

SKILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Grantham, Lincolnshire

Chairman: Graham Page Vice-Chairman: Richard Wrigley Councillors: Andy Bunce, Neville Clark, Francis Disney, Rory Grindey, Stuart Millington. Parish Clerk: Pamela Harrison (Mrs), 9 Telford Way, Colsterworth, Grantham, Lincs. NG33 5GH Telephone: 07707 104187 email: clerk.spc@gmail.com

Planning References: PL/0076/18 and PL/0121/18

Skillington Parish Council has considered this application in detail and has a number of concerns which it considers to be in the public interest:

Validity of Mining Permission

The Environment Act 1995 placed a duty on the County Council to review and update mineral planning permissions granted after 30 June 1948. Both these mining permissions were required to be renewed following application by the operator, initially and then every fifteen years. Failure to do this meant that mining permission lapsed. Has LCC determined that these procedures were followed? If not then surely the application is invalid.

Understanding of Location

The Parish Council's comments are based upon the statements in the applications that proposed mining would take place only in the area bounded in red in the Figure 1.3 Proposed Quarry Development Boundary attached to Environmental Statement (Volume I Non-Technical Summary) in the submitted documents. For the avoidance of doubt this specifically excludes any development West of Crabtree Road, Skillington, or East of Skillington Road, Colsterworth. Any development in these latter areas would be opposed by the Parish Council and would, we assume, require a separate application.

Justification for mining

The Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adopted 2016) shows that the County enjoys a surplus of reserves over requirements for the period 2016-2031 of 29 Mt. This compares with a requirement for the period of 11 Mt. So the surplus (which excludes limestone from dormant sites like the one in this application) is about 260%. If it is possible to refuse the application on the grounds of unnecessary development then this should be done.

HGV Traffic

The present quarry exit for HGVs is on Crabtree Road where they head North, either to the A1 junction or turning right into Skillington Road. The Parish Council has expressed concern to the operators of the quarry about rubble dropping from lorries making the right turn into Skillington Road. This problem continues, [and the sheeting of lorry loads seems, at best, inconsistent](#). HGVs have also been observed turning right onto the A1 at the Crabtree Road junction, a very dangerous manoeuvre. [\(see below\)](#)

The applications propose that this routing is continued. The Parish Council does not regard the Crabtree Road/A1 junction as suitable for this purpose. The Northbound slip road is too short and requires HGVs to come to a halt before joining the A1. The flow of traffic on the A1 is too heavy to allow a loaded HGV to join safely from a standing start. [The junction is also unsuitable for incoming HGV's heading South and turning right into Crabtree Road. This requires them turning across the Northbound carriageway of the A1 from a small central reservation pausing place.](#)

The Crabtree Road/A1 junction should [certainly](#) not be used for [outbound \(loaded\)](#) HGVs heading South. This manoeuvre would require turning across both Northbound and Southbound carriageways with a probable stop at the central reservation which is too narrow for an HGV to wait without overlapping the Northbound fast lane.

[The Parish Council therefore regards the use of Crabtree Road beyond the junction with Colsterworth Road as unsuitable for quarry traffic. The alternative route to the A1 would therefore be via the B676 and through Colsterworth. This route would provide a safer junction with the A1 but would necessitate the vehicles passing through a residential area and adding to the already unacceptable conditions on that road. Our conclusion therefore is that there is no suitable vehicle route for the proposed development.](#)

The application proposes that HGVs exiting the site onto the unnamed road should ~~turn~~ [then turn](#) right onto Crabtree Road. Even with the proposed amendment to the junction with Crabtree Road this would be a perilous manoeuvre on a blind bend – see photos. [The Parish Council believes that any traffic leaving the site should turn right on the unnamed road to the junction with Skillington Road.](#)



Crabtree Road looking North from junction with 'unnamed road'



Crabtree Road looking South. Unnamed road (40m away) obscured by bend and trees.

[Traffic Volumes](#)

The application suggests that traffic volumes will change little, or not at all, from current ones. Given the likely overlap of preparation of the new quarry with current extraction, and of restoration of the current quarry with extraction from the new one these claims should be verified and enforced, if planning permission is granted. In particular the Parish Council would look to LCC to monitor traffic volumes and enforce the undertakings given.

Restoration of site

The application refers to the 'placement of waste mineral back into the void, following by the stripped subsoils and topsoils'. The Parish Council takes this to exclude any possibility of the site being used as a waste disposal facility and requests that such an undertaking be specifically requested.

Summary

Skillington Parish Council regards this application as being unnecessary for the County's requirements and as having no suitable plan for movement of materials from the site.

Pamela Harrison (Mrs)

Clerk and Financial Officer to the Council