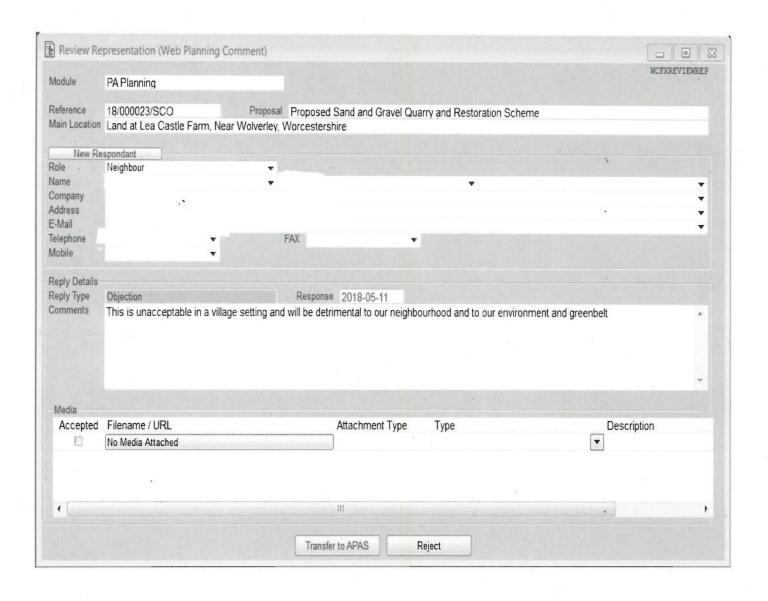
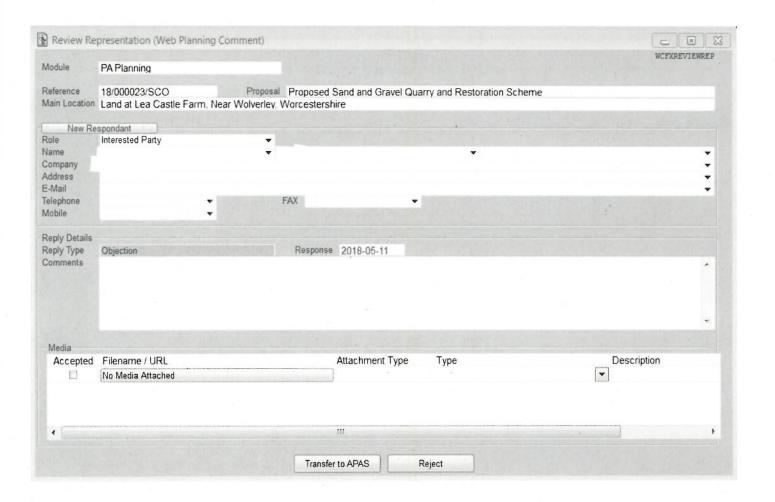
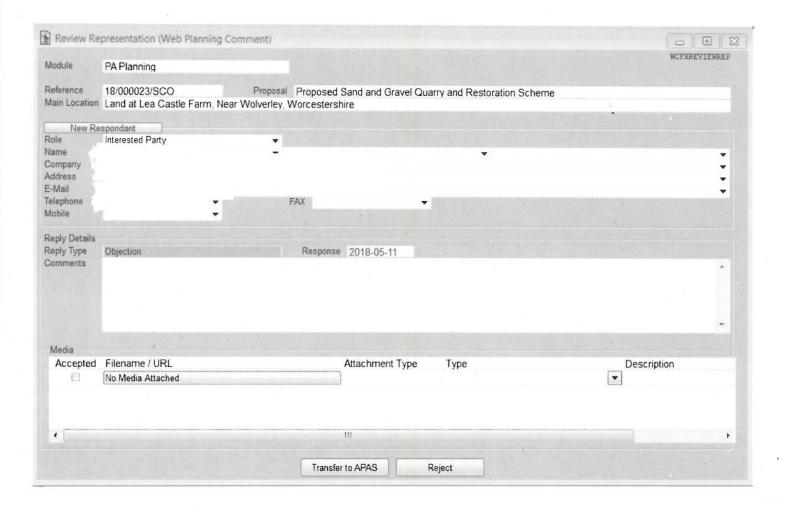
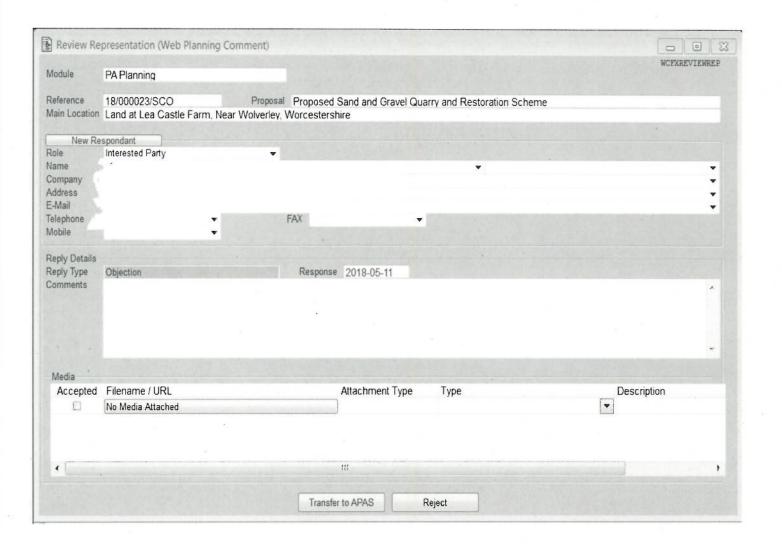
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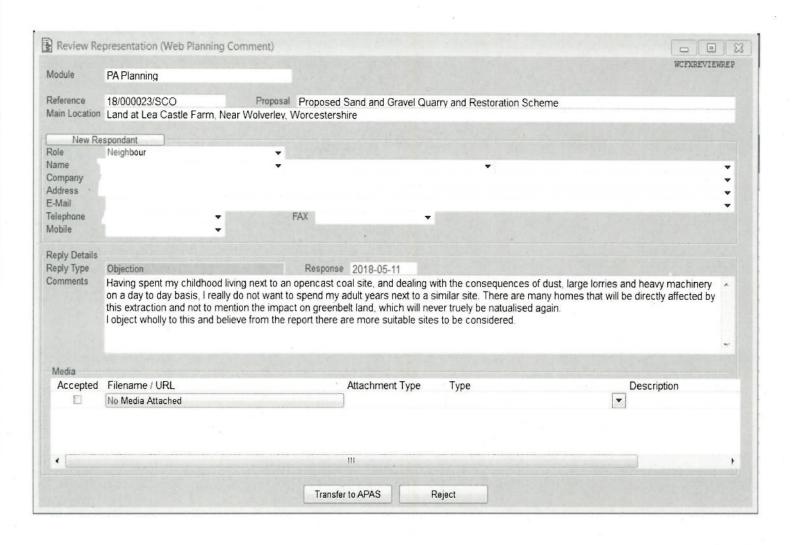


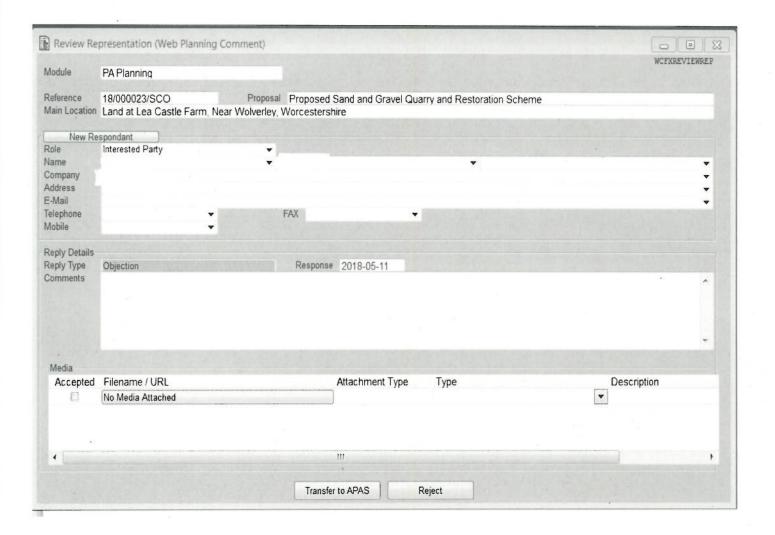
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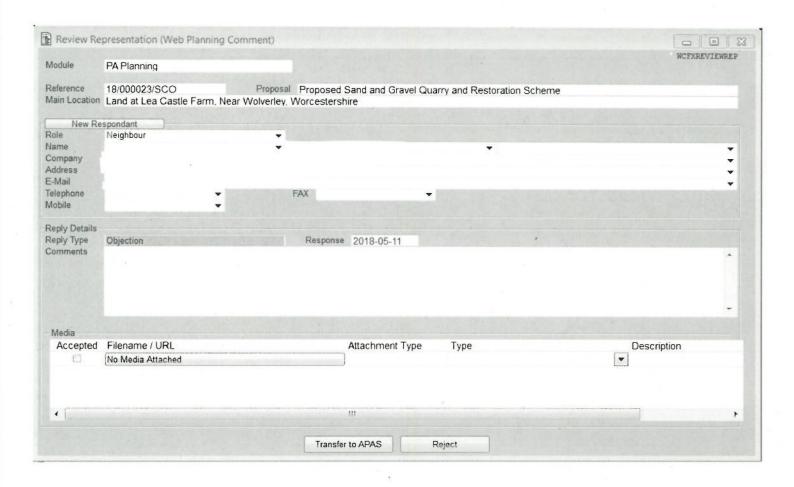


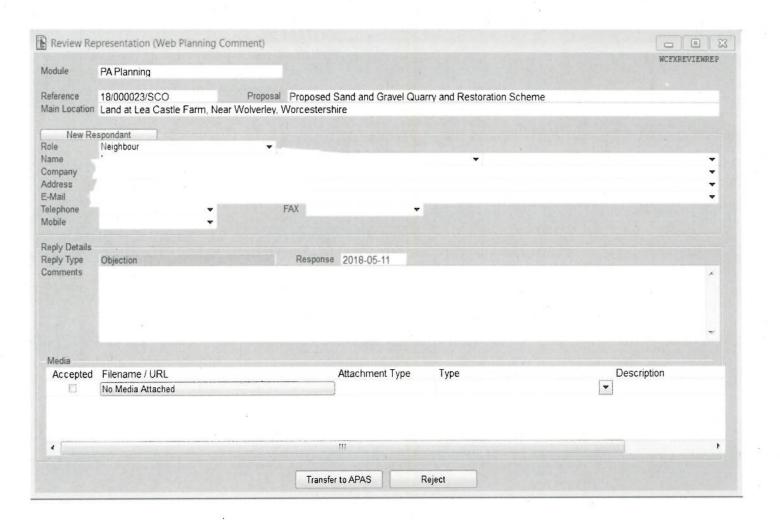


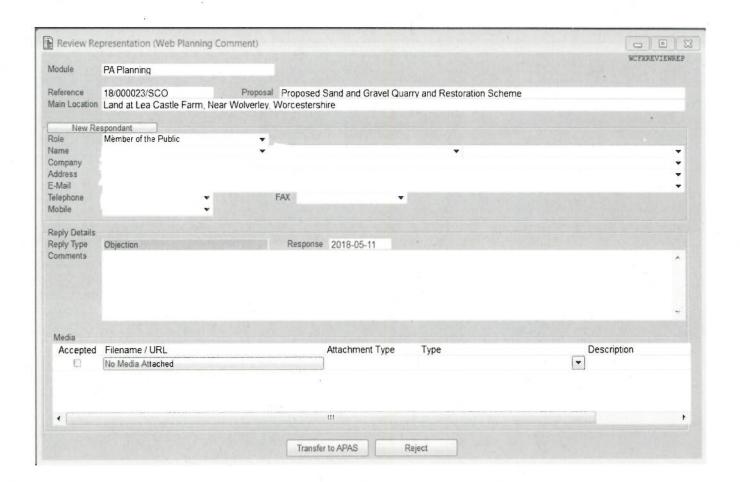
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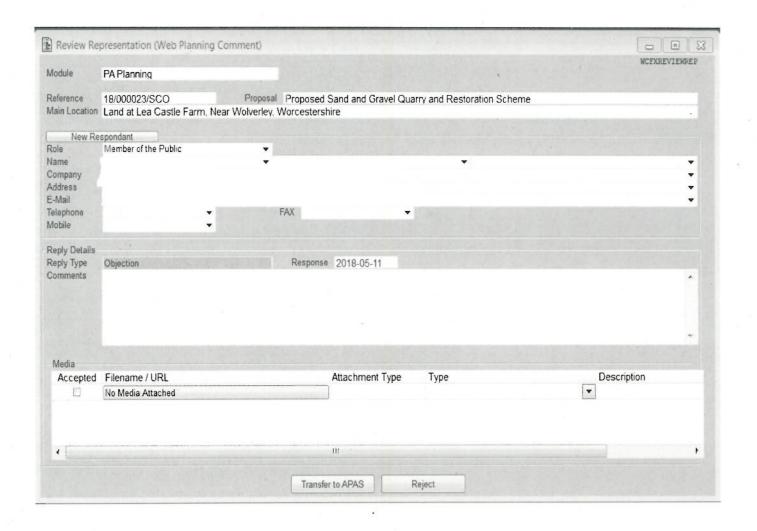


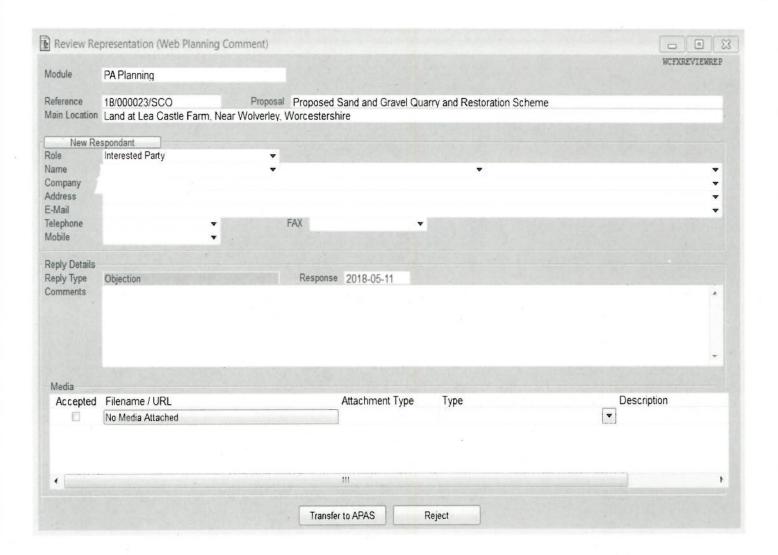


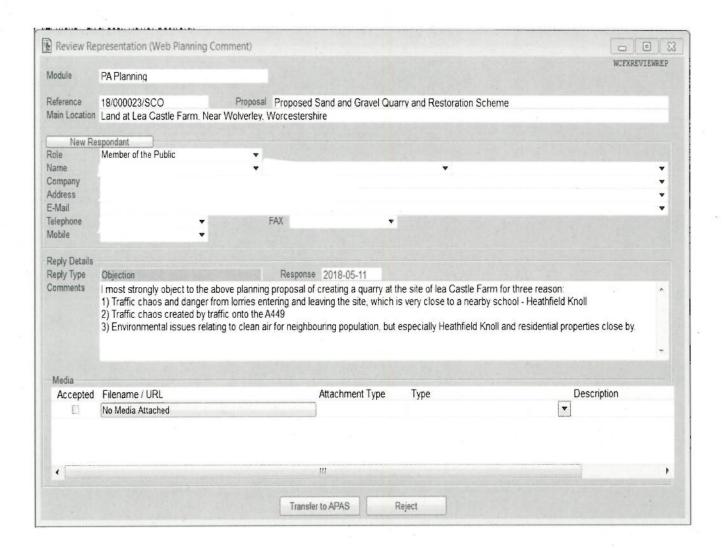


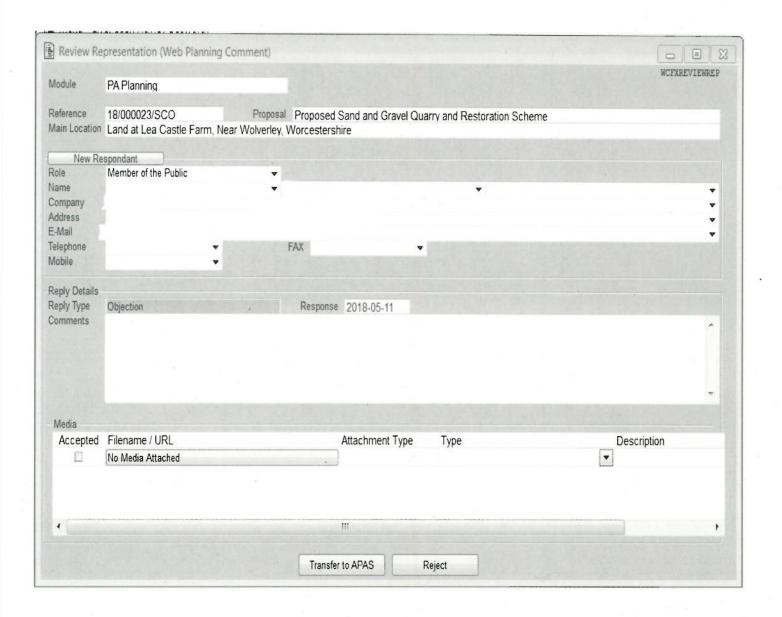


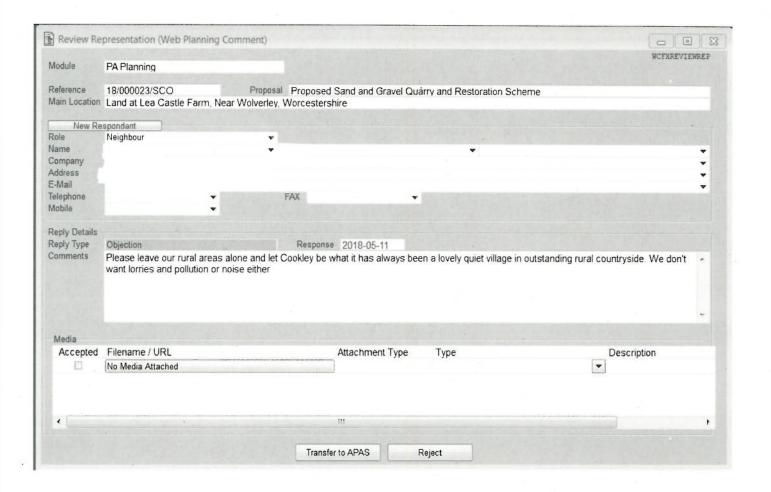




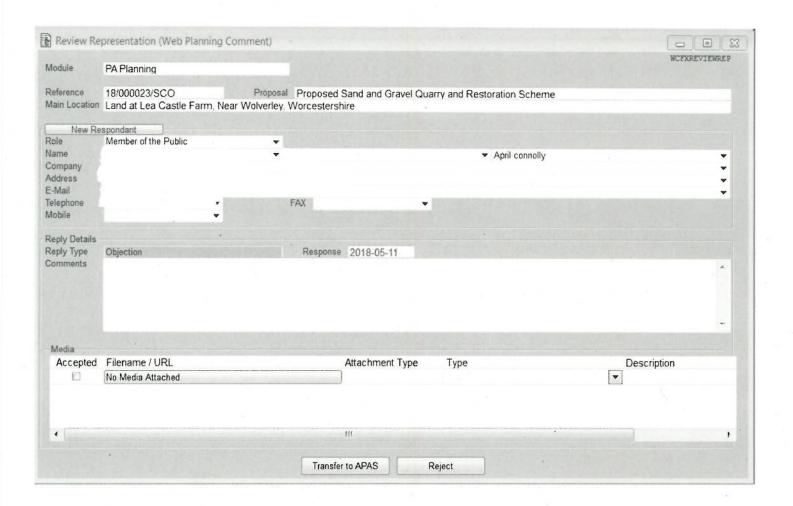




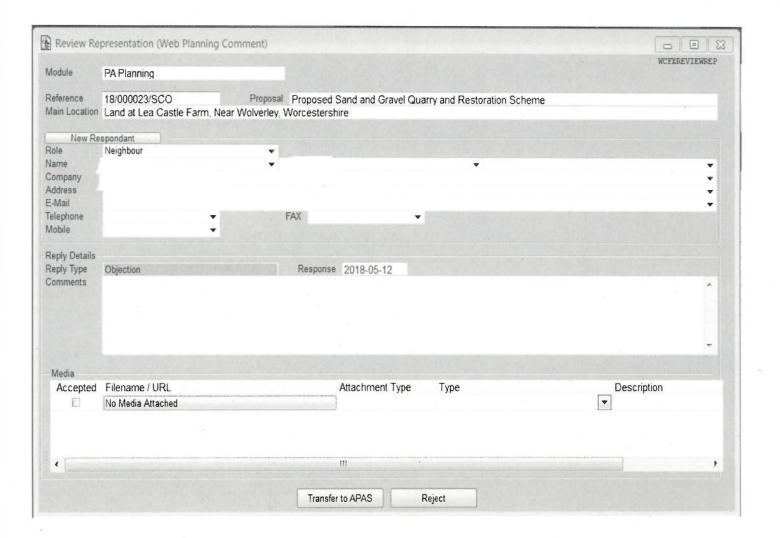




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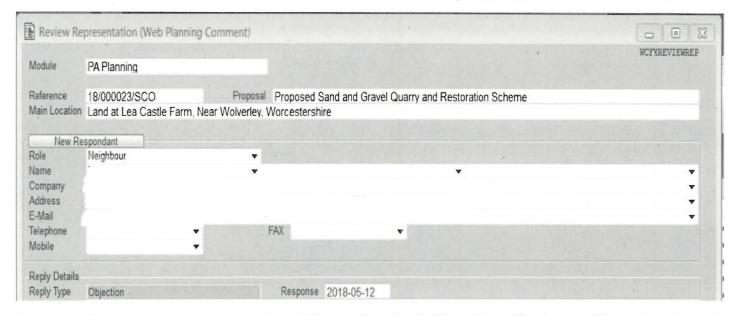


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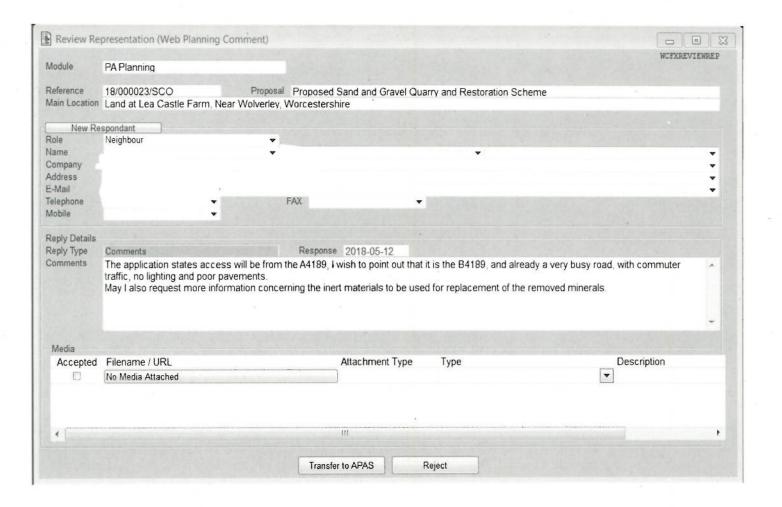


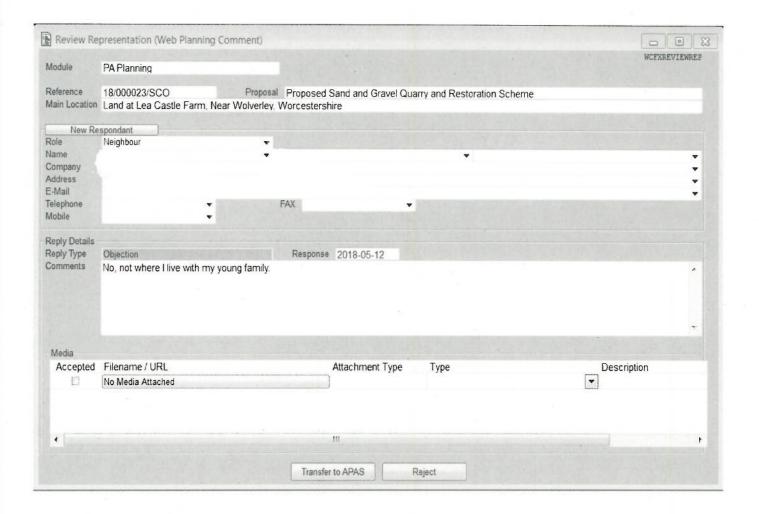
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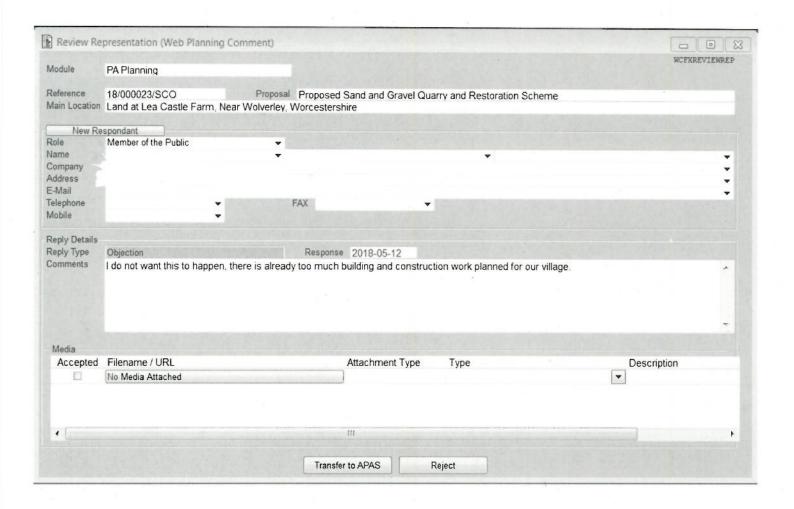
on the Lea Castle Estate I fear that I will be affected by the possible sand and gravel

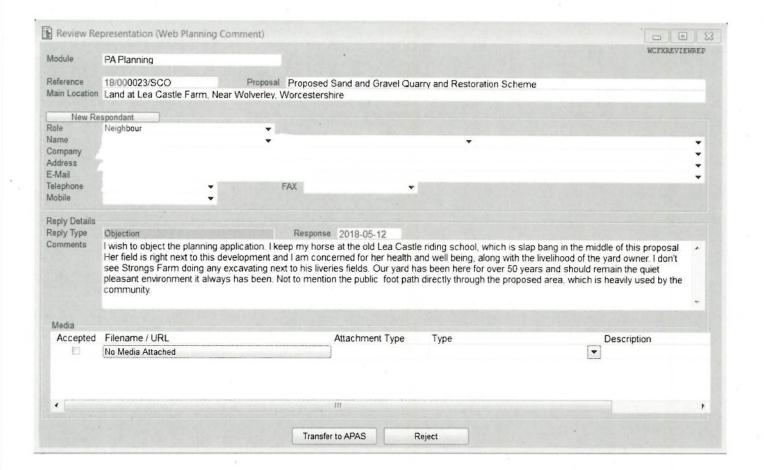
excavation more than anyone else. This property has been in my family nearly 60 years. I have lived here for practically 50 years of my life. At my age it is unlikely

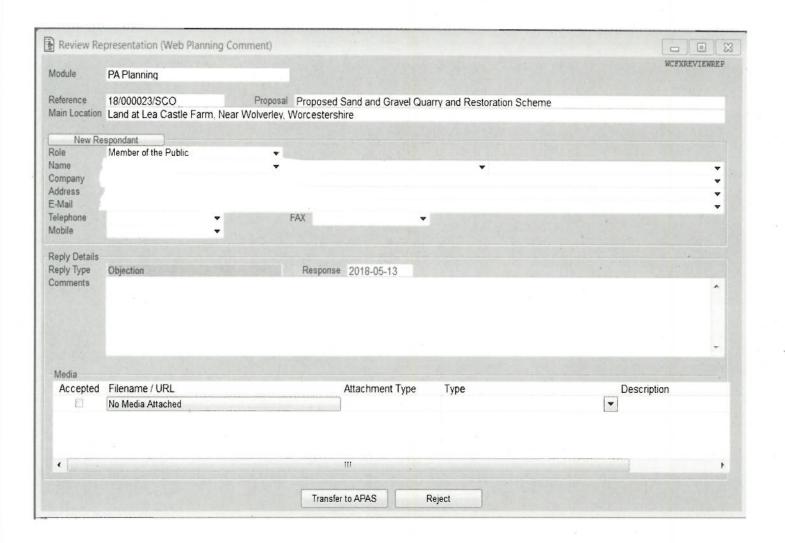
that I will be around to see the landscaped countryside around the property following the end of its use as a site. If the proposal goes ahead it will mean my latter years will be blighted by dust, noise, vibrations, excessive traffic etc. A life sentence possibly shortened by the health risks of the project. I also find it difficult to understand any joined up thinking when it comes to agreeing to build over a thousand new properties on the other side of the A449 only to have the prevailing winds cover them with dust and all the other health aggravating problems the extraction would create. There are also 4 good schools in close proximity. Isn't there somewhere else that would impact on less people? It needs some serious sensible thinking and not just about money.

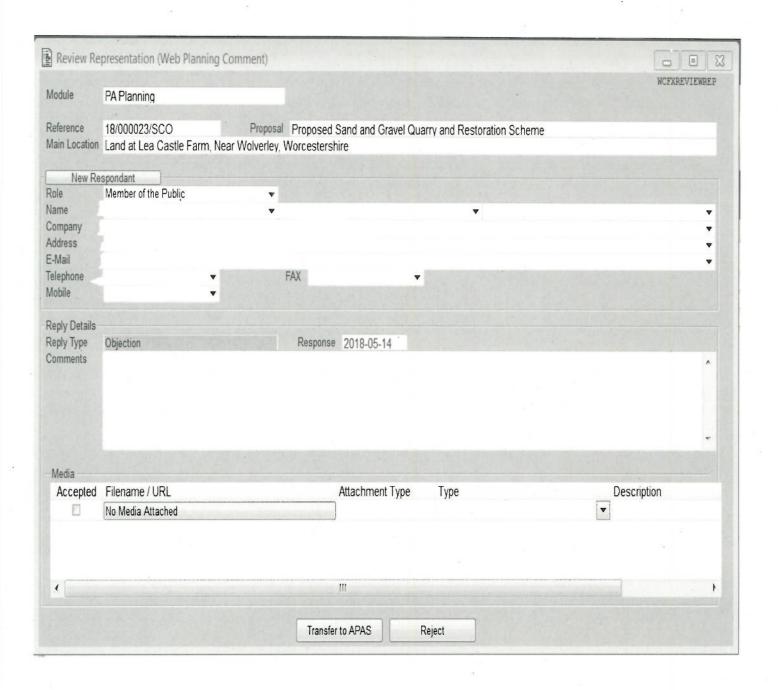


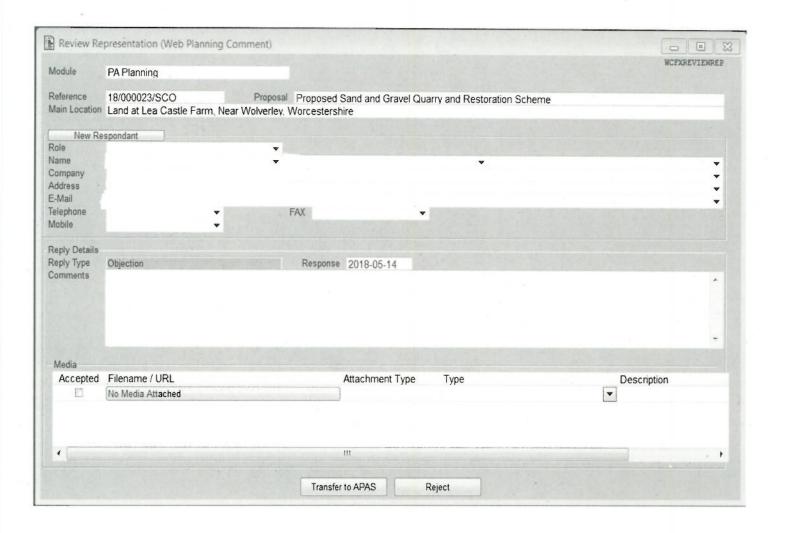




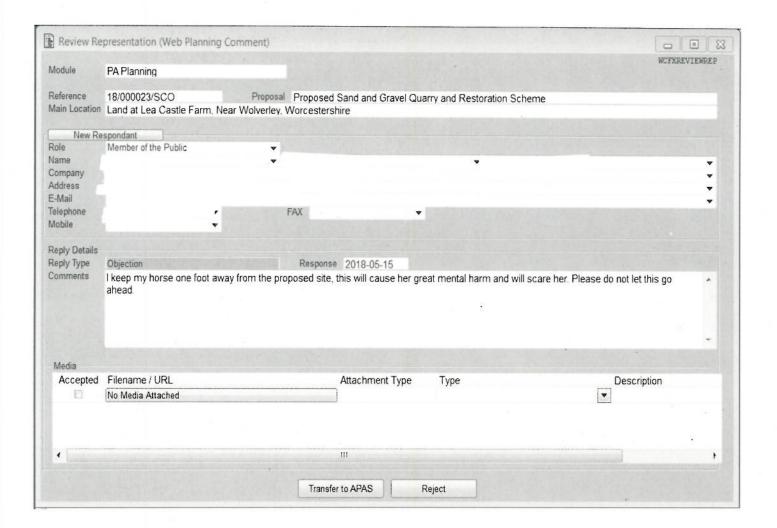


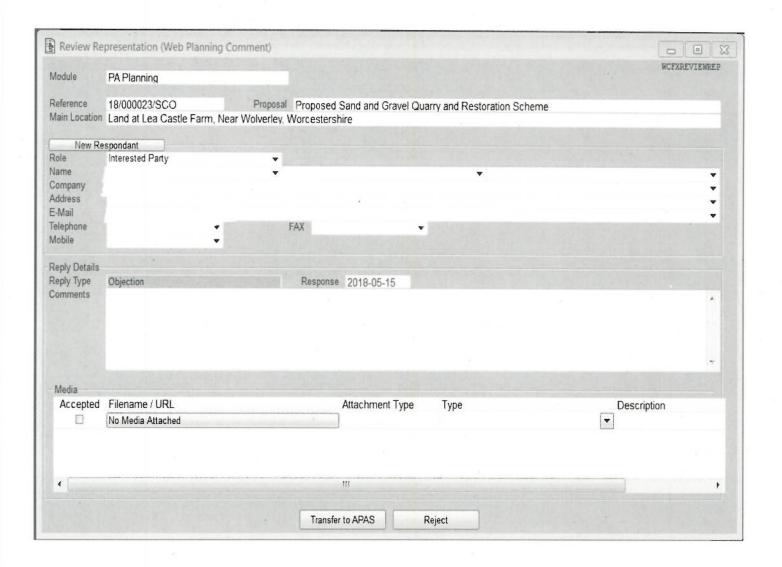


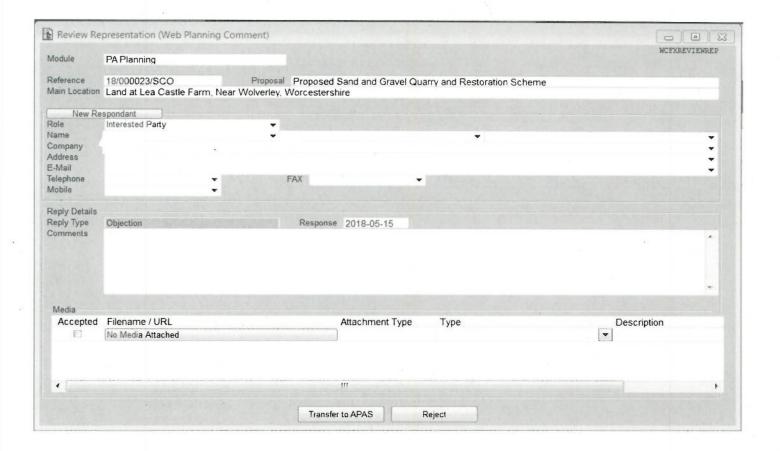


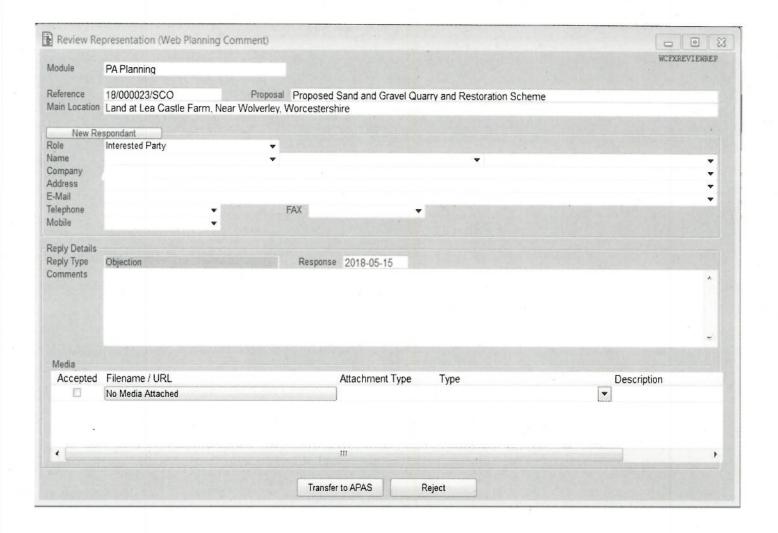


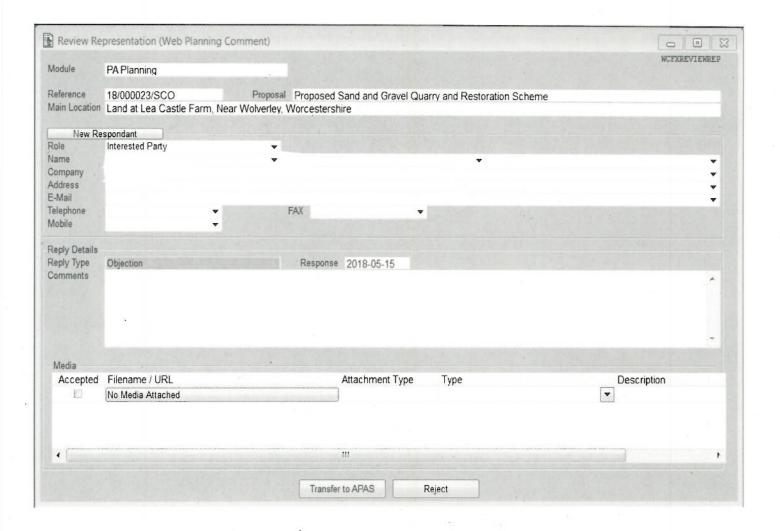
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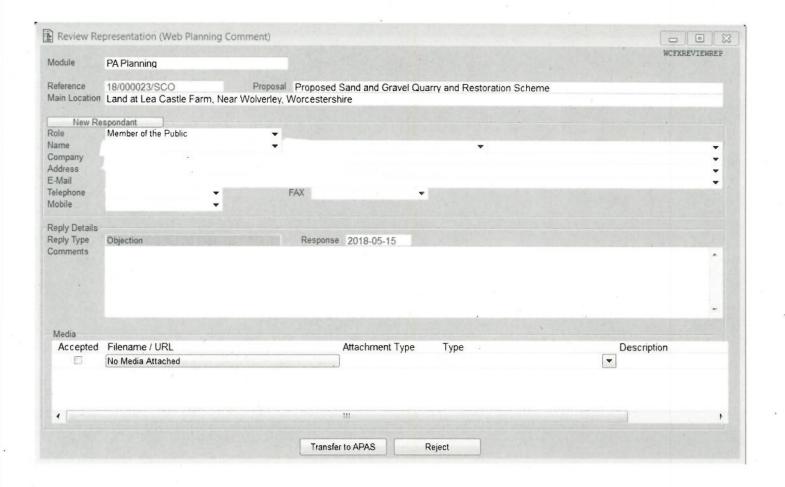


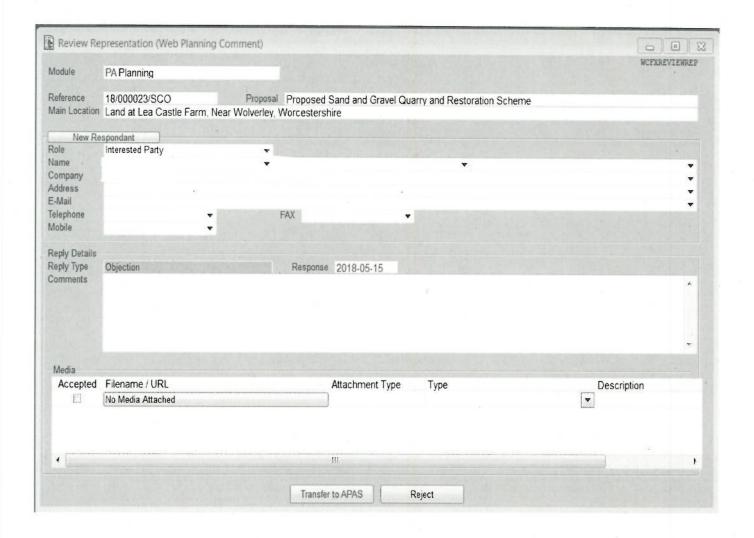


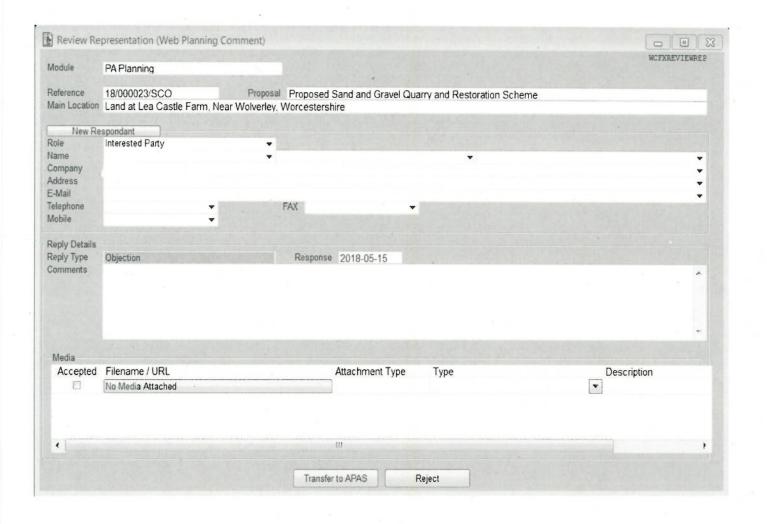


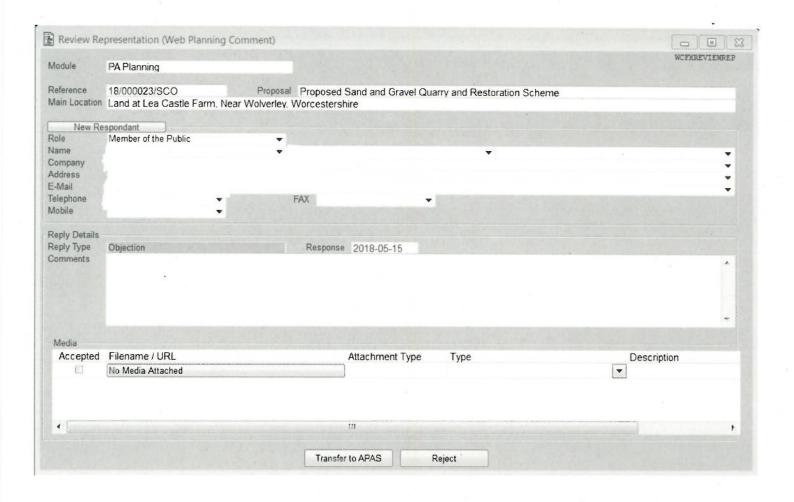


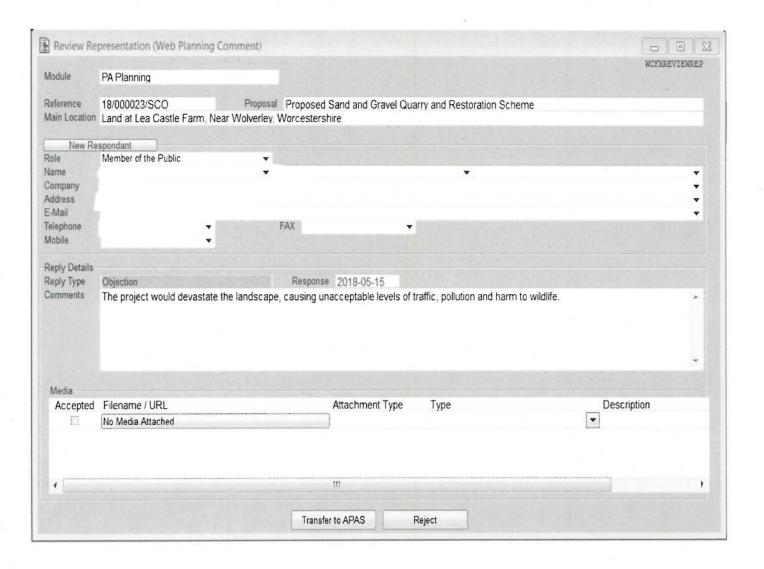


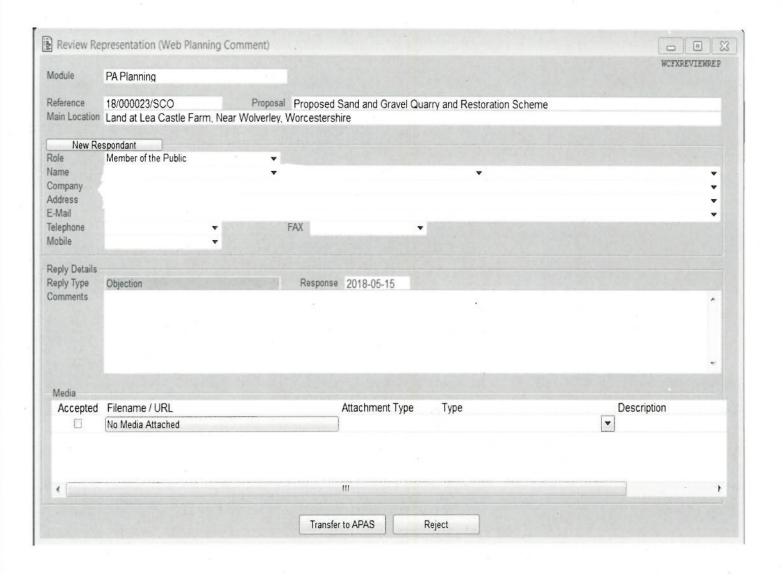


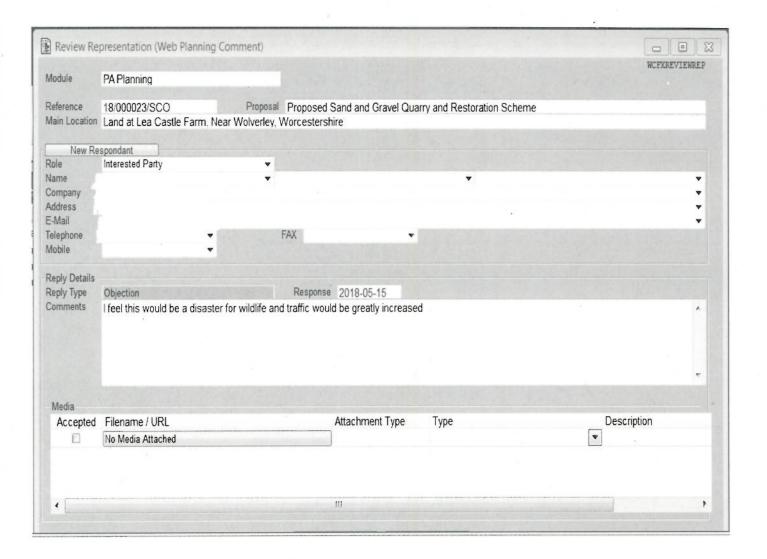




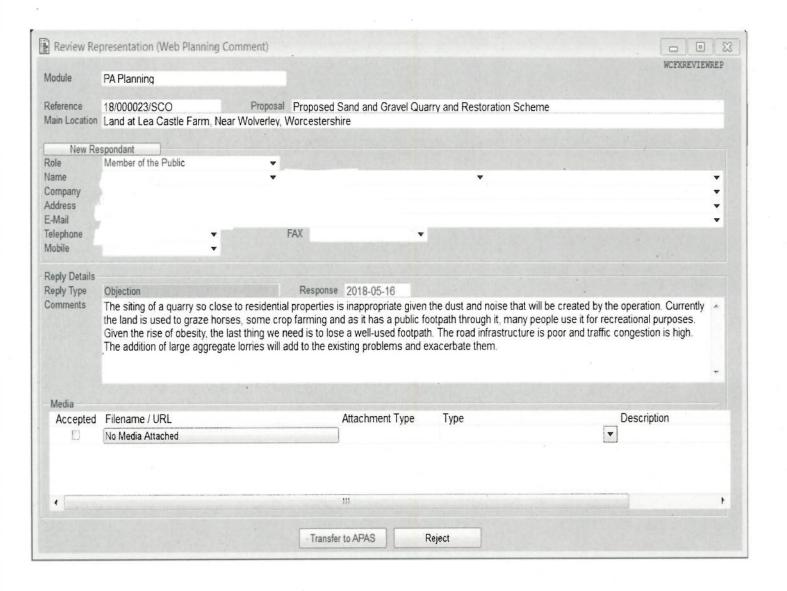


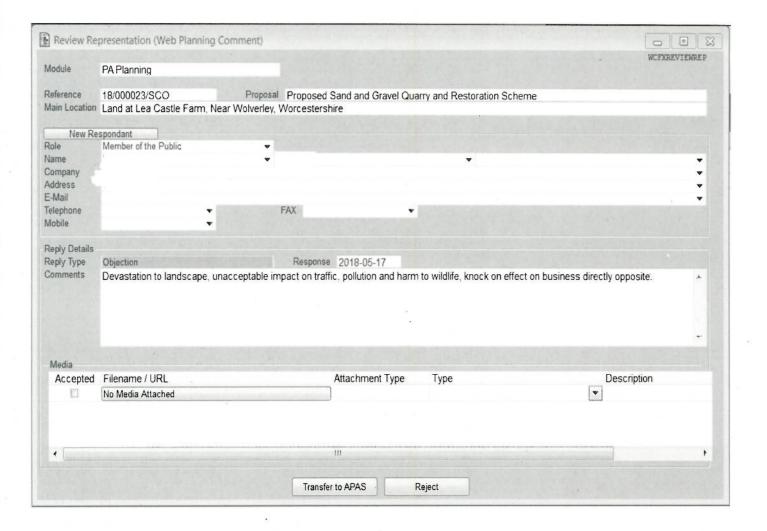


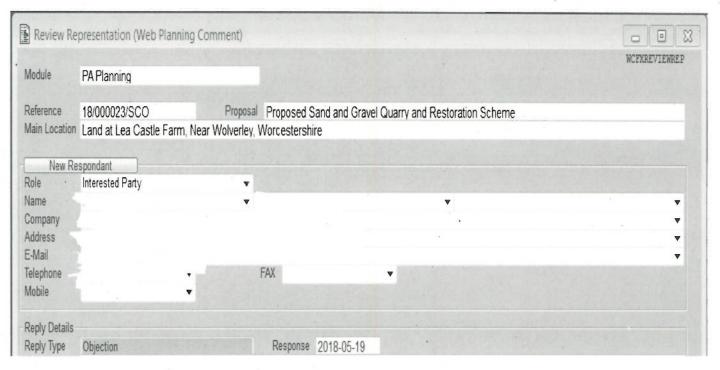




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Myself and my family strongly object to this application.

The location and geological/historic importance of this area and piece of land should be protected. I have lived, been to school in and worked in Wolverley and at the most local school to this site my entire life. The location of this site, in an area of such beauty, with such untouched countryside and the proximity of schools, equestrian centres, houses, unique geological and hystoric features, camping sites and the local village is inappropriate.

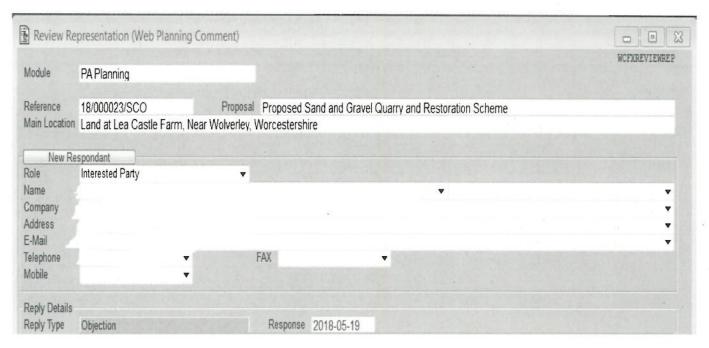
I travel the roads in this area every day. Hundreds of children walk on the paths, which are, at best under-specified.

A friend of mine was killed recently on the path outside this site's entrance and since attendiong the school opposite from 1977 and my children attending till recently, I have a 43 year history of being in that area... the road network is overloaded enough without this added mayhem.

I have personally seen dozens of accidents and issues with an over-stressed road network over the last 40 plus years and the mind boggles at the thought of gravel-laden trucks and heavy plant entering and exiting the area with small children, animals and a large number of older people in the area.

This site would introduce a massive, negatively influential problem and healthcare issue to the area. The increased airborn polutants, drainage issues, so close to the Stour river's tributeries... the impact would be huge and catastrophic.

We have a large population of retirees in Wolverley across a number of very peaceful sites, including those at Kingsford and thousands in Cookley, Sion Hill, Drakelow and Franche.



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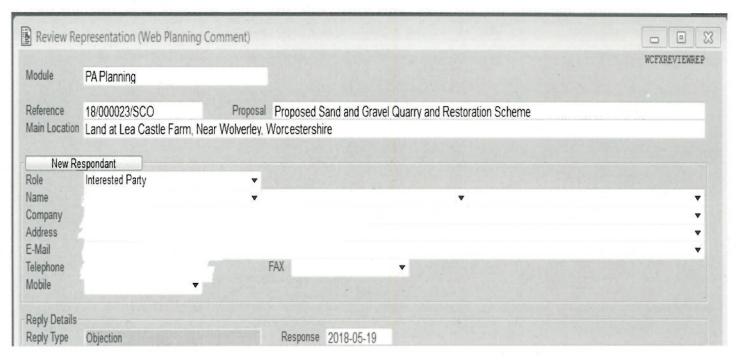
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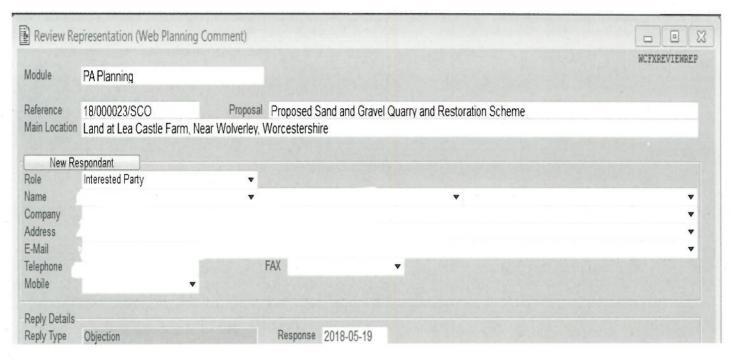
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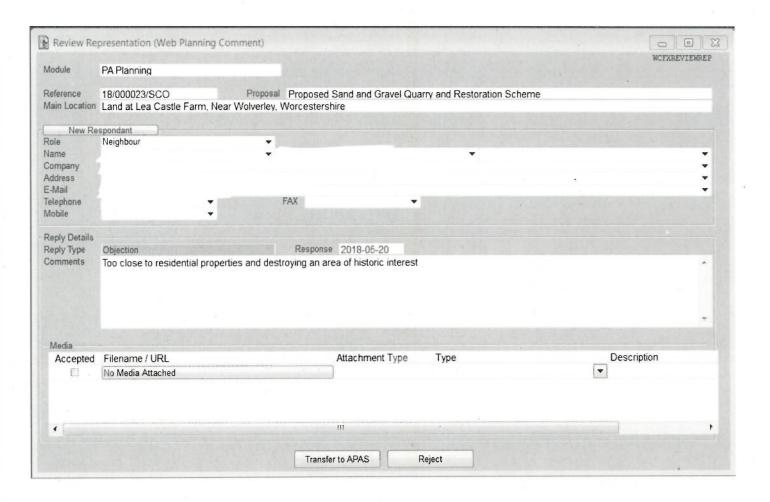
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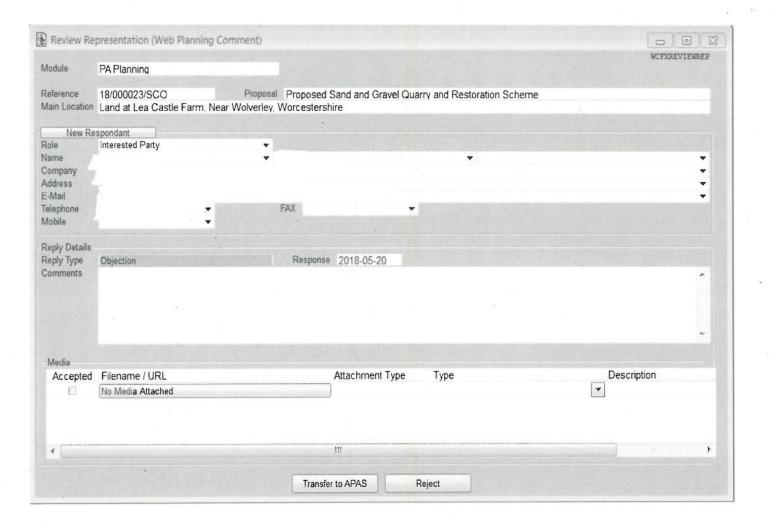
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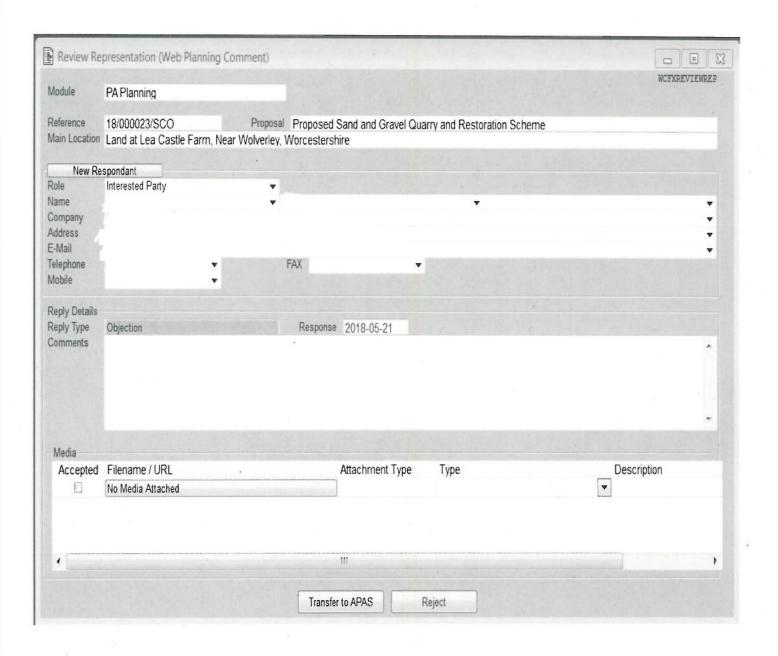
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I am very perturbed that this is Stage 3 of the consultation and yet there is very little in the press. It seems to me that the Cookley's identity as a village is being attacked from all sides with plans for housing developments and now a quarry. There is nothing on the plan to advise of what the plan is to reconstruct the land at the end of the time. I am concerned about the effect of additional heavy traffic on the immediate vicinity of the quarry and the adverse affects of this on the residential areas. The canal attracts tourism to the area and a camping site is also neighbouring this area and a quarry will obviously be a detterant for holiday makers. This will have a knoock on effect to the economy of the area as a whole. I feel far more information is required about the effect of this plan on the local community. Having grown up very near a quarry and having seen first hand the effects on the properties, dust, air qusality, noise pollution I feel I must object to this plan.







From:

Development Control team

Sent:

23 May 2018 12:00 Scholes, Joshua

To: Subject:

FW: Sand & Gravel Quarry at Lea Castle Farm Kidderminster

21st. May 2015

Proposed Sand & Gravel Quarry. Application Ref: 18/000023/SCO

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to make you aware that I am opposed to the above proposal to allow mineral extraction from the land at Lea Castle Farm for a period of 10 years.

I have already been in contact with Marianne Pomeroy, the leader of the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy, and expressed my concern about what is happening and the lack of any effective communication until now. I have raised objections with her and also on the Worcestershire County Council website.

My objections are on both a personal level and a general level:

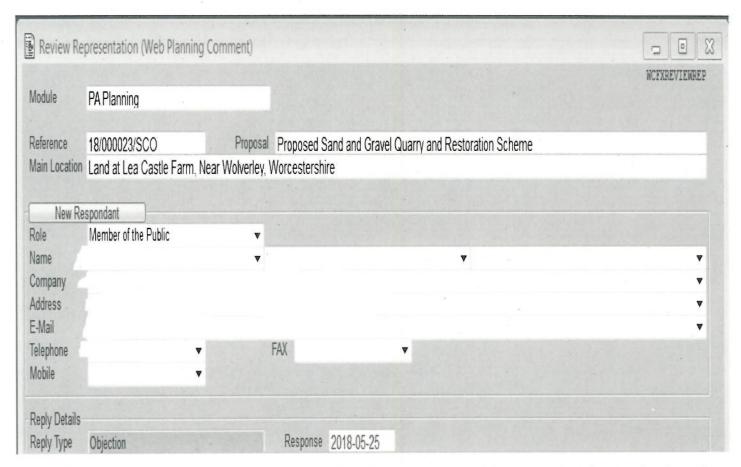
- 1) My property. is possibly the closest residential property to the proposed site. The dust and noise that will invariably be created will be particularly bad here especially during phase 3 of the operation. These proposals will make it very difficult to sell my house. I cannot imagine anybody wanting to buy a property with this hanging over it. I am in my late sixties so it looks like I may be blighted by this for the rest of my life should the proposals go ahead.
- 2) Many years ago when I was but a teenager needed vehicular access. My father applied for it but the planning department/officers were very reluctant to allow such a thing. Their argument was that it was unsafe to have an access here close to the brow of a hill. Eventually planning was permitted but only where the planners said it could be put and not where we had applied for. My father was told that where our access was placed was the only safe spot available. I see that the proposed access to the site is right on the brow of the hill. The road is far more dangerous now than it was when we had our access created. The proposed site access is in a far more dangerous position than where ours is. Such an access would never have been allowed in the past. It should not be allowed now.
- 3) I understand that if a number of residential properties lie within 200 metres of such a site, such a site must not be considered. My property falls within this category and I would think that at least 6 other properties are in a similar situation. There must be a good reason for making this rule. I presume it is for

health reasons as much as anything. Even if only 1 property is within 200 metres of the site, in my opinion, the site should not be considered.

- 4) If the building of over 1000 new homes is happening on the site of the old Lea Castle Hospital everybody in the area will be affected by the dust, noise and extra traffic. There is bound to be health concerns around this issue. The prevailing winds should make sure that all the new homes get a good coating of dust.
- 5) The footpaths through the Lea Castle grounds are used by many people, not only for walking but also for keep fit running. My wife is one of these people. I can think of no other amenity in the area as suitable for that activity for the people of Cookley or for the people from the Sion Hill area. I believe that people keeping fit is a priority issue for the council.
- 6) The traffic in Cookley is already too busy. Only yesterday I saw the police checking on the amount of traffic and the speed of the traffic on Castle Road. The situation can be bad at the end of shifts at the Steel Stampings works (another big contributor to noise pollution in Cookley). The very best scenario is that the amount of traffic in Cookley will increase significantly with people trying to avoid heavy vehicles next to the site.

I would be very grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter and let me know how you intend to proceed.

Yours sincerely



I am writing to make you aware that I am opposed to the above proposal to allow mineral extraction from the land

at Lea Castle Farm. We have already had to put up with one quarry in Wolverley with its related issues with dust and noise, I think it unfair to now revisit a second time. This area separates Cookley Village from the rest of Kidderminster and is in Green Belt land which serves to keep the village integrity. The are houses very nearby and we are also going to have houses built very shortly on the old Lea Castle grounds which will already add to noise and inconvenience. The A449 is extremely busy and the added congestion with lorries turning will add to this.

I object on these grounds:

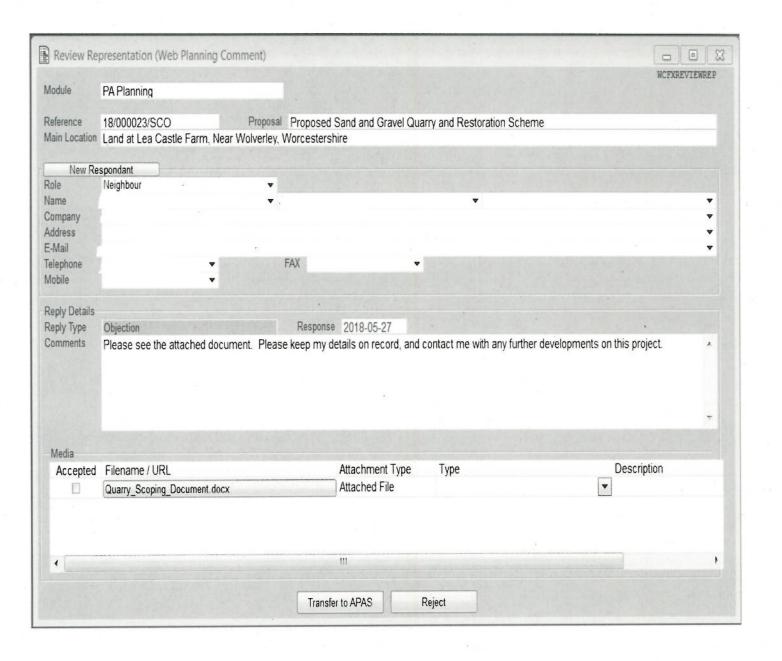
The siting of a quarry so close to residential properties is inappropriate given the dust and noise that will be created by the operation.

Currently the land is used to graze horses, some crop farming and as it has a public footpath through it, many people use it for recreational purposes. Given the rise of obesity, the last thing we need is to lose a well-used footpath.

The road infrastructure is poor and traffic congestion is high. The addition of large aggregate lorries will add to the existing problems and exacerbate them.

Please acknowledge receipt of my letter and let me know how you are going to proceed.

Yours sincerely



I would like to object to the proposed quarry at Wolverley and Cookley. The impact of such a scheme would be enormous, including detriment to:

Structures

There is a wall which envelopes the grounds of the old Lea Castle Estate. This wall is an important local landmark, and will be massively detrimentally affected by the proposed development.

There is a grade II listed gatehouse to the north of the proposed area. The environment of this building will be hugely affected. The gatehouse was an entry to Lea Castle Estate – and area of farmland and gardens. It was not built as an impressive gateway to a quarry. As an aside, the maintenance of these buildings should be checked by the conservation officer.

Similarly, there are gatehouses at the other (former) entrance to the Lea Castle Estate. These are on the local list, and will be affected in the same way. It is unfortunate that these too need attention, and perhaps this would be a good opportunity for the conservation officer to ensure the owner(s) are living up to their responsibilities.

Within a half mile radius of the proposed site are a large number of listed buildings. These will all potentially be affected by noise, pollution, water run-off and traffic as a result of the proposed development. The setting of many may also be affected.

Within the plans, there is a 'plant site', a new access, and (not detailed) access routes within the site. This entire development is proposed on greenbelt land. Construction of new buildings/facilities/roads etc. on greenbelt land is neither desirable nor permissible.

The proposal includes the building of several bunds. Serious thought would need to be given to the feasibility of this. The area has sandy soil, and it is unlikely that such structures would hold together easily, and damage to the surrounding areas are likely to be caused by the bunds washing away and blowing away in the wind. The suggested bunds, even if successful, will be an eyesore in themselves.

Wildlife

This proposal covers a particularly biodiverse area. Animals, insects, birds, reptiles, butterflies and moths, plants and trees, mosses lichens and fungi are all likely to be affected.

Within the proposed site, I have personally seen or heard the following:

Owls

Pole cats (and related species)

Bats

Hedgehogs

Skylarks

Thrushes

Sparrows

Lapwings

Yellowhammers

Many other species are undoubtedly present.

Additionally, I was informed by the previous tenant farmer that adders are present on the site.

The land covered by the proposal is of a specific type, and is quite unusual. I have been informed that it is 'acid sand' which means that it supports particular flora and fauna, including lichens, funghi and mosses, which do not survive in other areas. A full investigation is required.

There are a number of trees within the proposed area for the quarry. Many of these date back to the Lea Castle Estate, and remain as a visual reminder of Cookley and Wolverley's history. Many of the trees are protected by tree preservation orders.

Access

Across the site, there are currently two public rights of way (624B and 626B). Directly along the borders of the site are a further two 622(C), 625(B). Within a meter or so is 623(B). The noise, pollution, heavy vehicles, machinery etc. will render these unpleasant, and probably unusable. Many children currently use these rights of way to get to school, so thought would have to be given to alternatives. It would seem highly unlikely that the bridleways would be usable by horses, particularly as one bridleway runs right through the middle of the site, from one side to the other. There will be an enormous visual impact to all these (heavily used) routes.

The application provides no information in regard to the number and types of vehicles and equipment that would be needed. There is no detail as to access routes within the site. The applicant should be encouraged to fully disclose their intentions.

There would be increased (heavy) traffic as a result of any such development. The proposed area is extremely close to inhabited areas – Cookley, Wolverley and Kidderminster – which already causes slow moving traffic. An additional 600 homes are also proposed on the old Lea Castle Hospital site. The cumulative effects on traffic would be prohibitive.

Highways would have to fully investigate the proposed new access to the site. It would seem that the current accesses have been avoided as they are public rights of way – however, the new access leaves the site onto the (very busy) Wolverley Road at a point where the speed limit is national. The wall around the site, and the very narrow pavement is likely to make visibility very poor at this point. Not only is this highly dangerous, but drivers are likely to seek out safer access routes – taking vehicles down public rights of way and tracks, endangering any walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Local Economy

There are a number of local businesses that will be affected. In particular, I cannot see how the equestrian centre and the caravan park would survive. There would be knock on effects to many, many local businesses (particularly as a result of the caravan park closing/reducing in size) including the Lock pub, businesses in Cookley and Wolverley villages, the putting green, the tea shop etc.

Environment

As mentioned, the proposed site is on greenbelt land. Its development is therefore prohibited.

The visual impact of the proposed development must be considered. Not only will the quarry be unsightly, the landscape will be permanently disfigured. The site is so close to local inhabitation that it is just not reasonable. As the site is high up, there are views of it from all around. There will be a visual impact as far away as Cookley, Wolverley, Sion Hill, Broadwaters and the Eastern end of Hurcott Road (and surrounds). The area is simply too highly populated for a quarry.

The character of the local neighbourhood must be considered as it will be changed dramatically. Cookley and Wolverley are quiet villages on the outskirts of Kidderminster. They are not appropriate sites for heavy industry.

Noise disturbance will be considerable, but is very difficult to estimate. Professional advice needs to be taken as to whether noise levels will be acceptable in the whole local area, and whether properties very close to the proposed development will be inhabitable at all. Very little information has been provided in this application as to the methods of quarrying, and more clarity would be needed from the applicant.

No mention has been made of any proposed lighting or the effect of such on the local population and wildlife.

As the local soil is a rarely found acid sand, its removal and replacement with different soils would be extremely detrimental. The proposal suggests backfilling with 600,000 tonnes of 'imported inert materials'. This will significantly change the nature of the site, and the types of flora and fauna it supports. What is meant by 'inert materials' would also need substantial clarification and legal control, to avoid a waste disposal site.

A quarry in this area would cause substantial air pollution from dust and particulates. The site is too close to housing developments (the many houses bordering the site, and the entire settlements at Cookley, Wolverley and Kidderminster) for this, and the potential detriment to health, to be permitted. Furthermore, the health of 'future' residents in local proposed developments must also be considered.

Issues with flooding already exist in Wolverley and Broadwaters, mitigated somewhat by the soak up of rainfall by local agricultural land – specifically the area of the proposed quarry. The impact on this of any excavations would need to be calculated. The proposed site is at a high point locally (a trig point is within the proposed area for development). I would suspect that there will be a significant increase in water run off causing flooding issues for the proposed new housing development at Lea Castle Hopsital, and, in the opposite direction, exacerbating flooding issues along the river at Wolverley. The canal may take some of the burden, but an investigation as to how such an increase in waterflow will affect the canal needs to be made.

Quality of life for local residents will be seriously impacted by the proposals, as will health. All the issues discussed above will affect a large number of the local population.

There is a school, directly opposite the proposed quarry site. The environmental impacts listed will seriously affect the children and their education. Furthermore, in-keeping with most schools, the road is very busy when school starts and ends. Adding quarry traffic into the mix would be dangerous.

General

Cumulative effects of local development must be considered. It is proposed that 600 homes be built at Lea Castle Hospital, and large parts of the greenbelt to that side of Kidderminster be re-classified for development. This means that the remaining greenbelt becomes more precious, and must be defended, both for the benefit of the local population (and any new population) and also for wildlife.

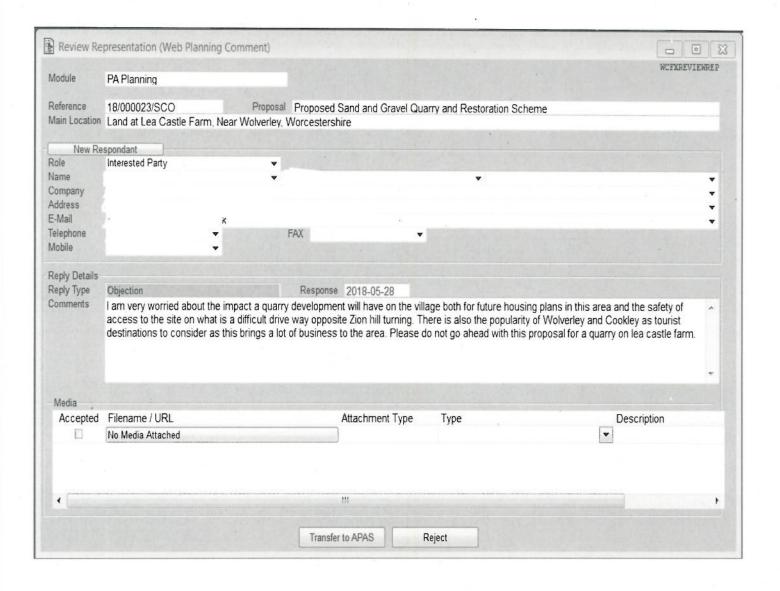
There seems to be a lack of clarity as to the scale of this project. Whilst a broad figure of 3 million tonnes is given, it is not clear whether the quarrying will be even across the site, or whether some areas will be more heavily affected than others. The applicant should be encouraged to provide information in a more accessible format, for example, what volume of material will be removed? How deep will the quarry be at its deepest point? Which areas will be quarried deeply, and which less so?

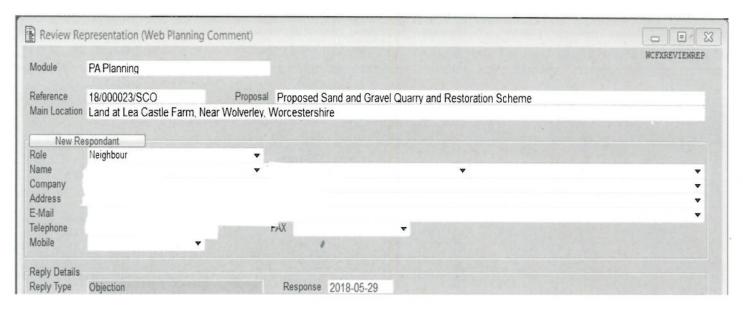
Two fields to the west of the A449 have been included within the quarry site, as has woodland to the south of 'phase 2' and bulidings / the mechanic's unit etc. to the south of the 'plant site'. At no point do any of these areas enter into the phased delivery plan. It isn't clear to me why land which has no role in the project would be included – unless it's to hedge bets or as a 'just in case' for further extension. I don't think it would be unfair to request clarity from the developer at the outset.

A new roadway has been proposed within the site running from the proposed 'plant site' along the back of Broom Cottage, and forming a new entrance way onto the Wolverley Road, slightly west of the proposed new site access. There is no mention (that I can see) of this roadway or its function, other than its appearance on one of the plans. This seems highly unsafe. It exits onto the Wolverley Road, again where the speed limit is national. At the other end, it exits onto a public right of way.

Reports / professional opinions will be required in regard to all of the above mentioned impacts, and any raised by other consultees. The reports commissioned will all need to be independent, and careful consideration be given to who has paid for them, and whether all findings are published, or just those that suit the funder. Furthermore, all research should be as general as possible in nature — without research, it is impossible to know what the ecosystem (etc.) holds in this area.

Finally, I would like to respectfully request that neighbours and local residents be informed of this proposed development. I own land which borders the proposed site, yet was not notified. I have asked a number of my neighbours, and they have had no notification either. I found out about the proposal via rumours in the local village. It would make sense that anyone who is likely to be affected by the site should be notified – including anyone within earshot, within visual range, local businesses, the school, anyone with property bordering the site etc. It is not enough to assume that local gossip will reach everybody.





On reading the scoping report and proposed plans for a quarry, I was shocked to at how little consideration has been shown to our amazing and thriving wildlife that we have in this area. Bearing in mind that I live at which is next to the proposed area, I get to appreciate and NOTICE this amazing wildlife daily. Firstly, we have a thriving bird community with numerous birds from the red status of Birds of Conservation Concern list, such as Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Skylarks, Starlings, Song Thrush and Sparrows. There is also birds that feature on the amber list which are House Martins and Kestrels. The Kestrels nest on the proposed site and successfully breed every year.

Other wildlife are hedgehogs which I believe are also dwindling in numbers.

We then go onto the badgers which are frequently seen across the proposed site, possibly even have a sett within the proposed site.

Then there is our beloved bats, living in a barn development we now only too well how the bats are protected, and rightfully so. The bats can be seen flying and hunting at night over the fields which provides them with a great feeding habitat, I'm sure if the area was mined this would have a detrimental impact on them, no number of nest boxes would protect them.

My next concern is about our tress and numerous hedgerows in this area. Not only do they provide us aesthetically, they also support our wildlife system which appears to be in a perfect balance with how it is thriving. Also, I am aware that we have some beautiful old trees in the middle of this area that have TPO on, how will this impact on them? Once again these trees providing homes for our endangered wildlife.

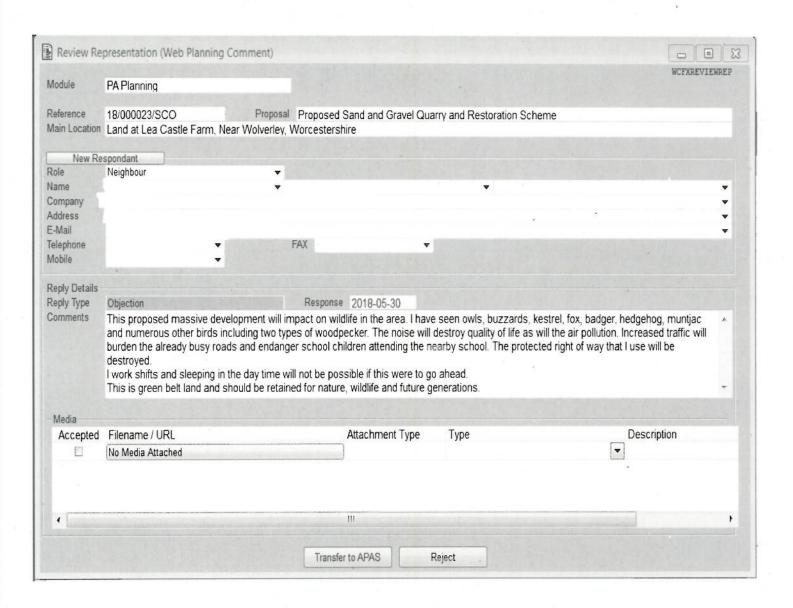
Another concern is the public right of way over the land, presumably this would be redirected if the plans were accepted which is surely unfair to those that benefit from it now. This public right of way is used by children from Cookley village who attend Wolverley High, horse riders, ramblers and local people who appreciate our beautiful landscape as it stands. Why should they not be able to benefit from this?

Another point of concern is all the existing power lines that go over the proposed area, what will happen to these?

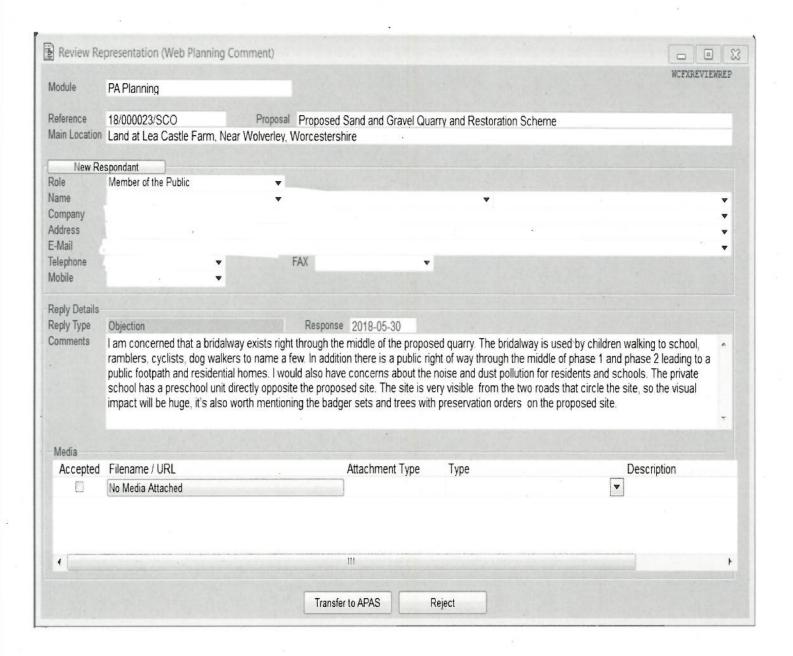
Moving on to the noise pollution that this will create, not only detrimental to the wildlife, but also a negative impact to the Cookley community with the largest impact on those adjacent to the proposed area. This will affect people for a minimum of a 10 year period, not exactly short term. Very little can be done to mitigate this in reality, whatever is said on paper!

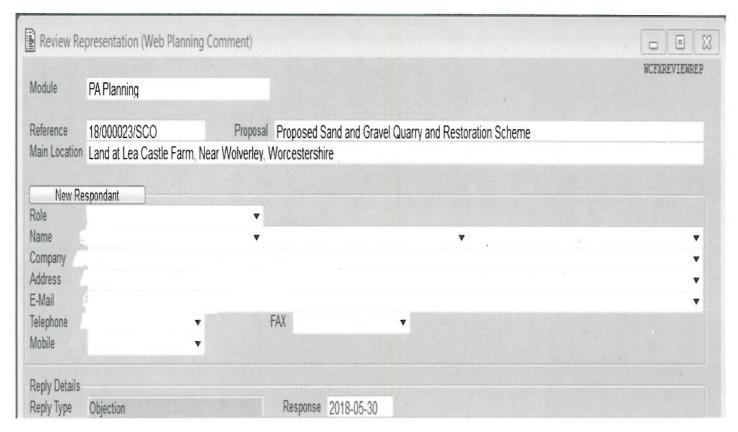
Then there is the impact on our local highways. Planning consent has already been granted for 600 homes on the former site of Lea Castle Hospital (on the other side of the road to this application), increasing traffic flow on the Park Gate Road, Wolverley Road and Wolverhampton Road. This proposal would further increase demand and congestion on an already busy network.

The final point that I would like to raise at this stage is that.... ITS GREENBELT. The development at the afore mentioned Lea Castle Hospital is already taking away some of our protected greenbelt, surely this proposal shouldn't even be considered on this basis. The greenbelt and wildlife would all be destroyed over the mining period, some of which would never return. Or does Greenbelt mean nothing now?



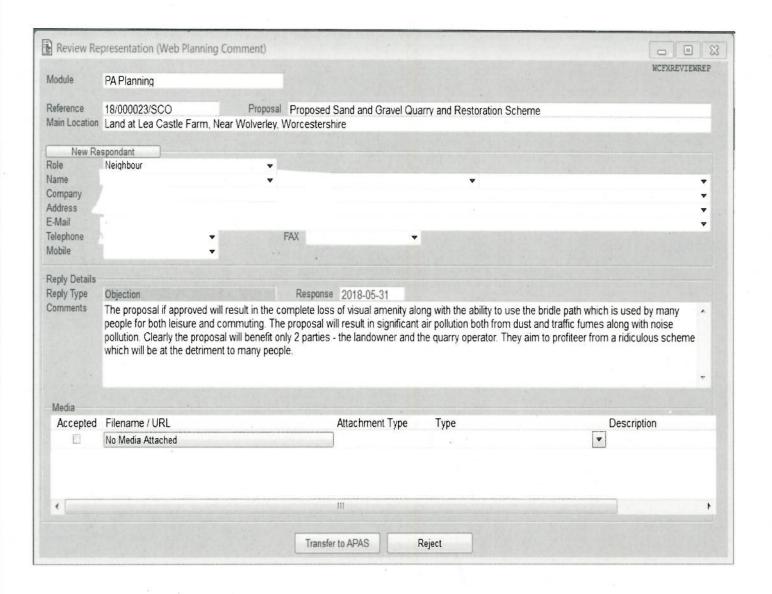
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Module	PA Planning					WCFXREVIEWREP
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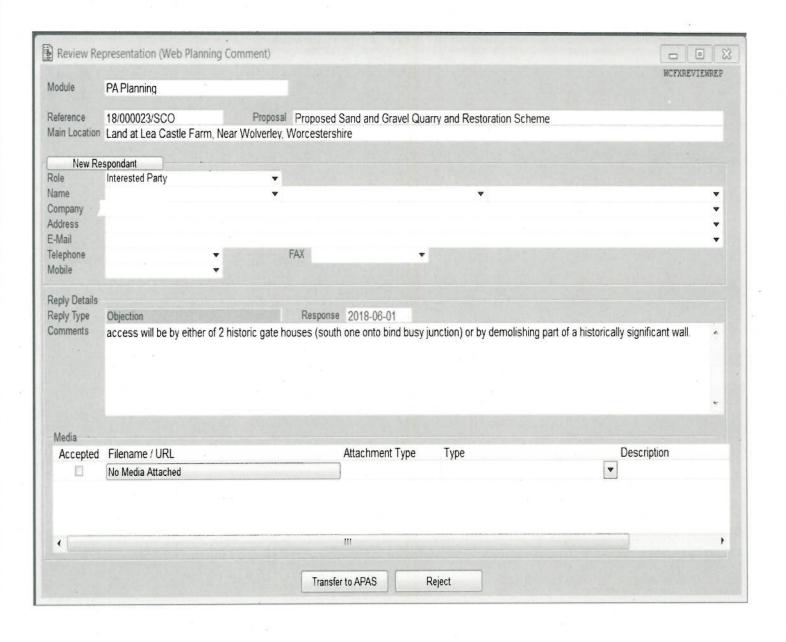




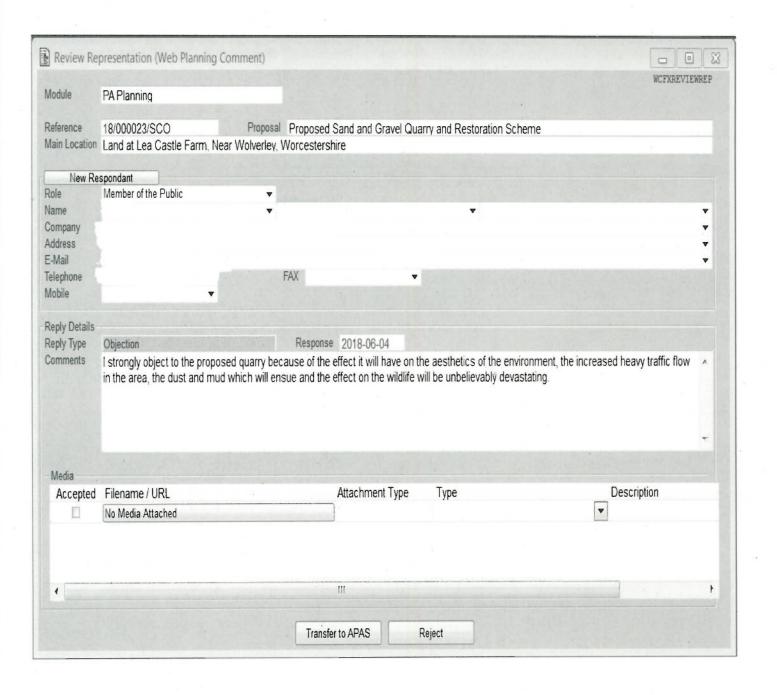
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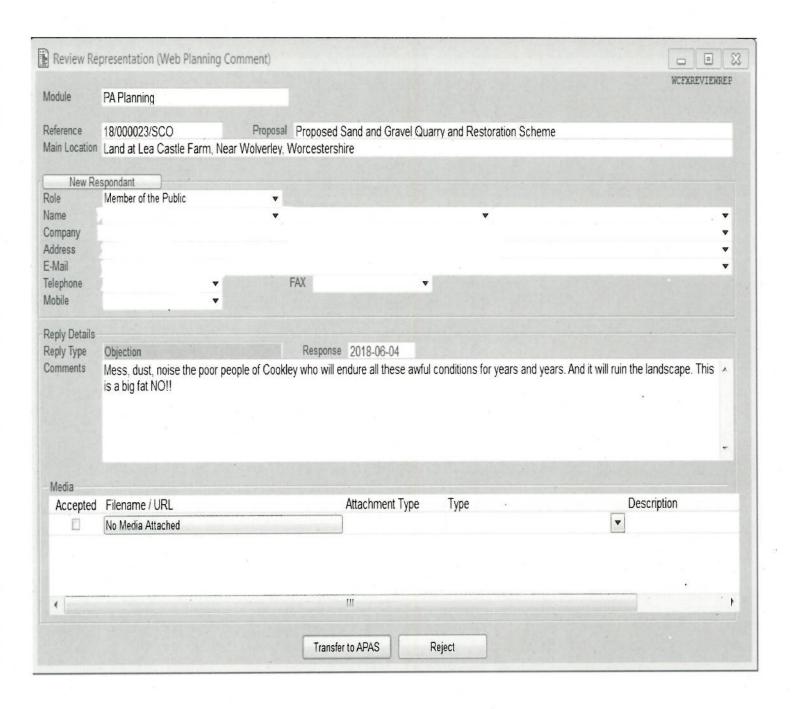
- 1. The siting of a quarry so close to residential properties is inappropriate given the dust and noise that will be created by the operation.
- 2. Currently the land is used to graze horses, some crop farming and as it has a public footpath through it. many people use it for recreational purposes. This a very well used footpath.
- 3. The road infrastructure is poor and traffic congestion is high. The addition of large aggregate lorries will add to the existing problems and exacerbate them.

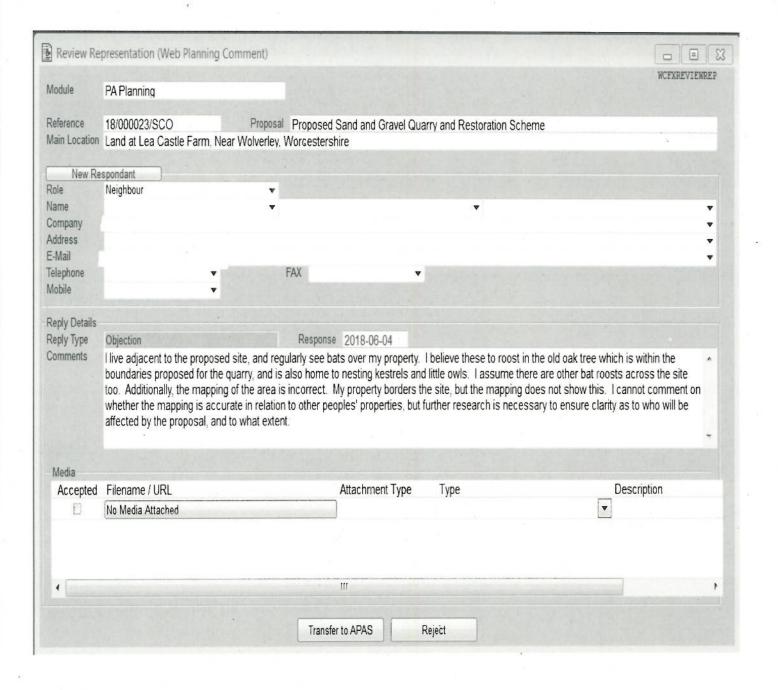




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