
From: Curley, Jane
Sent: 18 April 2023 10:50
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: FW: Drownings in quarries /SMD/2019/0646 and SMD/2022/0014

Categories:

Jane Curley (Mrs)
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Mobile 07794 768397

From: SheilaWalters
Sent: 17 April 2023 21:46
To: Curley, Jane
Cc: Stokes, Andrew <
Subject: Drownings in quarries /SMD/2019/0646 and SMD/2022/0014

Dear Mrs Curley,

Just out of interest and as a simple exercise, a few minutes ago I browsed the internet and cut and pasted the following headlines to stories which, as you can see in the Appendix below, are all relating to quarry safety and loss of life. It took barely a minute before I had accumulated 213kb of data from about 40 examples of fatalities.

These are recent examples from all over the country and abroad and no doubt had I worked at searching more diligently I could have accumulated a hundred or more without too much bother.

I didn't need to however, as from what you can readily appreciate in this sample below, (unfortunately the size of this email prevents me from only instancing but a few) there are a couple of common themes that run throughout that, as a public authority, SMDC should be doing its utmost to avoid, and yet by looking so favourably upon the Moneystone quarry development, it appears to be doing the reverse by encouraging leisure activities and allowing accommodation in a most dangerous environment.

The message from all the extracts is starkly plain and simple.

Quarries full of water are not the places for leisure activities.

Flooded quarries such as Moneystone are full of dangers.

Good swimmers, adults and families should never approach them without severe risk of drowning.

It is not simply their hidden depth but that the water is always colder than the sea or rivers as it is fed from underground sources (as is the case at Moneystone) and the shock of its impact upon the human body is very often fatal.

The speed of the paralysing shock to the system is such that even good swimmers often perish before being rescued from the water.

There are other factors that can cause death but it is the attraction of the body of water that is the lure that encourages misadventure and tragedy and that is common to the stories highlighted below.

Given all the safety advice nationally and internationally about quarries and water, why therefore is SMDC still entertaining the idea of actively encouraging people to seek out a flooded quarry and stay on its edge by failing to refuse the proposed applications SMD/2019/0646 and SMD/2022/0014?

Yours sincerely
David Walters
Secretary

PS please file as an objection for each application **SMD/2019/0646** and **SMD/2022/0014**

APPENDIX

Facts

National statistics evidence and info from ROSPA and the National Water Safety Forum re drowning in 2021

- • There were 277 accidental fatalities
- • 83% of accidental fatalities were male
- • Males 30 -39 were the highest group for accidental fatalities
- • 62% of accidental fatalities happened at inland waters*. This is a significant change from previous years which has seen most accidental fatalities at the coast.

*Inland waters includes all quarry deaths.

- • Recreational activities accounted for 55% of accidental fatalities.
- • The rate of accidental drowning has increased slightly since 2017 (0.38 per 100,000) to 0.41

Culled stories /samples

Headlines

[Geology.com](#) cites Mine Safety and Health Administration data in saying that between 2001 and 2017, there were 201 drowning deaths in abandoned mines in the ...

Quarry Pool Tragedy: Second Death Within Days | UK News



Sky

[https://news.sky.com › story › quarry-pool-tragedy-se...](https://news.sky.com/story/quarry-pool-tragedy-se...)

12 Jul 2013 — The emergency services warn against people using open waters as a place to cool down during the hot weather.

Anger as flooded quarry still hasn't been drained despite ...



12 Jul 2022 — Anger as flooded quarry still hasn't been drained despite three tragic **deaths** ... "Drain it off, make it into a facility rather than a death pool ...

Two men killed after swimming in disused quarry in Norfolk



The Independent
<https://www.independent.co.uk> › UK › Home News

17 Jul 2013 — Inquiries are ongoing as to exactly what led to the **deaths**, which came the day after a quarry in Malvern reopened following two more fatal ...

Quarry Drowning

beratung-berlin-leipzig.de
<https://beratung-berlin-leipzig.de> › quarry-drowning

There are calls for a quarry to be drained after a 16-year-old boy drowned while **swimming** on one of the hottest days of the year.

Boy, 13, 'disappeared' into the water while swimming with ...



Liverpool Echo
<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk> › ... › Lancashire

19 Jul 2022 — The well-loved 17-year-old was the first to die in the quarry with his death being followed by that of 13-year-old Miracle Godson, a promising ...

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