

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council.
Ms Zoe Savill.
Email: clerk@washingtonparish.org.uk
Website: www.washingtonparish.org.uk

Mr Chris Bartlett
West Sussex County Council Planning Services

Monday 6th September 2021

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 giving Washington Parish Council the opportunity to comment on the above application which was discussed at its meeting on Monday 6th September 2021.

The Council supports the need to ensure the long-term safety of Rock Common Quarry and welcomes the applicant's vision of turning it into a biodiverse country park with visitor accommodation. This revised restoration scheme would improve visitor facilities to the South Downs National Park and is one of the key objectives of the joint Storrington & Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council notes that there is no objection from Natural England to the proposals and is not aware of any Environment Agency reports of water contamination from the quarry into the local water course. But members agree that local fears about possible leachate from the proposed infill operations, as well as the impact on local wildlife, all need to be fully addressed. It is further noted that the WSSC Lead Local Flood Authority has made a standing objection until a comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment is carried out by the applicants.

The Council's biggest concern is the projected 300-500 daily lorry movements for the infill scheme which could last up to 10 years. This would add significantly to existing traffic congestion on the nearby A283 and A24 at Washington Roundabout. Both locations are already at or near capacity, and under pressure from traffic to other nearby quarries and from new and emerging housing developments. Members agree that this unsustainable volume of new quarry traffic will negatively impact local residents and businesses as well as exacerbating the air quality problems identified in the wider area.

For these reasons, the Council **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the current proposals. Members recommend consideration of further alternative methods of restoration which mitigate the traffic issues, and that Wiston Estate liaises with the community at all stages of the scheme to ensure the best outcome.

Kind regards.



Zoe Savill
Clerk to Washington Parish Council