The Coal Authority

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

RTPI Learning Partner

200 Lichfield Lane
Berry Hill
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

Tel: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

Email: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

Web: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the Attention of: Mr B Hurst – Case Officer
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

[By Email: planning@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk]

01 December 2020

Dear Mr Hurst

PLANNING APPLICATION: SMD/2020/0644

Erection of a two-bedroom bungalow on land adjacent 58 Well Street, Cheadle

Thank you for your notification of 27 November 2020 seeking the views of The Coal Authority on the above planning application.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

The Coal Authority Response: **Substantive Concern**

I have reviewed the site location plans, the proposals and the supporting information submitted and available to view on the LPA website. I can confirm that the site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area and that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, or equivalent report, is required to support this application.

The Coal Authority records indicate that the application site lies in an area of likely historic unrecorded coal workings at shallow depth.

The applicant has submitted some coal mining information to accompany the planning application, in this case an Enviro All-in-One Report. However, these are factual reports only and this information does not provide any assessment of the potential risks posed to the development proposal by past coal mining activity. The Coal Authority therefore **objects** to this planning application.

In accordance with the agreed risk-based approach to development management in the defined Development High Risk Areas, the applicant should be informed that they need to submit a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report, or equivalent report, to support this planning application. This assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified person. Without such a risk assessment, the Coal Authority does not consider that the LPA has sufficient information to determine this planning application.

The Coal Authority would be very pleased to receive for further consultation and comment any additional information submitted by the applicant.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Helen Branson

Helen Branson
Technical Officer

General Information for the Applicant

The coal mining information within the Enviro All-in-One Report already obtained should be used as the basis for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report (CMRA). The CMRA should assess whether or not past mining activity poses any risk to the development proposal and, if necessary, propose mitigation measures to address any issues of land instability. This could include further intrusive investigation on site to ensure that the Local Planning Authority has sufficient information to determine the planning application.

The need for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment is set out in the National Planning Practice Guide at:
http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/land-stability/land-stability-guidance/

Under the Coal Industry Act 1994 any intrusive activities, including initial site investigation boreholes, and/or any subsequent treatment of coal mine workings/coal mine entries for

ground stability purposes require the prior written permission of the Coal Authority, since such activities can have serious public health and safety implications. Failure to obtain permission will result in trespass, with the potential for court action. In the event that you are proposing to undertake such work in the Forest of Dean local authority area our permission may not be required; it is recommended that you check with us prior to commencing any works. Application forms for Coal Authority permission and further guidance can be obtained from the Coal Authority's website at: https://www.gov.uk/get-a-permit-to-deal-with-a-coal-mine-on-your-property

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by the Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available coal mining data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by the Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to the Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by the Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the applicant for consultation purposes.