

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
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14 MAY 2024
Fee: € _____ Type: _____
Time: 9:39 By: exppost

CATHAL REGAN
TRAMMAN
RATHMOLYON
ENFIELD
CO MEATH
A83EH02

The secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Malborough Street,
Dublin 1
D01V902

11/05/2024

RE: Application of reference number SU17.319397

Applicant: Keegan Quarries Limited
Development address: Tromman Quarry, Tromman, Rathmolyon, Co. Meath, A83DA36
Date of erection of site notice: 20/03/2024
Deadline for submissions: 15/05/2024
Description: Application for substitute consent for development of a quarry and ancillary precast concrete manufacturing yard.
Submission fee: N/A

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a submission that relates to the substitute consent application by Keegan Quarries Limited, the details of which are outlined above. I am writing this submission as a concerned resident of the area to which the application concerns. Having researched the activities of this company over the past 25 years and subsequently learning about t's blatant disregard for both national and EU legislation, I feel that it is imperative that this application be rejected, and that appropriate action is taken into holding this company accountable for the unauthorised developments that it has undertaken in recent years.

My objection to this application is based on the following points:

1. This is an application for substitute consent, meaning that the applicant would like to receive permission for unauthorised developments that have taken place on the grounds that exceptional circumstances warranted these developments. In my view, there were no exceptional circumstances in relation to these developments and the application should be denied on this basis. As these developments were unauthorised and if permission is not granted, immediate cessation of the activities of the applicant at this location is necessary, to compensate for the fact that the unauthorised and illegal developments cannot be reversed.
2. It appears as though the law does not apply to the applicant, who has disregarded the need to receive planning permission to further develop their sites. The applicant has also received numerous enforcement notices over the past 20 years and has committed other injustices such as the unauthorised felling of trees at Keegan Quarries Limited Aghar site in 2008 (File ref. AIF 19/08). The applicant must be held accountable and made pertain to the law, as is expected of all Irish citizens. The manner in which this company has been able to conduct its affairs in breach of the law is simply unacceptable, and sets a precedent that anyone can conduct their business as they see fit regardless of what is stated in legislation.
3. I have lived in this area my entire life and think that the further development of this site would tarnish the area and my quality of life living in it. Noise, dust and the constant movement of large heavy goods vehicles are but a few of the factors that continued development of this site would entail, factors that will impact on my quality of life in the area.
4. *Keegan Quarries Ltd* has shown no respect for the integrity of the local area, including the aesthetic appeal and the area's history. There is a large mound in the site at Tromman to which this application for substitute consent relates. This mound can be seen from miles away and disrupt the otherwise untouched landscape. No apparent effort has been made to deal with this mound, which has been present for years. According to the grants of planning permission (which the applicant has not received in recent years) 'overburden stockpiles awaiting use in landscaping shall be covered with topsoil and seeded'. This condition has not been adhered to, and the applicant should be held accountable for this. In relation to the applicant's disregard to the area's history, there have been many incidents where sites of historical significance were found during the applicant's business conductance. For example, during the snow conditions of the Winter of 2010 it was reported that an archaeological site was found and unearthed. Based on the history of this company, I feel that they cannot be trusted to safeguard the integrity of the area and should not be allowed to conduct further business and developments so that the area that I grew up in and care for can be preserved.
5. The managing director of *Keegan's Quarries Ltd*, Mr. John Keegan, himself objected via submission to the Meath county council regarding an application made by Readymix Ireland in 1998. Mr. Keegan's submission, dated the 29th of January 1999, contains contradictory statements, considering that he is now applying for permission himself, to further develop quarry sites in the Tromman area. In his submission he states that there are 'an adequate number of quarries to meet the demand' and that he was 'very worried

about the unnecessary upset that would be caused to the local people by a second quarry'. I share Mr. Keegan's concerns and think that they should be addressed in relation to the application for substitute consent to which this submission concerns, by refusing the application.

I sincerely hope that this submission and application is reviewed with the due consideration that it deserves. *Keegan Quarries Ltd* has been conducting its business in such a manner that requires immediate investigation, and action by An Bord Pleanála, which should start by the refusal of this application. The Tromman area is more than just a business opportunity to me, it is the area in which I grew up, and I would prefer to not see it be ruined, by a company that has no respect for the law. I also think that justice is not being respected in relation to this application and the ongoings of this company, and think that An Bord Pleanála has a responsibility to take action, in order to safeguard the integrity of Irish and EU legislation, to which we all must pertain.

Yours sincerely,

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Signed: _____

APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA FOR SUBSTITUTE CONSENT

SITE NOTICE

Keegan Quarries Limited intend to apply for substitute consent for development at this site Tromman Quarry, Tromman, Rathmolyon, Co Meath, A83 DA36.

The development at the quarry and the ancillary precast concrete manufacturing yard, totalling some 21.64Ha in extent, consists of the unauthorised construction of an electrical substation, a concrete batching plant with technical lab and associated lagoon system; additional settlement facilities; a Limestone Powder plant, comprising feed hopper, crushing and screening plant, dispatch points, drying plant, storage sheds and gas tank fuel storage and the unauthorised construction of a precast concrete manufacturing industrial unit. In addition, the unauthorised continuation of extraction and associated mineral processing activities and the continued use and or operation of previously authorised structures; to include a block yard, office, canteen, weighbridge and wheelwash (00/2075), a precast manufacturing facility, associated batching plant and fuel storage (TA20408); an administrative office, septic tank, workshop, weighbridge, wheelwash, fuel store, pump house, steam cleaner and ancillary development (TA130400 & TA130581) beyond the expiry of extraction consents on the 5 August 2018 to which the ancillary consents for buildings plant and structures were co-terminus.

The application is accompanied by a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report and remedial Natura impact statement.

Submissions or observations may be made on the application, to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 without charge. Submissions or observations must be in writing and made within the period of 8 weeks beginning on the date of receipt of the application by An Bord Pleanála and such submissions and observations will be considered by An Bord Pleanála in making a decision on the application. An Bord Pleanála may grant the consent subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant it. The application for consent may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of An Bord Pleanála, or the relevant planning authority during its public opening hours (9.15am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday).

Signed: 

JOHN KEEGAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, KEEGAN QUARRIES LTD

Date of erection of site notice: 20th March 2024