

F1065

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry at Lea Castle Farm

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed sand and gravel quarry at Lea Castle Farm. As a resident of the newly developed Lea Castle Village, I am deeply concerned about the profound negative impacts this quarry will have on our community's quality of life, property values, and the safety and well-being of our children and families.

Firstly, the quarry's proximity to current and future school sites is particularly alarming. Not only are there several schools near the planned location, but a new school is set to be built directly opposite the proposed quarry site. This means our children will be exposed to harmful dust and particulates daily—not just during school hours, but also while playing in school playgrounds and participating in sports such as cricket. The health risks associated with inhaling silica dust and other particulates are well-documented, and it is entirely unacceptable that our children's health and quality of life should be compromised in this way.

Moreover, the quarry's operations, including up to 150 HGV movements per day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., will disrupt our quiet residential environment and pose severe safety hazards. Lea Lane, which is planned to reopen to vehicular traffic, will become a primary route for these heavy goods vehicles, posing a significant risk to those who rely on these roads to safely walk or cycle to school and other amenities. The impact on our older children commuting to Wolverley, in particular, would be immense, turning what should be safe routes into highly dangerous pathways.

In addition to these safety concerns, the environmental and visual impact on our local area is substantial. Over 100 acres of Lea Castle Farm will be completely decimated by this development. This will not only destroy local habitats but also drastically reduce the scenic and ecological value of our community's surroundings. Our neighbourhood, which we chose for its peaceful, rural appeal, is under threat of becoming an industrial zone—resulting in a significant drop in property values and a decline in the quality of life for every resident.

It is also incredibly disheartening to see NRS persistently pushing this proposal, despite the community's consistent objections. The reduced volume of objections this time around is not due to a lack of concern but a reflection of the fatigue caused by having to repeatedly protest. This approach by NRS appears to be a deliberate tactic to wear down residents, hoping we will simply accept the proposal out of frustration. However, I assure you, our stance against this quarry remains firm, and we will continue to oppose it.

The needs and well-being of the local community should be prioritised over industrial gain. A quarry on this site would permanently alter the character and safety of our village, and it would put our children's health at risk.

I urge you to reject this proposal and protect the interests of the local community and its future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Wells

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