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25 June 2020

Alrewas Parish Council

Chairman of the Council: Councillor Dave Whatton

Mr Matthew Griffin
Staffordshire County Council
Planning Policy And Development Control
Number 2 Staffordshire Place
Stafford
ST16 2DH.

BY E MAIL

Dear Mr Griffin,

Alrewas Parish Council Objection to Application number L.20/03/867 M

Location A513 Orgreave Alrewas Staffordshire

Proposed gravel abstraction and associated works

Having participated in the consultation event in Alrewas Village Hall earlier this year and studied the above planning application submission, Alrewas Parish Council **OBJECTS** strongly to the proposal, for the following reasons:

1. **Staffordshire Mineral Plan:** The proposal does not conform to the approved Staffordshire Mineral Plan
2. **Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan:** the proposal does not comply with the adopted Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan
3. **Existing high level of local development:** Alrewas and the nearby villages of Fradley and Kings Bromley are already subject to significant development projects including large housing developments and HS2 construction, plus high volumes of existing local quarrying. In the next few years extraction at Alrewas Quarry will commence on the west side of the A38 by the village
4. **Air quality:** Alrewas is already an area of concern about air quality due to the proximity of the A38. The extra traffic (c.170 heavy

lorries per day) and the creation of the proposed cement works would significantly impact further on air quality and the health of local residents. The proposal does not include any analysis of impact on air quality of the proposal

5. **Local traffic levels:** These are high on the A38 and A513, including existing lorry traffic from the Alrewas Quarry. Further heavy traffic from this development (c. 170 heavy lorries per day) would increase the danger on the roads and pressure on local infrastructure

6. **Traffic noise:** The proposed site is so close to Alrewas, Orgreave, Fradley and Kings Bromley that noise from vehicles, including reversing warning signals, would be clearly heard. This would only be made worse if 24/7 working at the cement factory was allowed

7. **Proposed concrete works:**

The concrete works is a major concern for the following reasons:

- the known health risks of such developments. The plant should not be sited so close to such large residential locations due to risks to health from air quality etc.
- the scale of the proposed buildings is not compatible with a rural setting and would dominate and impact badly on the landscape, including along the Trent and Mersey Canal which brings in tourism revenue to Lichfield District
- noise from machinery and vehicles (See above) especially if the plant is allowed to run 24/7. This is clearly in contravention of the *HS2 Code of Construction for Phase 1* which state that working hours should be 08.00-18.00 on weekdays and 0800-13.00 on Saturdays (no Sunday working) with an hour either side for set up and shut down.
- It is not clear that the cement works or the quarry is required to support HS2. It is not clear whether a firm contract has been obtained to supply HS2 from this site by the proposers. Further investigation of capacity in existing locations, including at near-by Willington should be undertaken. Is the HS2 development being used to strengthen the case for a new cement factory which would otherwise not be allowed in a rural location?

8. **Timeframe for the development:**

Although the proposal mentions a timescale of 4-5 years, it appears that permission is being sought for an unlimited period of operation for the concrete plant, and possibly at 24/7 operation levels. This is unacceptable so near to local residential communities

9. **Previous applications for mineral extraction in this area:**

Previous applications from the landowners for mineral extraction on this site have been turned down. The Parish Council is concerned

that the status of the HS2 development could be used to enable or fulfil a long-held plan, with the addition of the intrusive cement works, without a proven legal business link between HS2 and Cemex.

10. Screening and restitution:

The proposal contains inadequate plans for either screening of operations or restitution of the site. The large concrete plan building would be hard to screen given its size and so its visual impact on the local rural area would be significant.

11. Impact on wildlife: There is inadequate information on the impact on local wildlife of this development

12. Loss of local farmland:

13. There would be considerable and permanent loss of agricultural land to this development

14. Flooding:

There could be flooding implications if development is allowed on this site

15. Gas main:

A high-pressure gas main runs across this site and is a major concern for residents

These are our headline comments and we will be producing more detailed objections in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Whatton
Chair of Alrewas Parish Council