLAGE
REGARDING THE PROPOSED QUARRY

My name is Judy Hinksman, a resident of Cookley village.

Here we are again! I did not envisage having to pluck up courage to speak but, again, feel compelled to do so.

I have lived in Cookley all my life, over 70 years, as have my parents, grandparents and many more ancestors. I am a member of Wolverley and Cookley Historical Society but I speak on a personal basis.

Lea Castle holds a very special meaning to me. It is where my Grandparents met whist working as an Errand Boy and Parlour Maid on the estate.

We have already lost the spectacular Lea Castle itself.

SHOW PICTURE

The thought of losing the beautiful parkland and landscape as well appals me. The far-reaching panoramic views are spectacular. Have we not learnt that previous poor planning decisions have destroyed our local history and beautiful buildings?

On Monday I listened to all the very eloquent statements from the local villagers and it was lovely to hear that so many young newcomers to Cookley had fallen in love with the village and appreciate its beautiful location and surroundings as much as I do.

As someone who has lived here all my life, the rapid change over recent years has saddened me. The battle against new housing on green belt land has already been lost, and even more building threatens to change the nature and ethos of the village. We are only one field away from the urban sprawl of Kidderminster.

An aspect of the application I have not heard raised is the views of the site from other locations. Residents and walkers in locations such as Trimpley, Kidderminster, Kinver and Blakeshall will be met with the sight of an ugly quarry in the middle of beautiful countryside.

I have seen what the restoration of previous local quarries results in and I find it impossible to believe that the site would be returned to traditional open parkland as it is now.

I urge the enquiry to reach the conclusion that there are no special circumstances which would allow this precious area of green belt to be destroyed.

Judy Hinksman 7/11/2024