



Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Planning Application 14/04589/MAW

Ellesmere Sand and Gravel, Spunhill, Ellesmere, SY12 0HY

Extension to Wood Lane Quarry

Further to the Parish Council's initial response dated 19 December 2014, the Council would comment as follows:

The proposed development is identified in the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan under schedule MD5a: Phase 1 Site Allocations. 7 development guidelines are identified. Having considered the responses from Natural England and Shropshire Wildlife Trust the Parish Council commissioned its own report. The report has outlined a number of serious issues and the report forms part of the Council's formal response. The report carried out by Dr J Daniels is attached. Based on the 3 documents referred to above the Council considers the application does not meet guidelines 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The Council has registered its concerns regarding the proposed option of transporting the excavated sand and gravel to the processing site by crossing Wood Lane and is still awaiting sight of Shropshire Council's Highways Development Control's response.

It is noted that the key consideration behind the proposed solution is the Wales and West Utility (W&WU) gas pipeline. The Parish Council has been advised that W&WU would prefer a pad constructed over the pipeline rather than undermining it with a tunnel. A crossing over the pipeline would have major impacts, both to residents and visitors and the Council requests that technical information to support the proposed solution is made available. The Parish Council is aware of tunnels constructed on the Sansaw Estate which have successfully met W&WU requirements and would ask whether the applicant and/or agent have sought the Estate's advice prior to selecting the over pipeline solution.

The Council has concerns regarding the measures proposed to mitigate against the impact of noise generated by the development. The Council noted that the assessment carried out was in 2009 and considers a more recent assessment should be used. The visual impact of the proposed 6m high bunds will be considerable on the near residents.

The proposed development is within the area of the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme project. This is an ambitious programme to improve the value of the landscape for the people and wildlife living in and around it through the implementation of a Nature Improvement Area and a Landscape Partnership Scheme. Funders, including UK government and the Heritage Lottery Fund, have invested nearly £2 million to engage communities, raise awareness, conserve and restore key habitats and support landowners to conserve and protect the special wildlife. Shropshire Council is a partner in the Scheme and is also leading the promotion of tourism in the area under the Shropshire Borderlands Destination Partnership. The Parish Council considers approval of this application is entirely contrary to the aims and objectives of these 2 key schemes.

The Parish Council, having considered all points outlined above and the serious concerns identified in the report by Dr J Daniels, has no alternative but to object to the application.

February 2015