

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

LDG- _____
ABP- _____

13 JUL 2021

Fee: € _____ Type: _____
Time: 14.15 By: Hand

Windmill Hill Residents,
Windmill Hill,
Rathcoole,
Co Dublin.

24th June 2021

RE: APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION UNDER S. 37L: further development of a quarry over an area of 26.87 ha. that largely coincides with an existing operational quarry void at Windmill Hill, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin within the administrative area of South Dublin County Council.

Case Number: SU06S.310466

A Chara;

We respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála consider the contents of this submission in their determination of this application.

Introduction:

As residents of the local area where this existing facility is located and where this application relates, we respectfully ask that our concerns below are considered in determining this application. Life in this rural area is becoming more and more disturbed by the constant noise and vibration of blasting, the dust blowing into and over our homes during certain times is becoming unbearable. As each day passes this quarry seems to grow, and we feel there are no boundaries as to how much and how far this quarry can grow. We feel the local authority has no measures in place to ensure planning compliance or whether planning permission exists in the first place, reference the recent RTE Investigates program which highlighted the planning irregularities of quarries in Ireland, which this quarry heavily featured in. We do not know what harm is being caused to the environment and local habitat as nobody is monitoring the

activities being carried out. Everything is very vague, with nobody is actually able to state what has permission, what does not and what protection / monitoring measures are in place.

Can a valid application be made when the facility in question does not have a current valid planning approval for what is in place?

Grounds for Appeal:

1. Environmental:

There is Natural Heritage Areas located within c. 3.5 kilometres (Slade of Saggart) and c. 8 kilometres (Glenasmole Valley) to the southeast of the quarry lands, and 6 kilometres (Lugmore Glen) and 9.5 kilometres to the east (Dodder Valley). Lands at Mountseskin and Gortlum located c. 5.2 kilometres to the southeast of the quarry lands are feeding grounds for Greylag geese, which is a protected bird species under the designated Special Protection Area for Birds at Poulaphouca reservoir in County Wicklow. There are two Special Areas of Conservation located 8.5 and 9 kilometres respectively to the southeast of the quarry (Wicklow Mountain SAC and Glenasmole Valley SAC). Lands in the vicinity of the quarry are drained by watercourses within the catchment area of the river Camac which joins the river Liffey in Dublin city.

We do not feel that the reports included with this application address matters of the environment or our natural heritage areas sufficiently. We have no sight of a Construction Management Plan which should detail any mitigation measures for the operations of such a facility. Our reading of the reports would direct a person to believe that such measures are not required, which could not be further from the fact.

2. Local Amenities & Monuments:

There is no reference or evidence to suggest that the proposed work will not have a negative impact on the neighbouring tower on top of Windmill Hill. The Stone Windmill (ruin) located on the quarry lands is a recorded monument, and is included in the Record of Protected Structures, Schedule 2 in the South Dublin County Development

Plan. It is the policy of the Council (Policy AA7) to conserve buildings, structures and sites contained in the Record of Protected Structures. This protected structure stands c. 50 metres from the southern edge of the existing quarry excavation area.

3. Noise and Dust Pollution:

As residents in the area, we are subject to the noise and vibrations from blasting. This is becoming louder and more frequent in recent times and it feels like it is getting closer and closer to our homes. Ground vibration during blasting was monitored at the Windmill Hill in 2016 and results were shown to us. After complaints were made to Mr Behan about effects and damage both cosmetic and structural the vibration was having on local houses, monitoring was moved to the boundaries of the quarry and we were told all ground vibrations (Self monitoring) were within the acceptable limits of the existing planning permission. The results we have seen to date are between 2mm/sec and 6mm/sec.

It's beyond belief that the results of this magnitude can cause such damage considering the upper limit is 12mm/sec, either the results we are getting are inaccurate or the limits are set too high.

We believe there should be an independent noise and explosion monitoring system at close proximity to the quarry , supervised by South Dublin Co Co and all independent results forward to Windmill and Carrigeen residents.

We think that a condition of the planning should be " the Quarry owners should put in place with a reputable Insurance Company a bond to the value of €2,000,000 to cover cosmetic or structural damage caused to property by the quarry to the residents of Windmill Hill and Carrigeen Lane Rathcoole".

The dust generated from the quarry is constantly dirtying our homes, our cars, gardens and internal areas of our houses. Our homes have vents on the walls which must be

closed due to dust entering through the ventilation's spaces. We are constantly painting and cleaning our houses and windows. We were told that an assessment of dust impacts from the quarrying activities has been undertaken and it concluded that the impact was "Not Significant".

Have a look at the quarry from Main Street Rathcoole on a dry day and tell me that it is "Not Significant".

4. Road Safety:

The traffic movements to this quarry are excessive onto a National Road Network. From the information available we did not note any traffic impact assessments included with the planning application. What measures should be in place to ensure the road is kept free of quarry materials and run off from the tyres of the lorries?

Due to overloading and no covers on trucks, stone, dust and chippings are continuous falling off trucks on existing the quarry, Steelstown Rd exist 5, both roundabouts and the slip lane to the N7 North, it will only be a matter of time before a fatal accident will be caused. The surface of the National Road should be free of any aggregates to ensure the standard of the road surface is not compromised. The vehicles using this national road can travel at 100kph.

5. Planning Irregularities:

We have noted with the documents enclosed with this application make references to the High Court and An Bord Pleanála. We have also watched the RTE Investigates Documentary Series which carried out forensic research into this quarry and determined that this quarry was not operating the appropriate planning approval. Does this site and do the operations of this site have the benefit of planning permission? If so, what are the conditions attached to this planning permission and are they being fully complied with? Why would RTE feel it necessary to broadcast on national mediums this quarry

and its operations if everything were in good planning order? Have all enforcement notices been closed at this location, for example reference numbers:

1. File Ref: S1414
2. File Ref: S4432
3. File Ref: S5940

Conclusion:

We hope that our concerns are heard and considered and thank you for taking the time to read and consider this submission.

EIRINI Triantafyllou

Clonford
Windmill Hill
Rathcoole

"Femdale"
Carnageen
Rathcoole
Co. Dublin

Kay [Signature]
[Signature]

Signed:

A Hennessey

D Hennessey

[Signature]

24th June 2021

Seena O'Brien
Windmill Hill
Rathcoole
Co. Dublin

Ashwood
Carnageen
Windmill Hill
Rathcoole
Co. Dublin

Tony Gaisack
"WESTWINDS"
Windmill Hill

RITA HAYES
Windmill Hill

Signed: 

24th June 2021