

West Deeping Parish Council

c/o 11 The Lane,

West Deeping,

Lincolnshire. PE6 9HS

Rob Wood and Chris Burgess,
Breedon Group PLC
Pinnacle House,
Breedon Quarry,
Main Street,
Breedon on the Hill
Derby, DE73 8AP

25th September 2023

Dear Rob and Chris,

Ref: MS29- SL : Proposed Mineral Extraction Site, West Deeping and further proposed sites SG-17 (the same site as MS29-SL) and SG-11.

Many thanks for your brief replies and apologies for the delay in responding. The summer is a very busy time for us here at Molecey Mill & The Granary where we have welcomed over 2,000 visitors to our prized heritage asset and hosted many joyous weddings and excellent events. Your proposed new quarries would destroy all of this.

Your emails however show no understanding of the impact that your proposed quarries are having and will have on the community of West Deeping.

Many people's mental health is suffering as a result of the stress and worry about the impacts that your proposed activities will have on the village and on people's lives.

Neither of you nor anybody at Breedon seems to grasp the enormous difference that bringing the quarrying activity to the south side of the A1175 and into people's lives in a much more intrusive and aggressive way will have.

The cumulative impact of these proposed quarries is taking its toll on our community's mental and physical health. After 70 plus years of incessant quarrying next to the village, another 30 plus years is a step too far. This cumulative impact is not possible to quantify in numbers of vehicles or noise or dust but in the collective cumulation of every negative impact of the adverse effects of mineral extraction which you attempt to mitigate for. Each one of these detrimental side effects takes its toll on our lives and cumulatively they add up to a great burden on our community.

Everyone in the UK has the right to a quality of life. By bringing the processing plant to the village side of the main road between the village and Molecey Mill, and in bringing the

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proposed quarries immediately adjacent to the village, Breedon's plans will have severe and major impacts on our quality of life.

It is time to give the community of West Deeping a break from the incessant mineral extraction activities that have blighted our lives for so long.

With regards your emails Rob and Chris, may we politely beg to differ with you on several points –

1. Due Process – we strongly disagree that you are following the correct due process here. Lincolnshire County Council's Minerals and Waste Team have advised you that in submitting the MS-29 application with a processing plant on the site constitutes '**a significant change in circumstances**' for the site and as such you should re-submit the site for proper scrutiny through the process of updating the Minerals and Waste Local Plan - which you have done. They have reminded you that the site was allocated as **an extension** to the existing quarry and your proposals constitute a **new quarry**. It is our contention here that you should be waiting for the SG-17 proposals to undergo the full and correct scrutiny as a new quarry with a plant included, rather than trying to circumvent the due process by submitting the planning application for a site that has been allocated under significantly different circumstances. **MS-29 is not an allocated site as a new quarry or with a processing plant included.**
2. Your restoration of the West Deeping Quarry has not occurred in a timely or progressive manner. The minerals from the land directly opposite Molecey Mill were fully extracted some 15 years ago. We still await the restoration of this area. Is this how Breedon views the effects on a Grade II* listed heritage asset? Surely this land should have been restored immediately that the mining activities had finished to minimise the impact on the very sensitive residential receptor?
3. Perhaps your view of 'often' differs from most people's. Aside from the archaeological outreach program, Breedon's involvement in West Deeping over the years in community events or local projects has been practically non-existent.
4. Breedon are not being a good neighbour to the community of West Deeping. Your proposed quarries would have a huge negative impact on our villager's lives, they are already causing great harm to our community's mental and physical health, they would destroy local businesses, destroy cherished village amenities, endanger beautiful, listed heritage assets, and have major irreversible impacts on the hydrology and ecology of the area.

Your liaison groups and public exhibitions are welcomed and vital, and we would certainly like to take you up on your offer of a joining a working party with representatives of the interested parties in the village. That said however, this has to be a genuine attempt to see if

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there are ways we can work together and not just another box ticking exercise to appease the planning authorities.

There remain so many unanswered questions from our previous letter and for clarity I lay them out here – your responses would be most welcomed.

- 1. In this instance mitigation simply isn't acceptable and we need categorical guarantees that the main rivers will be unaffected in any way by your proposed actions – can you confirm this?*
- 2. Please can you explain why, when LCC's policy on the Historic Environment suggests that mines and quarries shouldn't be situated immediately adjacent to listed buildings, you are pursuing these sites for potential mineral extraction?*
- 3. May we ask what 'exceptional overriding reasons' Breedon consider this quarry to have which outweigh the need to safeguard significant heritage assets?*
- 4. Breedon's published corporate policies state that you wish 'to have a positive impact on the communities in which you operate' and your published claims that you 'care about local communities' – why then do you consider that these sites are suitable for future mineral extraction considering the unanimous local opposition to them?*
- 5. South Lincolnshire's Area of Search cover some 85 square kilometres of land, of which around 10 km sq has already been mined. Are Breedon seriously going to try and suggest that within the remaining 75 sq kilometres of land there aren't alternative potential mineral extraction sites that don't sit immediately next to our villages, our prized heritage assets and our precious watercourses? Within the arbitrary 85 km sq 'Area of Search' imposed on our area of South Lincolnshire by LCC, there are many, many more appropriate sites that should be considered by the quarry companies ahead of these ones proposed by Breedon. Alternative sites which do not sit so close to people's homes, which do not impact so directly and intrusively on people's lives, views, amenities and businesses. Sites which do not threaten major rivers and heritage assets. Why then are Breedon pursuing these particular sites which threaten our local community? Why are Breedon not considering alternative sites in the Area of Search that would be more suitable than this one?*
- 6. In the existing West Deeping Quarry which you operate across the road, there is a diesel pump running 24/7 for eternity to maintain the lower water levels and to try to stop the area flooding. How can this be sustainable? How can this be environmentally friendly? The same situation will arise in your proposed quarry sites. By excavating down so far, so close to main rivers and upstream of some of the houses in the parish, you massively increase the risk of future flooding in the area. You will have to run a pumping system in perpetuity to try and protect those houses. This cannot be environmentally sustainable. How can these sites therefore be appropriate for mining considering your own policies?*

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7. *Why are you continuing to pursue these sites, which sit far too close to the village and would have such a direct impact on our lives, despite unanimous local opposition - bringing the noise, dust, traffic, disruption and catastrophic consequences to all who live here?*
8. *Why are you ignoring LCC's advice that the proposal to move the processing plant from the existing King Street site to the new proposed MS29 site represents a fundamental change in the allocated site's criteria and that Breedon should wait until the new proposed quarry has been through the proper scrutiny?*
9. *Why do Breedon consider that the cumulative impact of this massive proposed new quarry in addition to the 70 plus years of quarries on our doorstep isn't too much of an intrusion on our lives?*
10. *Why do Breedon consider it acceptable to remove some of the last remaining amenities from our community which has endured quarrying on its doorstep for over 70 years? Is this how to repay us for being good neighbours?*
11. *Why do Breedon consider it acceptable to endanger valued local businesses and the benefits to the community in jobs and in enjoyment that these businesses bring?*
12. *Why do Breedon pay so little heed to the significant heritage assets that these prospective quarries will directly affect?*
13. *Why are Breedon not following their own policies and corporate goals here as outlined above?*
14. *What possible positive effects can these proposed new quarries have for the community of West Deeping? Having lived with the quarries for 70 years we are well aware of the negative effects.*
15. *Why are you persisting with these quarries which threaten the health and wellbeing of our community?*

We look forward to your comments and to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Glenn Fuller
Chairman
West Deeping Parish Council