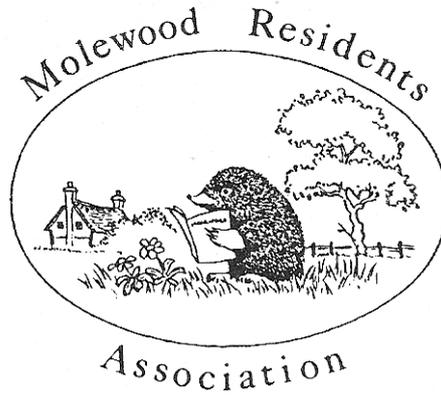


Ms Felicity J Hart  
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Mr Ben Penrose  
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29<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Ms Hart

**Proposal by RJD Ltd to extract sand and gravel from land at Ware Park, Bengeo**

As the current Chairman of the Molewood Residents' Association (MRA) I wish to provide comment upon the planning application by RJD Ltd and Gowling WLG Trust Corporation Limited to extract sand and gravel from the field immediately north of Bengeo. I understand that the applicant has applied to extract a reduced amount of aggregate totalling 1.25m tonnes.

The association represents residents of the 1960s Leach Homes estate as well as The Avenue, Lodge Close, The Drive, The Orchard, Buckwells Field and Sacombe Road. Our association represents a community of Hertfordshire residents (over 700 households) who will be directly impacted by the proposals in the application and in some instances live on the very boundaries of the proposed gravel extraction.

I wish to respond to the application on the following basis:

- 1 This quarry is sited in Green Belt land adjacent to Bengeo and our residents use the routes across the land for country walks to nearby Chapmore End. Enjoying the views across the Rib Valley and enjoying the natural landscape all contribute to a special landscape character. Recently we have successfully registered the Footpath and Byway crossing the land as an Asset of Community Value in recognition of its importance and frequency of usage by the residents of Bengeo
- 2 Some of our residents are on the very perimeter of the proposed site and others are very close to the quarry. We are concerned by the ongoing lack of engagement with the community and in the instance of the application there has been no community exhibition (as per the original application) and very limited attempts to share the plans with the community.
- 3 The extraction of gravel (even in smaller amounts) is highly likely to create airborne silica particulates in the very near vicinity to the Primary School that many of our residents attend. The risk of damaging effects upon young lungs we feel is too great a risk to place upon our community.
- 4 The area upon which the application has been made and the site adjacent (Rickneys Quarry) have been recommended to have been removed from the proposed HCC Minerals Local Plan for 2018 onwards. HCC has identified sites that fulfil its Mineral requirements with lower impact to its residents and communities it represents.

5 I understand that the applicant has addressed concerns about road safety upon which the entrance to the site will be located. Their response is thorough and on paper makes a lot of sense. A physical inspection of the road would tell you otherwise:

1 – The damage to road surfaces and the condition of an unclean road leaves the stretch of road to the East of the site at an increased risk of an accident. The site of both serious and fatal accidents in recent times due to its undulating nature, poor visibility on adjacent road entrances and the national speed limit. All these factors limit decision making time, a needless risk of life on a piece of road that has a past history of fatality.

2 – The road is an arterial road for East-West flow through East Herts. Any impairment to the flow of traffic during peak hours due to queueing of heavy goods vehicles will have a knock on effect to our community as commuters try to “make up the time” by speeding through our housing area; already a known and dangerous rat-run, therefore, now a designated 20mph zone.

3 – The stretch of road on which the entrance will be sited is a rural road and has no street lighting – making the road more dangerous during the winter months – again during peak flows of traffic.

6 Our residents wholly support the observation from the Development Control Committee that the risk to contamination of the nearby bore holes supplying a significant part of Hertford’s daily water requirements is too great a risk to consider from the original application. There are insufficient grounds of contingency in the event that the water supply was compromised and in light of the preferred Minerals locations proposed for 2018 onwards we would also require that this is taken into consideration.

I enclose previous correspondence in respect to previous applications as ongoing interest in the issue and request that the Molewood Residents Association is kept informed of any further developments via my email address.

Best Regards

Ben Penrose  
Chairman, Molewood Residents’ Association

cc CC A Stevenson, CC P Ruffles, CC Susan Dunkley, CC Sally Newton, CC Linda Radford