

Consideration of the planning application in respect of Old London Road Quarry by the North Yorkshire County Council Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee has been deferred pending the submission of further information relating to the application. It is now (May 2020) not expected that a decision can be reached before the summer.

For information, the comments already submitted about this application by Stutton cum Hazlewood Parish Council are reproduced below:

In February 2018 the Parish Council reported the following initial observations:

- *Questioned as to what the benefits for the local community would be as it appeared to be only negative outcomes for local residents.*
- *Concerns regarding safety – primarily the amount of lorries using a 1 mile stretch of public bridleway, for 6 days a week over a 6 year period. Speed of the lorries was also a concern for vulnerable users of the area such as cyclists, horse riders, pedestrians etc.*
- *Access for local residents – particularly for Coxford residents during rush hour periods. Additionally, it was questioned as to which alternative routes would be used if the roads indicated in the application were blocked.*
- *Environmental issues such as noise and dust pollution from the crushing plant together with a loss of wildlife habitat (albeit temporarily).*
- *A question was raised over the apparent imbalance of 600,000 of aggregate in with 300,000 out – why did it have to be processed onsite and not elsewhere.*
- *Central government had produced a report on land banks and discounted the Old London Road site – why was it being considered now?*
- *Why was the crushing plant being sited at this quarry.*
- *Although some residents were informed of the application, the parish council had received no documentation from NYCC regarding the application.*

In July 2018 these initial reactions were followed by a fuller report:

The recent planning application to re-activate the Old London Road Quarry has caused considerable concern to local residents. The Parish Council has received numerous objections, recommends that the

application be refused, and now asks North Yorkshire County Council to take the following matters into consideration when determining the application.

Safety considerations

It is proposed that up to fifty HGV movements into and out of the site should be made for six days a week over six years. The route would be along Moor Lane, already a hazardous rat run between the A659 and the A162, then turning onto Old London Road for a mile. Old London Road is a public bridleway and mainly single track byway, which is also the means of access for residents of the settlement at Coxford. The bridleway is also used extensively by walkers, dog walkers, children, cyclists and horse riders.

This application would therefore be in clear breach of the following policies:

*Policy 4/13 of the Minerals - Local Plan and
Policy 4/18 of the of the Waste - Local Plan.*

Environmental issues

It is clear that this is an application for a commercially profitable waste recycling facility in the Green Belt rather than being primarily a landscaping project; if it were not the company concerned would not have submitted it. The application involves the import of 600,000 tonnes of waste matter to be crushed and separated on site, with associated dust and noise pollution, and with 300,000 tonnes of aggregate being exported out again. Further the site is adjacent to and above the Cock Beck which would inevitably be subject to pollution.

It would appear that the application would be in breach of the following provisions of the Waste - Local Plan:

Policy 4/1 a, c, g, and j - waste management proposals;

Policy 4/14 - historic environment;

Policy 4/19 - quality of life;

Policy 4/20 - open space, recreation and public rights of way;

Policy 5/3 e, and g - recycling, sorting and transfer of industrial, commercial and household waste;

Policy 6/1 a, d, and e - landfill proposals.

and in conflict with the following provisions of the North Yorkshire Draft Joint Minerals and Waste Development Local Plan:

Draft Policy D02 - local amenity and cumulative impacts;

Draft Policy D09 - water environment.

In November 2019 following a well-attended meeting the Parish Council submitted the following further comments:

Stutton cum Hazlewood Parish Council wishes to reaffirm its previous objection to this planning application and to recommend strongly that it be refused. If anything, following the announcement of this re-consultation, the expressions of concern and simple fury conveyed to the Parish Council by many local residents are more vehement than before.

In February 2018 the Parish Council submitted a set of concerns from local residents. We must now add to that list the following:

- A MOP has prepared a detailed report outlining the potential risk of polluting the Cock Beck and hence the aquifer from which the three Tadcaster breweries draw their water.*
- A resident has expressed concern about the risk of pollution to the borehole in the nearby Coxford hamlet which appears not to have been considered in the submissions thus far.*

In July 2018 the Parish Council submitted a further statement opposing this application. We reaffirm all of that, and in addition make the following points:

- We believe that the Highways Officer has failed to take fully into account the potential hazards that would be created by the access to the site of so many HGVs along a narrow and well-used brideway, and have asked him to review his previous advice.*
- We would ask that NYCC make every effort to ensure that all neighbours have been fully consulted as we are advised that this has not been the case particularly in the immediately neighbouring hamlet of Coxford.*
- We would ask that the Planning Committee consider a site visit to the quarry which is the only way fully to appreciate its situation and the limitations of the proposed access route.*