

I am formally objecting to the proposed quarry at Lea Castle Farm.

There are many reasons that this quarry should not go ahead.

1. Air quality and pollution should be urgently considered with regard to the impact on health of all in the surrounding areas. With numerous primary schools surrounding the quarry, it is inevitable that the dust would travel. Is money/the quarry going to be more important than the health of us all especially young children? I have four grandchildren and three attend Cookley Seabright Primary School and also live in the area. Do you honestly believe that the dust particles will not affect their lungs? Just take a moment to think if this was your grandchildren or anyone else for that matter. Recent fires in Kidderminster affected the air quality and everyone was advised to keep their windows and doors shut. Cookley Primary was also shut on one of the occasions due to smoke and pollutants flowing across from Kidderminster. The quarry would be even closer for the wind to take particles in the air to the surrounding villages.

2. The environmental impact would be devastating. Wildlife, beautiful scenery and walks make these villages what they are. They attract many to visit the area and give peace and tranquility for people to escape the stresses of modern day life. The area is well used and brings in money to the local pubs, caravan park, pitch and putt as an example. No business will survive if the quarry goes ahead. People will keep away. Same goes for housing, no one will want to live near a quarry and this will affect housing prices. Be prepared for Lea Castle Estate to sell no houses.

3. I am also extremely worried about traffic congestion/pollution as it currently stands, never mind all of the lorries that would be going back and forth to the quarry. On the surrounding roads, mainly the Wolverhampton Road and Stourbridge Road there have been serious accidents. The roads have high use and with the proposed quarry and an extra 800 houses, primary school and business units on Lea Castle Estate, there will be more accidents waiting to happen and more pollution in the air. Where the quarry is proposed, there is a very narrow footpath. Again, children walk along here to get to school. Having lorries continuously use this road if the quarry goes ahead is concerning for the safety of individuals. One foot wrong from an individual or driver error plus possible road surface issues (mud, water, ice etc.) may cause loss of life by the lorries or indeed vehicles that pass by.

I do not believe this quarry has any place in our local area due to the adverse effect on peoples mental health and well being. I do not believe any income that is proposed to come from this quarry will outweigh any of the losses that will happen for businesses locally. New build house sales will be lost. Traffic/accidents will increase and pollution/particles from the quarry will affect the health for all, regardless what is said.

I urge you to reject this planning application.

Carol Fearn