

# WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

11 The Lane  
West Deeping  
Peterborough  
PE6 9HS

**Clerk to the Council**

**Mr Ian Coles**

**Tel: 07979 906284**

Dear Councillor,

## **Mineral Extraction in the West Deeping Area**

The West Deeping Parish Council on behalf of the community of West Deeping would like to voice their extreme disappointment in the planning committee's decisions to approve the applications to reduce the safe stand off distances in the Breedon West Deeping Quarry from 100m to 25m last week. Stand off distances that were originally put in place to protect the health and lives of the people living in our area, an area that you continually target for mineral extraction.

The West Deeping Parish Council on behalf of the community of West Deeping remind you that the decisions that you make in determining minerals and waste applications are your individual, personal and collective responsibility. We hereby put you on notice that we will hold you accountable for the inevitable adverse consequences that will arise and have arisen from your past and future decisions on the quarrying and open cast mining in our area. The continuing and increasing detrimental impact on our mental and physical health, our quality of life and our community from this never ending onslaught of mineral extraction is your responsibility. You have been elected to your position of power to serve and protect the residents of Lincolnshire and we rightfully expect your protection. Lincolnshire County Council has the policies in place to protect us and yet you continually ignore these policies. We suggest that to continue to do so and to have done so in the past opens you up personally, individually and collectively to the inevitable repercussions that will follow.

There is a growing unease within the West Deeping Community about the methods employed by the Council's minerals and waste team in their dealings with the landowners and quarry companies at the expense of the health and well-being of the residents and those people whose lives are directly impacted by their actions. It is your responsibility to monitor this.

We obviously understand the need for the minerals and the collective responsibility to ensure their continued supply, however the appropriate balances between their extraction and the lives and health of those living in their immediate vicinity has been lost.

South Lincolnshire's preferred 'area of search' for sand and gravel extraction covers some 85 sq km of which only about 11 sq km has so far been subject to mineral extraction. Some of this already far too close to people's lives. Yet the quarry companies and the minerals and waste team have had you believe that the only place to extract this mineral is 25m from someone's home. There are vast deposits of sand and gravel in the ground in the area of search which aren't as close as 25m from peoples' homes and which aren't immediately adjacent to villages, listed buildings, conservation areas or to important watercourses. To have you believe otherwise is patently untrue.

In the recent planning meeting you were further falsely led to believe by the Minerals and Waste officer that these applications had nothing to do with the future allocated MS29-SL site to the south of the A1175. This is clearly false as their approval directly impacts Breedon's ability to continue to operate in the West Deeping area until such times as they can be ready to bring their MS29-SL application before you. (Breedon have openly admitted this and LCC were fully aware of this.) Your decision to approve the applications having been fed false information opens the council up to serious questions on the legality of those decisions. We have written to the Chief Executive and the Leader of LCC to ask those serious questions and to request an urgent review of the Council's decisions in these matters.

There has been quarrying in West Deeping for over 70 years now and there are future plans to bring this quarrying and its associated heavy industry ever closer to the village for another 30 plus years.

LCC have policies on cumulative impact in place to protect communities and let us guarantee to you here and now that the threshold for all of the cumulative detrimental impacts from this onslaught of mineral extraction on our community has been well surpassed. There have been over 40 minerals and waste planning applications in the past 30 years in West Deeping alone. Seven of these applications have been for extensions to the existing approved quarries within the last 4 years. This continued planning creep and continued moving of the goalposts for our community has destroyed our trust in those that we elected to look after us. How do you plan to restore this trust? How do you plan to protect us from this continued ever increasing cumulative impact? It certainly isn't by reducing 'safe' distances to 25m.

Next year you will be asked to decide whether to condemn West Deeping to another 30 plus years of open cast mining immediately next to the village. You will be asked to allow Breedon to build a new processing plant right next to our village gardens. Enough is enough. We urge you to stop letting your Minerals and Waste team and the quarry companies fool you into thinking there are no other options. It is your responsibility to protect us.

We would welcome your comments on how you plan to support and protect us and how you intend to get the truth from your minerals and waste officers?

We implore you to take our health and lives seriously - that is your responsibility.

Yours sincerely

**Glenn Fuller**

**Chairman, West Deeping Parish Council**