

## **Husbands Bosworth Quarry**

### **Planning Application: 2023/VOCM/0056/LCC**

This Planning Application has been made by Mick George Ltd. for the Husbands Bosworth Quarry, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, LE17 6JH as follows:

*Variation of conditions 6 and 21 of planning permission 2021/0683/03 relating to operational hours and noise limits to allow operations and vehicle movements from 6am*

Conditions 6 and 21 are as follows:

*6. Except in emergency to maintain safe quarry working (which shall be notified to the County Planning Authority within 48 hours of such an occurrence) or unless otherwise agreed in writing by the County Planning Authority:*

*No operations (other than water pumping) shall be carried out at the site except between the following times:*

*(a) 07:00 hours and 18:00 hours Monday to Friday; and*

*(b) 07:00 hours and 14:00 hours Saturday.*

*(c) No operations (other than water pumping) shall be carried out on Sundays or any Public or Bank holidays.*

*Reason: To protect the amenities of the area and comply with policy DM2 of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan*

*21. Noise levels at noise sensitive properties and attributable to the operations subject to this permission shall not exceed the existing background noise level, L90, by more than 10 dB(A).*

*Noise levels may temporarily exceed these levels, subject to them not exceeding 70dB(A) LAeq 1h, when measured at any nearby noise sensitive property. Such operations may not exceed a period of eight weeks (56 days) in any calendar year and must be connected with essential site preparation and restoration work only.*

*Reason: To ensure that noise arising from the site does not become a source of nuisance to local residents and comply with policy DM2 of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan*

**Policy DM2: Local Environment and Community Protection** Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where it is demonstrated that the potential effects from bird strikes, dust, emissions, flooding, illumination, noise, odour, run-off, traffic, vibration, or visual intrusion to adjoining land uses and users and those in close proximity to the proposal would be acceptable. Where appropriate, separation distances between a development and other land uses will be applied.

### **Welford Parish Council Position**

Welford Parish Council met on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to consider the proposal and strongly object to the application.

The application states that it is 'to allow operations and vehicle movements from 6am' and that it is for pre-loaded vehicles to leave the site from 6am. Welford PC feels that the wording of the application is ambiguous in that it is for operations which are not specified and could be interpreted as other applications will take place on the site. The application

needs to be more specific as to what will be moved and whether it will be only for traffic leaving the site or will it also allow entry to the site for people other than employees and agents to move product from the site in the pre-loaded lorries. Any other operations as stated need to be identified so as not to disturb local residents or for the contractor to extend to applications it considers necessary but outside the spirit of the application.

The applicant asks for permission to allow up to 10 HGVs to leave the site between 6am and 7am but there is no mention of any way of this being monitored or enforced.

Welford sees a lot of through traffic from GRS taking minerals to the quarry site where it is mixed and reloaded onto vehicles. There is nothing in the proposal to prevent vehicle movement to the site for further transport to/from the quarry. The heaviest goods vehicles on the road can be up to 44,000kg or 43.3 imperial tonnes which some of the loaded GRS articulated lorries could well be close to.

The movement of large vehicles from the quarry site, along the narrow High Street with residential properties situated directly on to the highway, results in a significant loss of amenity to residents. Should this vehicle movement start earlier in the morning, at 6am, it can have a significant detrimental impact on sleeping patterns and associated impact on mental health. The proposal does not speak to this impact and disruption, as well as loss of amenity that will be suffered by local residents.

There was no mention of traffic flows or any detailed traffic analysis in the original application for the site, as the applicant did not submit a local traffic impact assessment with the original application. The applicant further purports that if allowed the local morning peak traffic will be reduced but again provides no evidence to support this assertion. It therefore seems likely that the applicant is trying to address a problem that does not exist.

Looking at other building and construction supply companies, they all open for business at 7am, this includes EH Smith, Huws Gray, Gibbs and Dandy and Screwfix; it was noted that Travis Perkins and Jewson open at 7.30am and only Selco Leicester opens at 6.30am.

It is noted by the Parish Council that LCC gave the go-ahead for the site on the grounds that it would be for the 'provision of sand and gravel and contribution to the (Leicestershire) County's overall supply'. If that would be the only factor in approving this application then it would not affect Welford as all traffic movements would be north into Leicestershire from the quarry and the application should clearly state this restriction to lorry movements. Welford Parish Council also felt that the existing time of 7am already enables lorries from the quarry to be able to get to a construction site in Leicestershire by 8am, when onsite work typically begins.

Welford Parish Council recognises that LCC needs sand and gravel for continued development. However the traffic flows should be mainly in the direction of the Leicestershire area, accepting that some of the materials may also be used in Northamptonshire. We ask that a traffic management plan similar to the one already in place at Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground for Cox Automotive Europe is adopted and that strict enforcement controls and reporting mechanisms are in place for errant drivers.

## **Conclusion**

The application does not state why the early start is required or provide any evidence for the assertions made in the application or covering letter. If it was commercially necessary then other companies would also be supplying the building trade at these earlier hours.

The applicant claims an altruistic position that it will support industry (although philanthropy does not appear in the applicants website) but the earlier time is neither supported by local or national policy.

The applicant further purports that if allowed the local morning peak traffic will be reduced. This runs counter to the fact that the applicant didn't submit a local traffic impact assessment with the original application and has provided no additional traffic analysis to support this assertion or demonstrate that such a problem exists. It therefore appears likely that this application is trying to address a traffic issue that does not exist.

We accept that the A5199 is a diversion route when the M1, M6 and A14 have a problem, however the need for additional traffic through the village, especially at 6am onwards cannot be justified for 6 days a week.

Furthermore it will have an impact on people living in Welford especially those on the High Street which is also the A5199 and the southern route to the A14. It will impact their mental health and well-being by disturbing them at 6am with additional lorries travelling through Welford. The proposal does not speak to the disruption and loss of amenity that will be suffered by local residents.

On Welford High Street there are a number of vehicles parked on a gradual bend near to the post office. There are numerous occasions when opposing vehicles meet in the middle of this stretch and there is some delay in clearing the blockage. At 6am this would have a serious impact on the residents and other road users if the road became impassable or seriously held up if a blockage occurred. Later in the morning, many of these vehicles have moved as residents commute to work.

Unless Leicestershire County Council only plans for the extracted minerals to be used on Leicestershire construction work, which will not have an impact on Welford as traffic will move north through Husbands Bosworth and beyond, Welford Parish Council strongly objects to the proposal.

**Ian Kelly**

**Clerk to Welford Parish Council**

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2023**