

Mr Joshua Scholes
Planning Officer
Development Control
Department of Economy and Infrastructure
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

6th June 2018

Dear Mr Scholes

Application Ref: 18/00023/SCO

Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry, land at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley

Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council discussed the above at meeting 5th June 2018.

The Parish Council are very concerned that inadequate time has been given by yourselves for the Parish Council to fully examine the Scoping Opinion and relevant documents and complete lack of consultation with the Public. Your Letter was dated 10th May, with comments required by 31st May which you have, after request extended until today. Your e mail dated 11th May states that The Council would like to receive comments from the public on this Scoping Opinion but no public have been made aware of the application, not even residents that border the site.

The following are comments from the Parish Council, I also attach letter with comments from Wolverley & Cookley Historical Society.

Traffic / Access

- The application would result in increased heavy traffic on the already busy B4189 Wolverley Road.
- The new proposed site access off the B4189 into the site is on the brow of a hill in an unrestricted area and would be extremely dangerous.
- The proposal for new access would break through a historical 19th century wall.
- The application does not provide detail of the number and types of vehicles or equipment that will be used.
- Footpath 624b runs through Phase 1 and 2 of the site – what is the proposal for this?

Environment

- An ancient wall borders the site, this is a local landmark and will be greatly affected by the proposed development.
- This wall is already structurally unsafe (see attached photograph) and quarrying works could further damage its structural integrity.
- The documents include proposed bunds which may not hold together due to soil quality and will look unsightly.
- The proposed bunds are also limited and do not cover the whole site so do not protect residents on the Wolverley Road and Brown Westhead.
- There will also be a clear view of the Quarry from the A449 as there is no bund proposed.
- Item 4.2 Imported Inert Material, 60,000m² per year – there is no detail of what type of material this will be and how this will affect the environment.
- The Parish Council want to know the proposed operating times and any proposals for artificial lighting.
- The proposals for restoration of the landscape are unacceptable as they are not phased.

Noise

- There are serious concerns over the level of noise that will result from the JCB diggers, dumper trucks, crusher, sorting machinery, lorry loading/unloading machinery inside the site.
- There is also serious concern over the noise from the trucks entering and exiting the site.
- Noise disturbance will be considerable, and it will need to be known if noise levels will be acceptable and if they affect properties close to the proposed development.
- An independent report should be undertaken on noise.

Air

- The inert material used to infill could dramatically affect the air quality locally.
- The dust generated, and the nature of the particulates will represent a risk to the local air quality, particularly to lungs.
- The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that a planning authority must ensure there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on human health. This assurance would need to be provided.

Wildlife

- The proposed area for the quarry covers a biodiverse area where many animals and fungi are likely to be affected. A full investigation would be required.
- The site also contains a number of trees which would need to be protected.
- The land on the site is described as “acid sand” which provides a unique habitat for various flora and fauna which would be lost forever.

Local Schools

- There are 5 schools near the proposed quarry, many children walk along the path adjacent to the wall on Wolverley Road, these children will be affected by the noise, air quality and safety aspect.
- Also children from Heathfield School, opposite the proposed quarry will be affected with noise and air pollution whilst playing.

Impact on Local Economy

- Wolverley and Cookley have many local businesses that will be affected.
- The Caravan Park could be affected by noise, dust and air pollution and visitor numbers reducing due to proximity.
- The Brown Westhead Football pitches would be affected as above.
- The Lea Castle Equestrian Centre, at the heart of the development would be most impacted.
- The proposed quarry will have an impact on local house prices and deter new residents onto the proposed housing developments at Sion Hill and Lea Castle.

The Parish Council are totally opposed to this proposed development and feel that it would have a devastating affect on the ancient Parish of Wolverley and Cookley.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B J Drew
Clerk to Wolverley & Cookley Parish Council