

7th November 2024

Dear sir or madam,

As a concerned parent of Cookley school I am writing to submit my objection to the proposed sand and gravel quarry at Lea Castle Farm.

I object to the facility due to the proximity to local communities such as Cookley, Wolverley, Sion Hill and Broadwaters which comprise a significant number of residents, schools and thriving leisure facilities as well as sections of the community who are likely to be more vulnerable to the operations such as young children and the elderly. In particular for the following reasons:

- Greenbelt - The quarrying for minerals interrupts and detracts from the purpose of the green belt as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- Air quality - The emission of potentially harmful particles resulting from quarrying activities and increased heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements. The subsequent impacts on the health of local people and those using the PRow network.
- Health and well-being - More generally than the potential health impact of particle emissions, the concern caused to local people and the ill effects on their health. As well as the effects on mental and physical well-being of the loss of vital green space and important leisure routes.
- Noise - Resulting directly from activities and use of quarrying equipment and indirectly from the additional traffic with a high percentage of HGV movements.
- Duration - This is not just a short-lived interruption to life for locals, this is planned for 10-11 years plus restoration. Putting that into context personally, the routes we regularly use with our now 7- and 10-year-old will be impacted until they're adults.
- Infill - Concerns over what will be used for infill and the potential harmful effects of these materials.
- Loss of quality agricultural land - For the period of time operations and restoration take and even after quarrying operations finish, will this ever be restored back to its current quality.
- Wildlife and loss of habitat - there is a continuous network of trees and hedgerows supporting wildlife. The cumulative loss and interruption with nearby residential development sites (and further areas recently removed from the green belt in the adopted Local Plan) is concerning and suitable mitigation not offered. Particular impacts on red list species such as linnets and skylarks.
- PRow network amenity - Multiple routes used by a significant number of pedestrians, cyclists and equestrian riders. The disruption to PRowS in terms of routing and proximity of users to noisy activities which emit potentially harmful particles is worrying.

I ask that the genuine concerns of local people are considered when making a decision. Whilst I understand there has to be a sound reason from a policy perspective to refuse an application, I believe there are several matters which mean the development does not fully comply with relevant local and national policy.

The real life residual cumulative impacts are likely to be severe in NPPF terms. Whilst temporary, the period over which activities and restoration would take place is not insignificant.

Sincerely

Kara a Mikolajczyk