12 September 2018

**Comments on Oathill Quarry – application to treble its output and significantly increase vehicle movements along the B4077 – from Temple Guiting Parish Council**

Temple Guiting Parish Council responded to this planning application in March with strong objections. Temple Guiting parish is particularly affected by this proposed increase in quarrying, but all parishes crossed by the B4077 and its adjoining roads are likely to be subject to increased heavy traffic and noise as well as dirty, and sometimes dangerous, roads covered in slippery lime and materials which have fallen from quarry vehicles. There will also be a greater risk of accidents and further deterioration in the road surfaces.

The area around Temple Guiting is quarried intensively – with 5 licensed quarries in the parish and one unlicensed quarry in our immediate vicinity. Most recently, planning permission was refused at [Cotswold Hill quarry](http://planning.gloucestershire.gov.uk/publicaccess/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=OXNW9RHNFIA00&activeTab=summary) (17/0099/CWMAJW) after 15 objections were received to a proposal to allow unlimited dumping of infill material and unlimited numbers of vehicle movements. Our objections were included in the decision process. We believe this was the right decision and hope that the same outcome can be achieved at Oathill. But CDC needs to see more objections to support a refusal decision. We will be contacting other relevant authorities and raising awareness among individuals. Would you also consider submitting an objection before the cut-off date of 30 September?

Our objections are shown below and you are welcome to discuss them with our Chairman, Michael Krier. He can be contacted on 01451850532 or by email at krier@btinternet.com

*“Temple Guiting Parish Council objects to this application to dramatically increase output from Oathill Quarry beyond the 50,000 tonnes p.a. permitted in the application and consent 14/0101/CWMAJM, to 150,000 tonnes p.a.*

*This is a retrospective application to* ***regularise a significant increase which was revealed following a monitoring visit by the Planning Authority of Gloucestershire County Council****.*

*Granting permission to regularise an increase which has been enabled by the lack of monitoring 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 size or lifespan which might be submitted by the owner.*

*The Parish Council has received many complaints regarding the frequency and number of HGVs passing through Ford on the B4077 and the apparent ineffectiveness of wheel washing and the resulting deposition of mud/dust and gravel on the road. Lorries have also been seen regularly (using Satnavs to access Oathill Quarry) on the narrow unsurfaced lanes in our village (in spite of "Unsuitable for HGVs" signage). Roads in other villages have also been subject to the presence of large, fast moving vehicles travelling along inappropriate routes either being directed by satnav or through local knowledge.*

*This application cannot be considered in isolation. There are 5 working quarries in Temple Guiting parish alone with many more quarries in neighbouring Parishes of Guiting Power and Naunton. What if each one were to 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 a thorough and coordinated Environmental Impact Assessment, 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.*
2. *That the Planning Authority reviews thefrequency and 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 breaches of planning permission by extraction exceeding permitted limits.*
3. *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 quarry continues operation without effective wheel washing.*
4. *That the effect of each quarry's operation and planning applications is treated not in isolation, as appears to be the case at present, but in the context of the total amount of quarrying in the vicinity.”*

We would also like to point out the dramatic difference between the depth of the reports relating to the application by Cotswold Hill quarry and that of the reporting for the Oathill quarry. Although this may be due to the involvement of the Waste Planning Authority, this inconsistency is not helpful in the planning process.

Your sincerely

Maxi Freeman

Clerk to Temple Guiting Parish Council

07736 706805