

14th April, 2019

Dear Inspector,

**Inspectorate Reference: APP/T1600/W/18/3207814
Cotswold Hill Quarry, Ford, Temple Guiting.**

I write on behalf of Temple Guiting Parish Council and the residents of the Parish which the Council represents.

There is grave concern locally at the potentially adverse impact relating to the amenity of the Cotswold AONB, the local road network and the lives of people who live near the quarry, especially at Ford and Farmcote, and beside the B4077 down to Stanway and beyond (the sole access route to Cotswold Hill Quarry), if this appeal is allowed.

The Parish Council's position was set out in some detail in February 2015 in response to the consultation regarding the revised restoration scheme. I have appended a copy for your convenience. I would draw your attention in particular to paragraphs 1.2, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.6, 4.8 and 7.3.

Local perception of Cotswold Hill Quarry and the operator will be forever related to the extraordinary disruption caused by the mass importation of 77,000 tonnes of material from the Severn Vale in a very short period soon after the operator acquired the quarry. The volume of traffic and the deposition of mud and debris on the B4077 was extraordinary even for an area with a history of quarrying. The 'foreign' material was not used initially for quarry restoration but stored on site, although we understand that this material has now been used for restoration.

Although the appellant has taken steps to minimize deposition of quarry waste on the roads close to the quarry during current operations by installing a wheel wash (not always effective) and by the regular use of a road sweeper (after the event of wheel wash failure), there is little prospect and certainly no guarantee that such methods would be effective should the number of daily lorry movements dramatically increase.

The issue, as we see it, and this underpins in part the County Council's imposition of restrictions on lorry movements, is how can we ensure that local residents are not subjected to another mass importation of waste material in a short period of time.

The appellant makes reference to Oathill Quarry (Ref:18/0010/CWMAJM). The application by Johnsons to increase output (recognising current overproduction) is still under review and we understand that the Planning Authority is seeking to curtail production from that quarry. The failure of wheel-washing there, highlighted by the appellant, is ironic. No quarry should be depositing mess on the public highway - and this is a recurrent complaint from the public about all quarries in our Parish.

The appellant also suggests that the Cotswold Conservation Board, by not previously objecting to operations at Cotswold Hill Quarry, is in some way supportive of this Appeal. We understand that the CCB, on 28 Sept 2018, sent an extensive letter objecting to the increase in activity, because of the perceived adverse effects on the local environment in the AONB.

Temple Guiting Parish Council has been lobbying for a more coordinated approach by the Planning Authority, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire Highways. Treating each Application, and this Appeal, in isolation fails to recognize the cumulative effect of quarrying in the area.

This is particularly true of the impact on the local road network of allowing this Appeal. The Appellant notes that the B4077 is designated in the Draft GCC Minerals Plan as a "link road" to serve quarrying activities in this area, but anyone driving down Stanway Hill will witness the deterioration in a relatively new road surface, the erosion of verges and the wearing away of white lines. The situation is exacerbated by haulage contractors ignoring working hours restrictions, which is disrupting the lives of residents in Ford and towards Toddington. Much is made in the Appellants case of the difficulties of coordinating export of materials with the importation of fill materials, and therefore the need to remove restrictions on lorry movements: the relatively small amount of stone that remains to be extracted does not balance with the proposed large scale importation of waste material, which is principally due to a failure to develop realistic reinstatement plans early in the operational life of the quarry and the over-extraction of materials. The restoration scheme does not appear to fully recognize the extent of material in the western bund (created by the previous, experience quarry operator for future restoration of a smaller enterprise).

Local residents and the Parish Council are opposed to the removal of the justified and necessary restriction on vehicle movements against which the Appellant is appealing.

It is difficult to comprehend why a relaxation of vehicle movement restrictions, imposed by the Planning Authority, should be granted in this case given the history of uncontrolled importation of landfill materials by one of the largest waste management operators in the County.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Krier
Chairman Temple Guiting Parish Council

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