From:	Planning Comments (SMDC)
To:	Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject:	Comment Received from Public Access
Date:	03 June 2020 21:35:54

Application Reference No. : SMD/2020/0244 Site Address: Moneystone Quarry Cheadle Road Oakamoor Staffordshire ST10 2DZ Comments by: Richard Williams
From:

15 Riverside
Churnet View Rd
Oakamoor
Stoke on trent

St103AE
Phone:
Email:

Submission: Objection
Comments: I most strongly object to the proposed development and Laver Leisure's suggestion that a further EIA is not required. Over the past 8 years since the last EIA was prepared, much has changed in the environment. We have seen wildlife flourish and many species of birds including cuckoos have been heard and other wildlife including great crested newts which I believe to be an endangered species are flourishing in the area of the proposed development site.

Since planning was initially granted there is now greater emphasis on the need to consider the environment in planning applications and the proposed Environment Bill emphasises the need to consider biodiversity and air quality. By going ahead with this development there will be increased human traffic and less biodiversity. Where there is an increased human presence it is inevitable that wildlife habitats are lessened and nature is frightened away.

Since the lockdown, we have seen first hand the devastation that increased tourism has on the local environment. Pathways that were used mainly by locals are used more heavily, including by cyclists in areas they are not allowed to be, which has led to damage to tree roots & disrupted the wildlife, especially the ground nesting birds. There has been increased litter including human waste and nappies which local people have cleared away themselves, grassland on the park has been burnt black due to people incorrectly using barbeque's & trees set alight due to people putting lit cigarettes in them. Sadly, this has demonstrated the lack of respect tourists have on the area & wildlife and the detrimental effects tourists have on the area and in local communities.

Laver Leisure suggested that they intend the development to be used by the local community which would lead to reduced traffic as locals would need to travel less for recreation. I am at a loss as to how they came to this conclusion - as the majority of local people objected to the site, local people will not use the facilities. Therefore, the only people who will use them will be people travelling from a distance, and this will lead to greater traffic pollution & poorer air quality which the government is aiming to reduce over the years. The people of Whiston, Oakamoor and nearby villages need only go to Cheadle for most recreational activities and there are already cafes and restaurants within walking distance. There are beautiful woods locals use for free. Alton Towers offers everything else including cycle ways, bridle paths & a spa, even accommodation in log cabins, so the suggestion that these facilities are in any way needed or wanted is not the case.

The spillway in particular has a number of ramifications in respect of its potential to adversely affect the nearby Whiston Eaves Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as well as the Churnet River itself. Lavers Environmental Consultants way back in 2014 had concerns regarding the proximity of the quarry to the SSSI as

well as pointing out that acidity levels in the river was raised at the test point downstream from the overflow streams from Quarry 3. They also warned of variances in pollutants leaching out of the quarry over time too. Possibly the most serious issue though is the potential to poison, silt-up, flood or create drought conditions in the SSSI depending mainly on the weather and the amount or lack of precipitation over the years to come.

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