

Representations in respect of Moneystone Quarry and planning applications SMD/2019/0646, SMD/2016/0378, SMD/2019/0716, SMD/2022/0014 and with specific regard to Climate Change, Global Warming and mitigation measure to protect the Environment , having regard to the adopted SMDC LPA Core Strategy policy to meet national and international targets on those aspects and with special regard to the extant planning applications at Moneystone Quarry.

SMDC LPA and it's Planning Officers will be aware of earlier representations I have made to the Authority with regard to its duty to protect the Environment and to critically analyse all planning applications by reference to factual and scientifically supported evidence to help the Authority meet it's own stated environmental policies and also to comply with the national governments treaty obligations with regard to Climate change and Global warming.

I have on earlier dates specifically drawn to the Authorities notice several updates issued by the **International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** during 2021 and early in 2022. I urge Officers to familiarise themselves with my representations specifically and generally on those matters.

After a delay spanning eleven years the MQ Case Officer, in May 2022, commissioned a Peer Review of Instability issues of the land and quarry areas forming Moneystone Quarry.

That peer review by Wardell Armstrong and dated June 2022 has concluded that MQ is unstable and that the Applicant developers and their planning advisers have failed to carry out appropriate tests and engineering measurements to ensure that past and current planning applications meet standards necessary to ensure that the developers proposals met appropriate standards of safety.

In particular the Peer review on Stability highlights the NPPF requirement that the LPA satisfies itself that the site is safe for the proposed development. Wardell Armstrong's peer review shows that it is not and has not been so since 2010.

As the Peer review report by Wardell Armstrong has made clear, in the absence of appropriate tests, measurements etc., the SMDC LPA did not and indeed still cannot claim with any validity that the Planning Officers possessed important factual engineering safety data on which to base a valid and informed '

weighing of the necessary planning balance.' in respect of the outline permission SMD/2016/0378 which has thus undermined the validity of the extant outstanding planning applications in respect of MQ namely 0646, 0716, and 0014.

I now draw to the attention of SMDC LPA and its Planning officers of a **Speech given by Sir James Bevan Chief Executive of the Environmental Agency on the 08/06/2022.**

A verbatim record of the speech can be found on GOV.UK using Environment Agency(/government/ organisations/environment- agency) and I urge the LPA to familiarise itself and its Case Officer and Planning Officers with the entirety of Sir James Bevans speech. It is a vitally important and up to date analysis of the expectation now required by developers in this time of rapid climate change and global warming. To ignore the warnings so recently given by the CEO of the Environment Agency would risk being a dereliction of a planning officers' duty.

To assist the LPA I set out below quotes from the speech which have a direct relevance to past and current planning applications made by proposed Developers in respect of the MQ site.

Quote.

*' There are few things more terrifying than the devastation that climate change brings'.

*'It has the potential to destroy our economy, our species and our planet.'

*'And it's happening at a faster rate than we feared'.

*'Just last month the Met Office reported that there was a 50:50 chance that we would see a rise in the world's temperature by more than 1.5C *over the next five year* (my emphasis) Those are not good odds'.

*'And according to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) even just temporarily exceeding this warming level will result in additional and severe impacts some of which will be irreversible'.

*'This is scary stuff. The good news is that we can successfully tackle the climate emergency if we do the right things. Today's conference is right to be focusing on three areas in particular, ***the need to move from data analysis to practical action, the importance of evolving beyond emissions reduction to protecting ecosystems and biodiversity and the alignment of climate action with social impact.***'(my emphasis)

'The EA are working with the government and other independent experts to develop standards for green investment[see later as to solar energy]- Green Taxonomy'.

*'It will help businesses, investors and consumers make informed choices and support *sustainable* project's.

*'It will also help clamp down on *greenwashing- false, unsubstantiated or exaggerated claims that an investment or business is environmentally friendly or carbon neutral or otherwise helping tackle the climate emergency*'. (*my emphasis*)

*'The public want to be assured that green investment really does meet the **gold standard**.* (see later).

*'To tackle the climate emergency successfully mitigation alone is not enough. We also need adaption- changing the way we live, run our economy and build our cities so that we are resilient to the changes in climate that have already happened and will continue to happen whatever we now do because of the carbon we've already pumped into the atmosphere'.

'The EA is playing a substantial role on mitigation (see later) and adaption'.

'We are helping the country adapt to the effects of climate change by building and maintaining flood defences (see later), by managing water resources to ensure that we will have enough in future and ***through our statutory planning role*** through which we help create better and more resilient places for people and wildlife(* see later).

Commentary.

*'In the reference above to Green Taxonomy it is at least questionable that the EA, acting through it's local Officers are in any real way committed to investing in green investment. It would go a significant way towards helping the local environment and wildlife and meeting the LPA's obligation to support and meet the objectives of the Core Strategy policy ambitions if the whole of MQ was used to expand the already present Solar Energy Farm.

There are outstanding a number of as yet unresolved complaints concerning the actions of regional EA Officers engaging in actions that resulted involvement in encouraging the Applicants at MQ. to breach planning law and thereafter approving actions which amount to the effective denial of a public right to know so that they could make informed judgements on that which has been covered by redactions in the Reservoir Engineers report..

The SMDC LPA has confirmed in writing that it is considering enforcement action in respect of the development without planning permission against the Applicants.

It is not yet known what action the LPA intends to take against EA officers who encouraged and abetted the breaches of planning law.

Recent enquiry reveals that SMDC LPA is still actively considering the matter.

The same EA officers have also repeatedly failed to take any corrective action when it has been pointed out that, in respect of an unlicensed reservoir in Q3, the engineer who inspected the site had a direct commercial connection with a firm of planning experts who were on the planning record as advising the Developers in their planned development of MQ. (see High Court decision UK Cabinet M. Gove-v- Good Law Project on the law of actual and apparent bias).

Green washing etc. There does not appear to be any *sustainable* evidence that SMDC LPA has exercised its duty to ensure that the MQ site is *safe* for it's proposed usage in so far as the applicable, environmental '**gold standard**' has been assessed and met in all aspects of the (repeatedly changed) plans for the developments at MQ.

If there ever was any evidence-based assessment of environmental standards or compliance with statutory requirements that would assist the SMDC LPA and the EA to create at MQ a *better and more resilient place for people and wildlife* such evidence is now long out of date and does not and cannot meet the '**gold standard**' that Sir James Bevan addressed in his speech of the 08/07/2022 cited above.

In his speech Sir James Bevan speaks of the need to move **from ' data analysis to practical action...'**

The evidence base shows little if any evidence that data has been used as a model by SMDC LPA Planning officers and virtually nothing that demonstrates that it has resulted in *practical* action.

Indeed on the issue of MQ instability and despite the LPA having been put on notice of such instability in 2010 at a meeting with the Applicants and their planning experts, it took the Case Officer until the 04/05/ 2022 to seek expert Peer Review evidence on that issue.

There can be no meaningful claim by the LPA that it has attempted to reach any planning ' gold standard'.

As to the conduct of EA Officers actions within the context of their '**statutory planning role**' *this is currently the subject of an outstanding FOIA request relating to the officers actions in relation to MQ.*

When replies are received it may be necessary to make further representations. I ask that these representations be exhibited on the SMDC LPA planning website relating to cited planning application.

Paul Housiaux
Whiston Resident.
27/06/2022.