

Temple Guiting Parish Council

Response re Oathill Quarry Planning Application 18/0010/CWMAJM, March 2018

Temple Guiting Parish Council objects to this application to increase stone production from Oathill Quarry dramatically beyond that permitted in the application and consent 14/0101/CWMAJM.

This is a retrospective application to regularise a significant increase from the permitted 50,000 tonnes pa to 150,000 tonnes pa which has arisen from a monitoring visit by the Planning Authority.

While retrospective applications cannot be treated as inferior or improper, granting permission to regularise the increase in output from the quarry, with the provision that this will reduce the working life of the quarry, takes no account of the impact of what is proposed and has been experienced on the local road network, the local environment and employment prospects - let alone any future applications to extend the quarry which might be submitted by the owner.

The Parish Council has received complaints regarding the frequency and number of HGVs passing through Ford and the apparent ineffectiveness of wheel washing and the resultant deposition of mud, dust and gravel on the B4077. The presence of lorries (using Satnavs to access Oathill Quarry) in a narrow unsurfaced lane in the village in spite of "Unsuitable for HGVs" signage has also been noted.

This application cannot be considered in isolation. There are five working quarries in Temple Guiting parish alone, with many more quarries in the neighbouring Parishes of Guiting Power and Naunton. What if each should each breach its approved output or other planning restrictions and then seek retrospective permission? For example, if this application is approved, the Planning Authority leaves itself open to an appeal by the owner of the neighbouring Cotswold Hills Quarry, which has recently had its application to increase vehicle movements rejected.

Temple Guiting Parish Council proposes:

1. That the Planning Authority carries out more frequent monitoring of the output from quarries in the Parish to prevent breaches of planning permission at an earlier stage.
2. That a thorough and coordinated EIA is carried out on quarrying activities in this and neighbouring Parishes to understand the effect increased quarrying is having on the AONB before any long term commitments for increasing production are entered into, from this or other quarries in the area.
3. That the Planning Authority reviews the effectiveness of current policies for monitoring production against permitted extraction and to advise us of what measures will be put in place to prevent a recurrence of extraction exceeding permitted limits.
4. That steps are taken to ensure effective and constant wheel washing so that no quarry material is deposited on the B4077 - it is not acceptable that this or any other quarry continues operation without effective wheel washing.

Treating each quarry's operation and planning applications in isolation, as appears to be the case at present, is neither satisfactory nor evidence of effective planning regulation.