

Cotswold quarry gets green light amid fears villagers 'can't open their windows due to dust'

Johnston Quarry Group has been granted permission to increase their current limit at Oathill Quarry in Fiddlers Green, Temple Guiting



Residents living near quarries in the Cotswolds can't open their windows due to the dust according to Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

Plans for a **Cotswold** quarry to increase the amount of stone it exports in a village where residents “can’t open their windows due to dust” has been approved. Johnston Quarry Group wants permission to increase their current limit at Oathill Quarry in Fiddlers Green, Temple Guiting.

They were restricted to 50,000 tonnes and have now been granted permission to increase to 100,000 tonnes yearly for the next three years. **Their proposals were originally considered by Gloucestershire County Council’s planning committee at Shire Hall on September 28, 2023.**

But a decision on the planning application which includes retrospective consent for staff offices and welfare facilities was deferred. Councillors felt they could not make a decision without a detailed transport plan for the site as the number of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) trips to and from the quarry will double if the scheme is approved.

But the committee agreed to approve the scheme at their meeting on March 21 this year. Dozens of objections had been lodged against the scheme which was also opposed by Temple Guiting Parish Council.

They include concerns such as the cumulative impact of more lorries through the village. Parish councillor Stephen Gower spoke against the proposals at Shire Hall and raised concerns over the findings of a study which looked at dust and noise levels generated by a cluster of quarries near the B4077.

He said the report suggested the number of HGV movements should be reduced and not increased. **County Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington** (C, Stow-on-the-Wold) also spoke against the plans and said he feared it was "a case of closing the stable door after the horse had bolted".



Oathill Quarry (Image: Temple Guiting Parish Council)

He said the committee was only looking at the transport implications of the proposals as all other issues had been deemed acceptable. He said the number of HGV movements in the area have reached an unacceptable level.

"Early morning noise, vibration, volume of HGVs, dust, damage to the roadside and loss of quiet enjoyment," he said.

Cllr Mackenzie-Charrington recognised the importance of quarries but stressed they "must not ride roughshod" over the local community. He told the previous meeting that dust was so bad in nearby villages such as Ford that residents cannot open their windows nor sit in their gardens.

'[They] have to regularly wash down their houses and cars to reduce dust. In winter months, dust is replaced with mud.'



Nearby roads are regularly covered in dust from the quarries (Image: Will Luker)

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The committee voted to approve the proposals which will allow up to 100 HGV movements a day in August and September.

The transport management plan also says there will be a maximum of 30 daily HGV movements in January and December, 40 in February, May, June, July, October and November and 50 during March and April.