

# REPRESENTATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

## Application No. WD/D/19/000451 – Chard Junction Quarry.

### In objection

Rep from Albert Lampey

I am grateful for the opportunity of addressing the members directly. I live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which is across the valley from the proposed site

Firstly this site was not included in the draft minerals plan. The inspector was satisfied that the planned supply of aggregates was adequate to meet demand without this site being included.

Secondly this major new development in an AONB must also meet the “exceptional circumstances “ test. Dorset’s AONB team and natural England are emphatic that this test has not been met. That should be the end of the matter.

Everyone I have spoken to on this side of the valley thought this application was not being pursued.

I would like to expand on the inadequacies of the communication and consultation process but my word limit does not permit save to say that my email to Robert Jefferies of the 6th of February 2020 is not on your website and it included some important points.

In my representations of the 27th of March 2019 and the 6th of February 2020 I made the point that in the time that was allowed at that time it was not possible for me to obtain professional help in making my representations. Now at considerable expense and during the summer holiday period when many have been taking a well-deserved break we have obtained professional help which raises considerable concerns about this application. From a layman’s point of view it seems that this application is not well researched.

It is too late if the fields are dug up and then the problems are discovered.

This is a very beautiful valley and is quite rightly designated as an AONB. If this application is granted it will make a mockery of AONB status.

The previous planning officer visited us and was very surprised to see how open the new site was from this perspective.

I notice that aggregate industries are now suggesting that this application should be approved as a part of facilitating a national economic recovery. I appreciate that after this pandemic economic recovery is very important but I ask the members not to be swayed by this argument. To destroy this AONB for ever and for some decorative stone that the applicant says will only last for four and a half years is very shortsighted.

A personal note - when we bought this farm in 1999 we were also considering two other farms. We decided on this one because of its location and in particular was looking at an AONB which “would never be developed”.

I plead with you to refuse this application.

Albert Lampey

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Rep from Jean Churchill

We are a dairy farm just across the railway from the applicant.

Very surprised not to of been made aware this was likely to happen! We are in an area of out standing natural beauty, go to great lengths not to disturb wild life.

The badgers in particular should not be disrupted, this will upset the balance. We are now in a 6 monthly testing area (high risk), we certainly do not want additional badgers moving in.

Grade 1 farm land is in short supply, they don't make any more!

Our local village is over stretched with traffic already, particuly at dyke hill.

Please can you give this carefull consideration.

AA & JM Churchill & Son

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**Rep from Mr Silvano**

Dear Members, of the Strategic Committee

The Planning Officer has recommended that you grant permission. I write as a local resident who, together with many others, would be profoundly affected by the proposal and urge you **to REJECT the application.**

You will recall that this item was originally scheduled to be considered at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July, but, it was deferred when it became apparent that Tatworth and Forton Parish Council had not had an opportunity to comment due to a notification problem with the original communication.

In the very limited time that was granted, following the postponement of your previous meeting, public awareness has been raised and there has been a swell of local opposition to the application resulting in strong objections from **Tatworth and Forton Parish Council, The Campaign to Protect Rural England, Jenny Kenton and Martin Wale SSDC Councillors representing the ward of Blackdown and Tatworth as well as over 830 signatures from the public objecting within a few weeks to date.**

In reviewing the officer's report for the meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, we note that the recommendations, and the reasons for them, are unchanged since July, despite significant objections and other representations against the application having been received by your relevant department in the meantime.

Stop The Quarry in Dorset AONB Action Group of which I am a member, has obtained specialist professional advice from an expert on quarry design, who has

conducted a detailed technical review and scrutiny of the application and identified some fundamental problems with the proposals that are consistent with many of the concerns of local people. Even in the very short time she has had to do her work, her report confirms that opposition to this scheme is not rooted in “NIMBYISM”. Specialist lawyers have been instructed to examine the legal and public interest implications and the way that this application has been handled, especially in relation to public consultation.

The representations from these professional and legal advisers have been submitted to you and demonstrate, beyond doubt, that the ‘exceptional circumstances’ tests supporting the planning application in the AONB are not met for any of the reasons set out in the Officer’s report to Committee.

I and the local residents are determined to make our voices heard. Should the application be approved on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, we will seriously consider available options to challenge the decision and the process followed by the decision makers in coming to such a decision.

The quarrying operation objective is to extract aggregate for DECORATIVE PURPOSES! HOW CAN THIS JUSTIFY THE DESTRUCTION OF AN AONB??

**I am pleading with you to REJECT the application as the guardians of Dorset’s countryside and heritage.**

**M Silvano**

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Rep from Edwina Boulton

Application for NEW QUARRY

With regard to the above, it seems extraordinary that, because of the County boundary, no residents of Chilson or Chilson Common, on the side of the river right opposite this proposed new quarry – and directly in its line of sight – were consulted about it. Therefore they had no opportunity to take part in the consultation process because they simply did not know about it.

On this basis, I am writing directly to you as a Committee Member as I believe you are taking part in the Meeting scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> July.

The proposed new quarry area is huge – very much bigger than the present Chard Junction quarry and on the open face of the valley alongside the river. It will form a hugely visual scar upon the face of this beautiful valley – visible for miles around.

Also the proposed new road cuts directly across green fields to accommodate heavy traffic, causing damage to the wildlife environment.

This proposed quarry condemns the residents of Westford Cottages, Westford Park Cottages and others nearby to a life of dust, noise and the incessant roar of quarry lorries arriving and departing, from which they cannot escape.

It is injurious to the health of these people.

Is this not too high a price to pay?

This application should not be passed but should be looked at again, taking the above points into consideration, with a much wider consultation of the public in this area.

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### **Rep from Mr & Mrs J Williams**

Dear Sirs

I write to register my OBJECTION to the above proposal. I have lived here for many years, having chosen this location for the quality of life that this secluded countryside location could offer me and my family, principally being:

Good Air Quality

No noise pollution

Low levels of traffic

Outstanding countryside views

AONB – so NO major developments, my landscape would largely remain unaltered

Security

No through road – so few passing cars adding to security/peacefulness/pollution

I have invested my life savings into buying and renovating my property that prior to my purchase was left in a poor state of repair. Through my ownership, I have renovated the property and therefore contributed to the area and it was my intention to enjoy my retirement in this tranquil setting now that my working life has concluded.

My garden looks directly on to the proposed second phase of the quarry as I am located on the North boundary. As I will be able to see the excavation, I believe it will be less than 100m away from my boundary, it will have a material detrimental effect on my life. I have read the noise pollution report and would disagree that under a certain decibel it can have NOEL (No observed effect level) on me. I don't know where the 45 decibel level that the applicant has said they would keep to sits on the scale, but, I do know that the sound of HGV's, excavators and dumper trucks (beeping) are not going to mimic bird song and gentle breezes so it WILL have a material effect on my families life.

My next concern is over the air pollution, there will be a substantial increase in vehicles within the immediate vicinity, they will be operating in close quarters so there will be vehicle emissions along with the dust and pollution caused by the extraction itself.

Wildlife, one of the pleasures that I have is being able to look across the fields to see the deer, birds and geese that inhabit the area. I know that the application is entitled 'Temporary' but in this case, 'temporary' is expected to be 7 years, and how much longer before the native wildlife returns?

Finally, this will have a dramatic effect on the value of my property in the short to medium term, should the extension stick to its temporary status. Whilst I would still not support the proposal for the reasons stated, consideration should be given to homeowners and the financial effect it will have and I should be compensated accordingly as other homeowners, I am lead to believe, have already been given/promised financial incentives.

Yours Sincerely

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### **Rep from Amanda Dunston**

I am writing to object on the following points.

1.I live within 50 yds of this proposed new quarry. This will not only blight my property so that I could never move if I wanted to .

I will not be able to carry out my future plans for my property if this quarry appears . It would decrease the value so much that I wouldnt be able to afford to move either .

2.I am extremely worried as the noise and diesel fumes and constant beeping .digging ,dust pollution and the detrimental effect this will have on my health and well being,let alone my sleeping and overall peace and tranquility that i have enjoyed for 20 years .

I grow a lot of the veg for both myself and parents naturally .I also spend most of my time outdoors .I not be able to do this happily if this goes ahead ,as the noise and dust pollution will cause anxiety levels to rocket .

3.No.1 and No.2 are the only homeowners that this will effect being so close to this quarry (50 yds) as the farm and the cottages along the lane are both rented from the owners of the quarry..so as you can see this will have a vast financial impact on both no1 and no 2 . ( my parents live at no1 ).I have had 2 meetings with the quarry about such matters .but was basically told tough luck!!..no compensation would be granted for either myself or my parents ,yet the proposed quarry can ruin the enjoyment of your home !!!and life.

4.The wildlife that surrounds us here will be compromised. One of the reasons i moved here was for the wildlife ,the other was for the peace and tranquility,and clean air .

Both of which will be lost and never regained.

5.This is a new quarry not an extention.It will not provide local jobs.It also is not the only location to quarry such materials. There are others within the area.I have spoken to employees in 2018 and they come from afar.none are local.

6.I have not even had a letter or email informing me of this meeting .and the deadline for emails to yourself .I actually heard through a 3rd party!!

My parents actually recieved a letter on the 6th july .leaving very little time to deal with matters.

7. In the meantime I am monitoring noise levels with a calibrated decibel meter.

Kind regards

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Planning application WD/D19/000451

Representation from SSDC Councillors as agreed by the Chairman

Submission of objection from Jenny Kenton and Martin Wale SSDC Councillors representing the ward of Blackdown and Tatworth.

As ward members for the area (from opposing Political parties) we strongly object to the proposal. When SSDC were consulted we were not asked or in fact told about this application in May 2020. We have since visited the site and enjoyed the unspoilt Countryside of the AONB and spectacular views. To rip up miles of hedgerows and destroy habitats of species is against all policies which relate to the creation of ANOB's in 1949 which was to preserve more than just the view. ANOB's are the UK's richest grid squares for plants and mammals and those in Dorset's ANOB is particularly diverse because of its warmer climate.

Removing minerals and stones from a site not only takes out the mined items but also affects the composition of the soil. This soil cannot just be put back, it will take years to return to a useful produce producing field or return to the same land as was there before the extraction took place. This is ignoring the "sinkage" that will occur on the banked land so the area will definitely not be reinstated as it was, plus it is also ignoring the added extraction issues of noise, dust, vibrations and erosion.

The new site is a long way away from the current extraction area and in fact a new road will have to be built to carry the stones to the processing site. This is not an extension to the existing site but a new quarry! The only thing that will stay the same is the processing plant, it is far more visible than other local sites in the area and replacing farmland with a water filled pit and sloping hills is not returning the ground to what is there now.

This small rural settlement and its outlying hamlets, such as Chilson and Chilson Common will be changed forever from what is currently a farming community to a noisy stone extraction site and if the application is approved it will be against the consultation with natural England. Dorset's own AONB team and CPRE please listen to the residents that this application will affect and not the big corporation that wishes to ruin our little piece of Dorset near Somerset.

## **Cllr Simon Christopher to address the committee**

SUPPORT

**WESTFORD PARK FARM – 450 WORD COMMITTEE STATEMENT**

**Rep from Chris Herbert**

Planning Manager - South



## **AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES UK LIMITED**

Thank you Chair and thank you Members for providing Aggregate Industries UK Ltd with the opportunity to address you today.

The Westford Park Farm extension to Chard Junction Quarry will enable Dorset to continue to meet demand for aggregates within the West Dorset/East Somerset and Devon sub region in the most sustainable manner because it is closest to the markets it serves. All other quarries in Dorset would have to travel additional mileage to supply these markets, generating more HGV road mileage and more emissions.

With our track record at Chard Junction Quarry, we believe we have demonstrated our ability to work sites within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with minimal impacts on the environment whilst also restoring them to a high standard.

We would therefore ask that you support your officer's recommendation to approve our application as without it there will be a shortfall in minerals supply from Dorset at a critical time in the recovery of our economy, jeopardising the retention of jobs and investment in West Dorset.

Without this extension the existing quarry will close in 2021 with the potential loss of 8 directly employed jobs and upto a further 20 indirect jobs in the supply chain. In addition there will be the wider knock on effects on the local economy with the reduction in demand for local goods and services, such as hauliers and the loss of local business rates. We believe this would have a significant impact on the West Dorset economy and would lead to a short term shortfall in supply because the new sites identified in the Dorset Minerals Plan have not yet come forward and will not do so before 2025 at the earliest. Extending the life of Chard Junction Quarry will bridge this gap and enable supply to be maintained at a critical time for our economy.

We accept that there is a balance to be struck with respect to working in an AONB and as such we have put forward a comprehensive mitigation package as part of the planning application to cover the period of working including:

- extending and maintaining the award winning nature reserve at the site which is supported by the work of local volunteers;
- a contribution for a new footbridge to re-connect the local rights of way network in the area which was requested by Thorncombe Parish Council who have not objected to the planning application; and
- a financial contribution to fund enhancement works within the wider AONB.

Together these will provide significant benefits to the local community and environment and provide further reason to support this application.

### **WESTFORD PARK FARM – COMMITTEE STATEMENT**

My name is Martin Selfe, I am the quarry operations manager at Chard Junction Quarry and I would

like to tell members about the high environmental standards to which we work at Chard Junction Quarry.

Firstly I would like to emphasise our track record at Chard Junction as we have worked this deposit for many years and are currently coming to the end of our most recent extension at Carters Close. We know the deposit and therefore we know how to design our working schemes and we know that we can deliver them. Third party objections from people who have never even visited the site have to be balanced against our years of experience and track record of working at this location.

Our restoration work has won several industry standard awards, including, most recently the 2019 Mineral Products Association Biodiversity Awards. We value the work we do with the local community to manage and enhance the local nature reserve that has been created on part of the former sand and gravel workings and we continue to work with local residents Dave Helliar and Alan Knight to deliver this.

We are a local, well established quarry which has been supplying this part of Dorset and Somerset for many years, providing a valuable source of rural jobs and providing work for local haulage companies, and others within the supply chain.

Approval of our extension will ensure that this can continue to be the case.

Chard Junction Quarry has operated within the AONB for many years with no adverse impacts. We have demonstrated our track record to work and restore sites, and the proposed extension would simply be a continuation of our existing working practices. We have already shown, repeatedly, that we can and do deliver on the ground.

I would therefore ask that you support your officer's recommendation to approve our application, as without it there will be a shortfall in minerals supply from Dorset at a critical time in the recovery of our economy, jeopardising the retention of jobs and investment in West Dorset.

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## **Reps for Beacon Hill landfill site**

### **Objection from Roger Deacon-Smith & Patricia Ponchaud**

i wish to object to the planning application **3/18/3485/DCC**

**landfill is bad for the environment both locally and globally and there is no reason to add more when already poisons are underground in Corfe Mullen with methane leaking into the atmosphere (contributing to climate change), and, as the site decays, leachate spilling out and contaminating local water leaving a legacy for future generations and the county of Dorset to resolve**

**It will also subject the long-suffering people of corfe mullen again to:**

**increased traffic - already a nightmare in Old Wareham Road and with heavy lorries feeding the tip for up to 10 years this can only get worse . The additional CO fumes are known to be dangerous to life - especially to people with problems such as asthma**

**litter - the rubbish blown away from the site and the lorries was so bad that teams of litter pickers were out to remove it - this was ineffective and the litter should not be free to spoil (in all senses of the word) the area**

**noise - noise pollution is now recognised as seriously affecting health**

**dust - when the weather is such, the dust gets everywhere. Impossible to leave anything outside**

**flies - the swarms of flies meant that you couldn't leave windows open in the summer (cannot control with insecticides as proposed as this then wipes out pollenators which are already seriously endangered)**

**smell (cannot mask with perfumes - this just makes it worse)**

**contamination of gardens with obnoxious waste (including clinical waste - which \*does\* find its way into non-clinical waste sacks - whether it should or not) by scavenging birds**

**Suez has a very poor history of managing the site (including failing to meet the terms of the original contract and leaving till the eleventh hour to appeal)**

**There are also plans to further develop Corfe Mullen with extensive building planned to the NE of the Site. With prevailing winds being South Westerly this means the problems outlined will affect even more local folks**

## **Solution**

**I would ask those responsible for the future of the County of Dorset to carefully consider the effects that adding to the landfill site will have on future generations. We already have local issues with landfill at Lodmor.**

**The only viable solution is to fill the remaining cell (at Suez expense) with inert material to stop any further contamination to the locality, especially as it is adjacent to a SSSI. The argument that this is expensive is futile for a company with a t/o in excess of 17 billion and which has also increased the dividend paid to its shareholders this very year when most are struggling with the effects of Covid-sars-2.**

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## **Support**

The Beacon Hill Quarry Liaison Committee

Support for the application to extend the licence to landfill until January 2029. We understand it is important to complete filling of the remaining Cell 13 to stabilise and support the long term strength and structure of the site.

It was very disappointing that this work was not completed within the initial time frame, by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 and it is critical that this work is completed as soon as possible and absolutely no extension past January 2029 is to be considered. The residents of the immediate area have had to put up with the nuisance of the site too long already. The nuisance includes foul odours, Air pollution, streaming eyes, noise, vermin, seagulls, heavy lorries, mud and litter on the surrounding roads, water flooding off the site and general loss of value to their homes.

The site is to be restored to a state as close to the original heathland as is possible, where the plants, animals, birds and invertebrates of the heathland can thrive again, and eventually returned to public open space.

I must also point out that this is a majority view, not a unanimous opinion.

Cllr Susan Jefferies

Chairman Beacon Hill Quarry Liaison Committee

August 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

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**RE: Corfe Mullen Town Council written statement in response to planning applications 3/18/3484/DCC and 3/18/3485/DCC, Beacon Hill Landfill Site, Wareham Road, Corfe Mullen, Dorset, BH21 3RZ**

Corfe Mullen Town Council understands the applications submitted for the Beacon Hill Quarry site are to complete the works by way of constructing a final cell, filling that cell and once complete, restoring the site to heathland in accordance with the planning requirements. The Town Council is disappointed that preparation was not commenced by the company in a timely way prior to the expiration of the previous planning permission for operations, whilst understanding the application to extend operations could not be submitted until the previous application had lapsed. This would seem to have resulted in delaying the whole process, enabled the habitat and wildlife time to re-establish closer to the proposed site of proposed activity and lead most residents to believe that the site is permanently closed.

The Town Council further understands the necessity for cell 13 to be completed and a balance must be maintained as to the impact of not completing the final stage over the impact of the works being completed. It is understood that the work to construct cell 13 cannot take place over the winter months which will delay the start of construction by 6 months, with a further build time of 6 months for the cell. Some 12 months before tipping and filling commences. The estimated time for filling the cell has been identified as approximately 2 years, were the site to be operated at c capacity fill, annually. This sees the whole project being completed in a 5 year timescale. The Town Council considers this time, although disturbing to wildlife, the habitat and the community, as far less damaging than any potential future damage of the site not being completed.

The Town Council, having considered all the options surrounding the site, and noting the application is a continuation of lapsed planning which should see the site finalised by January 2029, has resolved to support the application. However, work should commence without any further delay and the site be completed and closed as soon as possible.

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## **SUEZ statement in support of 3/18/3485/DCC**

(Annemarie Wilshaw, Senior Planning Manager, SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK)

SUEZ has applied for permission to operate the Beacon Hill site until 2029 to allow restoration of the former quarry by landfilling to be completed.

Although the application seeks permission to operate until 2029, the remaining space is relatively small and the timescale sought allows flexibility needed for continued mothballing, preparatory engineering works to line the last part of the landfill and a period of infilling when market conditions allow. At the time the application was made in 2018, SUEZ sought a ten-year time period, but this has now in effect reduced to seven years.

No changes are proposed to the overall capacity, permitted tonnages or methods of working at the site.

There is no sustainable alternative other than to fill the final landfill cell as it is crucial to the final contours and in its unfilled state prevents surface water from draining away, creating an unacceptable deep water body adjacent to the engineered landfill.

Whilst landfill is the least desirable solution in the waste hierarchy, its continued role is acknowledged in both national and local policy for residual waste which cannot be recycled or treated. Dorset's Waste Plan was adopted less than two years ago and safeguards the remaining space at Beacon Hill landfill, recognising the environmental benefits of protecting existing local disposal capacity.

SUEZ recognise that landfills can have amenity impacts on those living closest and would ensure that the site continues to operate within the conditions of its existing planning permission and environmental permit, which together are designed to ensure impacts are appropriately mitigated. A local community liaison group was formed at the start of landfill operations and SUEZ continue to facilitate regular meetings and site visits such that any issues arising can be quickly and effectively resolved.

The location of the landfill site has necessitated careful consideration of possible effects on the adjacent designated heathland. SUEZ have worked closely with Dorset Council and Natural England officers to develop appropriate mitigation to ensure that the landfill does not have adverse effects on the integrity of the designated heathlands. The agreed mitigation measures include financial compensation for the delayed restoration of the final landfill cell, calculated in accordance with Dorset's own Biodiversity Compensation Framework.

The landfill application included minor improvements to restoration and surface water management and the proposals, together with agreed mitigation measures, are now considered likely to lead to a net positive impact on the adjacent heathland and an improvement over the previously consented restoration scheme.

The application represents the most sustainable solution for the landfill site and SUEZ therefore respectfully request that the committee resolve to approve.