

PILLING PARISH COUNCIL

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7th September 2023

Mr. Jonathon Haine,
Planning Officer,
Lancashire County Council
DevCon@lancashire.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Haine,

Pilling Parish Council wishes to make the comments on the planning application listed below.

LCC/2023/0030

Proposal: The extraction and processing of sand and gravel including the construction of new site access roads, landscaping and screening bunds, minerals washing plant and other associated infrastructure with restoration to leisure end-uses, agricultural land and biodiversity enhancement, using imported inert fill.

Location: Land off Bourbles Lane, Preesall

Councillors were presented with the documents and discussed this application at the Parish Council meeting on 6th September.

Pilling Parish Council **has serious concerns and reservations to this application and how the issues addressed below will be addressed.** Councillors considered the adverse impact of this application will make on Pilling residents from the interruption in local life through traffic conflict, air borne particles, noise and mental health stress.

Traffic Conflict - The access road stated in the proposal uses the A588, the third most dangerous road in Britain. Recently fitted with average speed cameras. In the submitted Transport Statement May 2022 states at 2-3 "To ensure that HGV traffic cannot turn left on exiting the access and travel west to Preesall and Knott End on Sea." Should this not read RIGHT to prevent access to Preesall??

The A588 from the site on Lancaster Road exits onto Head Dyke Lane, a country road closely bordered by dykes and hedges, and no footways. HGV's passing other traffic including other HGV's will, on occasions, result in running off the road edge into the dykes, as has been seen in the past. An increase in HGV movements will see an increase in incidents. The corner at Fold House is a sharp bend and particularly narrow, it does NOT allow for any vehicles to pass an HGV, making it difficult to negotiate followed by the narrow Stakepool Bridge. This is a predominantly agricultural area with farm vehicles widely using the roads and parking at businesses in Stakepool. Stakepool junction is the location of a public

house and take away outlet, Fish and Chip Shop and our local grocers, supplying further take away food for their customers, many parking on the road. This further narrows its width and making it visually difficult for drivers and impacting on those joining from Garstang Road.

The Parish Council remembers when the quarry worked years ago, but the size of wagons used then was considerably smaller. It is believed the proposed HGV's will be articulated; the greater size seriously impacting on Pilling and surrounding villages.

From submitted information it is calculated that every 10 minutes an HGV will exit the site and therefore possibly drive through Pilling to reach Lancaster, Heysham, the M6 and beyond. Review of the transport statement is silent as to which route traffic will favour.

Lancashire County Council highways must be consulted for a suitable traffic management plan and their requirements upheld as to the state of the infrastructure of local roads with the increase in heavier vehicle use. Is the A588 able to carry this increased weight and volume of traffic? Bearing in mind the width of the A588 as traffic continues through Thurnham, passing Glasson Dock and into Lancaster. Under S278, Lancashire County Council must receive funds to improve the road as is necessary for safety and strength.

Is Garstang Road to be considered as an access route to M6 south?

When excavated, the sand and gravel loaded onto an HGV will be wet, therefore the exiting HGV's will dribble on the access roads possibly for miles! To minimise this a wheel wash must be installed and used on site and Lancaster Road and the A588 must be cleaned daily.

Air Pollution - There is little information on the potential impact to Pilling from air pollution arising from the proposed sand and gravel extraction, mineral processing and construction vehicle movements. Air-borne particles both from the works and traffic carrying the material needs to be in place to monitor the impact on Pilling residents and what mitigating measures will be employed. Bearing in mind Pilling receives prevailing westerly winds from the coast. Varying sizes of air borne particles will be produced from these works which will be blown from the site, these will be detrimental to those living in Pilling, causing respiratory problems.

The height of the proposed bund is to protect those living in close proximity to the site, but winds blowing over the top of the site lifting air-borne particles over the bund can hit Pilling. Will air monitoring be conducted in the wider community?

Pilling is blessed with two primary schools who advocate environment learning outside and Pilling residents enjoy their gardens and use a vast network of public rights of way. We are a community who walks, who takes pride in their environment, awarded gold in North west in Bloom and the Best Kept Village. Air-borne particles will fall in Pilling impacting children, adults and visitors. We also acknowledge that most teenage children attend St. Aidan's School in Preesall much closer to the excavation site.

Noise impact - Monitoring must also include the noise impact made by the increased number of HGV's used for transporting materials out and returning to fill the voids. HGV noise increases when empty, and these must not be allowed to run outside the working hours, so protecting our residents. Lancashire County Council must have regard to the Government's Clean Air Strategy. To protect health, the environment and reduce emissions from transport. There will also be an impact to homes enroute with vibrations as the loaded HGV's pass-through Pilling.






There will be occasions when HGVs arrive outside working hours, where are these to park? Will there be sufficient space on the site, or is parking to be Lancaster Road? This will cause considerable inconvenience to traffic and may promote accidents especially at times of high usage.

Who will be responsible to monitor the inert material used to replace the excavations and how will they ensure deliveries are acceptable and not contaminated materials? Will the origins of this inert material be monitored?

Residents Health – The previous scoping documents have already caused great stress and unrest to our residents in this close community; as to the immediate detrimental effect on them and the wider community with the potential effect on their quality of life. This will cause further stress and distress to our residents.

Lancashire County Council will be aware that the site has Biological Heritage Status under its RAMSAR status and trusts Lancashire County Council will include this in their decisions. With reference to Natural England during the scoping process they stated development site is within or may impact on the following

European/internationally designated nature conservation site(s) and SSSI sites;

-  Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)
-  Morecambe Bay (Ramsar)
-  Morecambe Bay Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
-  Lune Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Wyre Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Pilling Parish Council on balance of the impact of this planning application on residents and the potential on their health, wellbeing, air quality noise and unacceptable damage to Pilling's arterial roads would be looking for refusal on this application by Lancashire County Council.

Yours Sincerely,

G. Benson

Clerk to Pilling Parish Council.