

Husbands Bosworth Quarry

Planning application 2023/VOCM/0056/LCC

Proposal - 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

Observations by Welford Parish Council in relation to the Noise Assessment submitted by Mick George Ltd

Welford Parish Council met on Thursday 26th October 2023 to discuss the additional information submitted by Mick George in relation to Noise Assessment and HGV routes for the site at Husbands Bosworth.

Firstly it was noted that the monitoring equipment was located along Marsh Drive, Husbands Bosworth to the north of the quarry access, with the monitoring position 10 metres from the kerb of the A5199. Welford PC considered this site unsuitable for measurement as it is at a point in the road where vehicles reduce speed as they approach the junction of the A4304 Market Harborough – Lutterworth/M1 road.

Furthermore the 10m does not reflect the proximity of the houses along the High Street in Welford where there is a footpath width between them and the road. The Council would suggest this is also the case for the remainder of Husbands Bosworth along the A4304 and the A5199 to Leicester.

The effect of the proximity of houses close to the road in Welford acts as a tunnelling effect on the sound generated by traffic through the village. At 6am this would be exacerbated due to low traffic flows and also as has been highlighted in the Environmental Health reports that have been submitted. It would have an impact on the health and mental health of residents by being disturbed with the few but nonetheless additional traffic noises created so early.

I will now refer to the proposed routing for HGVs site by turning left when exiting the site onto the A5199 and heading south before turning right onto Station Road.

Firstly, the turn from the A5199 onto Station Road is approximately 135 degrees which would entail lorries turning back on themselves to make the turn. Whilst lorries and their trailers have a good turning circle, in the dark and/or adverse weather conditions it would be easy to misjudge this junction as it is not lit and could lead to the junction becoming blocked by a lorry becoming stuck in the verge.

At the junction of Station Road and the A4304, there is a presumption made that the lorries will turn left onto the A4304 Kilworth Road and travel to the M1 for their onward destinations. However, this junction is a 45 degree junction for those turning left which then means that the driver has to look over his shoulder to check to his right. The approach to the junction is also on a downward slope and could cause issues under braking in the dark and/or adverse weather conditions especially with a fully laden trailer.

There is nothing in the proposal or any penalties indicated to prevent drivers turning right at this junction and returning to Husbands Bosworth. Likewise, the same applies to any lorries not following the route along Station Road and instead travelling through Welford and onto the A14 and other destinations.

The report only deals with lorries that have been pre-loaded the day before. There is nothing in any documents that would prevent vehicles travelling to the site unloaded knowing it was open from 6am so that they could be in line and ready to load at 7am when loading was

permitted. Welford sees many GRS and other lorries destined for the site travel through the village during the day and there is nothing to suggest that this would change to earlier journeys through Welford before 7am.

Finally, I would refer to the summary provided by Mike Jephcott, Environmental Protection Manager at West Northants Council:

'It is my opinion that the current restriction that limits HGV movements until after 07:00 is entirely appropriate, HGV movements should not be permitted prior to 07:00 as doing so will result in adverse noise impact and may cause sleep disturbance. This view is supported by the World Health Organisation's Community noise guidelines (1999) and more recently the Night Noise Guidelines (2009), which both promote that noise during night time hours (23:00 to 07:00) be suitably managed so as to protect the public from sleep disturbance and the health impacts associated with that disturbance.'

Welford Parish Council continues to oppose the proposal to extend the working hours of the Husbands Bosworth Quarry on the grounds that the impact to health and wellbeing and also the closeness of homes to the High Street will have an adverse effect on the residents and properties.

This submission is made on behalf of the Welford Parish Councillors.

Ian Kelly
Clerk to Welford Parish Council
27th October 2023