

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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Chris Bartlett,
County Planning,
West Sussex County Council,
County Hall
Chichester
PO19 1RH

19th January 2023

Dear Mr Bartlett,

WSSC/028/21 – Rock Common Quarry, The Hollow, Washington, Pulborough, RH20 3DA

The continued winning, working and processing of sand from the existing Rock Common Quarry, the importation of inert classified engineering and restoration material, the stockpiling and treating of the imported material, the placement of the imported material within the quarry void and the restoration and landscaping of the quarry.

Thank you for your correspondence received 6th December 2022, consulting us on further information provided for the above application.

The Parish Council previously objected to the application in September 2021 and remains seriously concerned about the dangers and disruption from the significant increase in HGV traffic being predicted in these proposals. At its meeting on 9th January last, the Parish Council agreed that there is no change to its position. It makes the following additional comments on its key areas of concern:

The application predicts an average of 300 daily 2-way lorry movements generated by the quarry's proposed infill operation. In the original consultation, by far the biggest concern from local respondents was the serious impact the additional traffic will have on the already burdened A283 and Washington roundabout, the latter being at traffic management capacity. The information provided in the application does not demonstrate that there will not be a severe impact on the local road network. There is no detailed assessment of these issues and the cumulative impact from HGVs serving other local working quarries, and especially the planned Rampion 2 scheme in the area which coincides with the Rock Common Quarry proposals. There is no doubt that both these projects occurring simultaneously will generate extra HGV traffic on the same road network, causing further huge disruption to the local community.

If the Rampion 2 scheme goes ahead, with a cable route through the village and up to three construction compounds around the quarry location, the issues of these additional vehicles movements is going to be extremely serious. There must be provision for liaison between Rampion, the quarry Applicants and the West Sussex Highways Authority to reduce traffic movements if both operations are working at or near permitted capacity.

There are serious concerns about safe entry and exit of quarry traffic from the A283 and The Hollow. In depth investigation as to how this could be achieved should be a priority.

There needs to be safeguards in place regarding the potential increase in mud on the roads, particularly in view of issues on the A283 from another local working quarry.

The application does not demonstrate that there will not be a negative impact on Storrington's Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) from the increased HGV movements. In the absence of any assurances of effective traffic management measures in the application, it cannot be guaranteed that inert waste lorries will not travel via Storrington High Street, and the Parish Council is unable to identify any remediation on this issue in

the application report. The Parish Council supports Storrington and Sullington Parish Council's original submission that no HGV traffic should be permitted through Storrington via the AQMA which covers the whole of Storrington High Street. If West Sussex County Council is minded to approve the application, there should be a condition that no lorries should be permitted through Storrington via the AQMA on either inward or outward journeys.

The projected timescale of the inert infilling operation of the quarry for 8-10 years seems unrealistic with no guarantee it will be completed within the required time period. For example, the application does not take into consideration the future availability of sufficient local inert waste which could potentially increase the period of infill for many years; or the possible reduction in demand for housebuilding, and the timescale of infilling in other local quarry reinstatements. The timescale is a key concern of the Parish Council.

It is noted that there is a lack of clarity and outdated information regarding groundwater contamination risks and flooding, such as rainfall data from the 1970s and flood data from the 1960s. There is nothing to support the report that cessation of de-watering pumping would be possible after the quarry restoration with no risk of contamination from the nearby landfill. Yet this would contradict the environmental legislation which requires that pumping continues in perpetuity as it cannot be guaranteed that the development will not present unacceptable risks to groundwater resources.

The amenity values for residents and businesses close to the quarry and local tourism would be adversely affected by noise and dust from the proposed inert waste processing. These are further material risks, in addition to traffic and water pollution, which the Parish Council argue are not mitigated sufficiently in the application. Concerns have been raised in the community as to what guarantees and financial provisions have been made to protect local stakeholders who may face direct negative financial impacts. This is especially if the site become uneconomic and the principals are unable to complete the infill and restoration. Stakeholders should not be expected to solely rely on the goodwill of the principals involved – the Parish Council questions what oversight provisions are contemplated.

In conclusion, the Parish Council, as a lay body, is not competent to question the scientific data being put forward in the application but it expects WSCC to seriously question the information. We further expect all of the above important concerns to be taken fully into account, specifically and in details, by WSCC in reaching its regulatory decision.

Kind regards



Zoe Savill
Clerk of Washington Parish Council