



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

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03 August 2017

Ms Mary Thompson
Senior Planning Officer
Communities - Oxfordshire County Council
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND

Letter sent via email

Dear Ms Thompson

MW.0039/16 – Planning application for Hills Quarry Products Ltd for planning permission for the extraction of sand, gravel and clay, creation of a new access, processing plant, offices with welfare accommodation, weighbridge, concrete plant and silt water lagoon system with site restoration to agriculture and nature conservation including lakes with recreational after uses and the permanent diversion of footpath 171/15 and creation of new footpath at land at Fullamoor Plantation, Clifton Hampden, Abingdon, Ox14 3DD

Thank you for your letter dated 13th July 2017 in relation to the above. The additional information in relation to Agricultural Land and Landscape for the Environmental Statement and amended plans was considered by the Council's Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee at its meeting of 31st July 2017.

Members noted that their previous comments will be taken into account in the determination of the application and noted your statement that there was no need to write again unless they had further comments specifically on the new information. However, members considered that the Council's strong objections in relation to this application were such that these should be reiterated and consequently I am forwarding a copy of my letter of 28th February 2017.

In addition, members requested that I emphasise their serious concerns regarding the impact of the proposed development and the consequential increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) passing through Abingdon. As stated previously, Abingdon has, since 2006, been subject to an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and there is concern regarding the levels of pollutants in the Area. If the development is permitted then it is understood there would be 80 to 110 HGVs coming through the town each day; a lorry every six minutes for eleven hours each day, Monday to Friday (7 am to

6 pm) and for six hours a day on Saturdays (7 am to 1 pm). The Council has serious concerns that the additional HGVs passing through the town would have an adverse impact on air quality and quite likely mean that the AQMA would require extension to additional areas. In these circumstances Members felt that an HGV restriction or prohibition should be considered alongside new technologies (e.g. electric HGVs).

A related point to the increase in HGV traffic which the proposed development would generate would be the impact on Abingdon Bridge (this being two bridges also known as Burford Bridge and Maud Hales Bridge), where the A415 crosses the River Thames. The Town Council is keen that the structure of this historic bridge is monitored as it already takes far heavier traffic than it would have originally been constructed to accommodate and the Council is concerned that any significant increase in the amount of HGV traffic over this bridge could be to the detriment of the structure.

I trust you find these comments helpful in determining the application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Warner', written over a horizontal line.

Nigel Warner
Town Clerk