
High Peak Borough Council and
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Tel: 01538 395400 ext 5931

From: Stokes, Andrew <>

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 5:27 PM

To: Customer Complaints <[Curley, Jane](#)>

Cc: Fawkes, Julie <

Subject: FW: Trust in conditions / Blind faith / objection to applications SMD/2019/0646, SMD/2019/0716 and SMD/2022/0014.

Jane/Julie – please note the request to cite this as an objection to all three applications SMD/2019/0646, SMD/2019/0716 and SMD/2022/0014.

Thanks

Jenny Atherton
Chief Executive's Office
High Peak Borough Council & Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Tel:
Mobile:

E-mail: Web: www.highpeak.gov.uk or www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

From: SheilaWalters <
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 1:23 PM
To: Curley, Jane <
Cc: Stokes, Andrew
Subject: Trust in conditions / Blind faith / objection to applications SMD/2019/0646, SMD/2019/0716 ad SMD/2022/0014.



Dear Mrs Curley

Re applications SMD/2019/0646, SMD/2019/0716 ad SMD/2022/0014.

As we are entering the final stages of the applications for Moneystone Quarry, there are a number of unanswered questions that we feel should be provided by SMDC as a matter of probity as they remain significant points that should be clarified and explained before the hearing date in order to meet the expectations required by the public if the proper weighing of the planning balance is to be equitably achieved.

For example a couple of weeks ago I sent you a simple inquiry regarding receipt of a series of reports on safety

issues at the quarry that the applicant and its agents maintain have been carried out on a monthly basis by way of their re-assuring public concerns.
(ref email of the 19th September 2023)

As you have not bothered to reply and there is no evidence of such reports on the SMDC planning web file, we must assume that you are unaware of such claimed checks and /or they are indeed entirely bogus.

To our knowledge there have not been safety checks by any reputable body or as they put it "health and safety experts."

Bearing in mind the speed at which Royal Pilgrimage (Laver's agents) responded to our initial enquiry in order to allay public fears and the expansive details of their reply, we also requested to see any or all of the alleged reports, particularly the monthly ones, with renewed interest. However, strangely, nothing further has been forthcoming.

As this is part of a deliberate campaign to assure local people that the granting of the planning application is guaranteed and therefore nothing more is to be expected than for it to be rubber stamped, we wish to draw your attention to this blatant attempt to deceive the public at large by the disingenuous nature of their claims, or indeed, having checked their record over the years, the issuing of a cynical and deliberate lie.

Is this a trustworthy venture?

This is important for you to be aware of when considering the evidence and merit of this scheme and the truth of the applicant's claims in support of it .

Over the years since the initial stages of the scheme, we have monitored it and are well aware of repeated failures of the applicant to meet expected targets and conditions imposed upon it by LPAs, both yourselves and Staffordshire County Council who oversee the restoration of the quarry.

For example, when the quarry ceased, Laver Leisure, who undertook all responsibility and legal liability for the site upon the purchase from Sibelco, were required to demolish **all** the quarry buildings permitted under consent SM.94/852 **within 6 months of its cessation**. However it failed do so. Instead It has continued to breach condition 5 of that permission for the past 22 years as several quarry buildings remain on site.

In 2014 it was required under the grant of a new restoration plan to "regularise its use of the buildings" . It failed to do so.

It was also agreed by Laver Leisure at that time that annual reports on the progress of the restoration of the quarry would be submitted to show the progress of restoration plan so that the following years schedule of work could be planned in advance . That reporting ceased after 2016 and no annual planning schedule was agreed. The quarry remains unrestored and at variance with the conditions of the agreed plan.

The five year review of progress on the restoration of the quarry has never taken place since 2014 despite Laver's agreement to honour the condition.

No closure report or safety review was delivered to the HSE and no inspections of the quarry by that body has taken place or is on record.

No licence fees or safety checks were paid for by Laver Leisure as owners of the reservoir in quarry 3.

Instead, in a bid to avoid culpability, Abbeydale, its engineering agents, destroyed the existing safety overflow system in June 2021 by an unauthorised excavation of the dam or bund contrary to the wishes or permission of the Environment Agency's reservoir enforcement team.

In 2016 SCC had to issue a stopping order to prevent illicit dumping including that of toxic waste material in quarry 2 by its agents Genesis and other associates like T W Frizell.

Since 2014 Laver Leisure has also allowed the illegal use of the quarry buildings as premises for an unauthorised scrap metal business despite continuous threats of enforcement by SCC.

Given that many of the shortcomings of the applicant's application to which we have brought your attention over the many years this scheme has dragged on, continue to be accepted on the file record, including the entry of false facts or errors even extending to the application forms themselves which you still have not corrected and remain wrongly validated by SMDC, we find the potential use of multiple conditions that Mr Haywood and yourself advocated at our recent meeting with you, does not bode well as an acceptable excuse for granting permissions.

This seems particularly galling given past record of the applicant's failure to honour conditions imposed upon it and the track record of the incapability of the LPA concerned to ensure that those conditions were correctly carried out within the prescribed time frame and to the letter.

We have taken notice that SCC in a recent local case where there is a dubious element attached to it, imposed conditions that have to be fulfilled **before** permission is granted, rather than as in the case of your authority, granting permission and then imposing conditions afterwards.

This seems a far better way of dealing with those grey areas of contentious matters by ensuring that the application documents are totally watertight beforehand and that the groundwork is achieved without the risk of a later renegeing of conditions.

In view of all of the above, please cite this as an objection to all three applications SMD/2019/0646, SMD/2019/0716 and SMD/2022/0014.

Yours sincerely.
David Walters
Secretary
Churnet Valley Conservation Society
CVCS

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