

From: **Parish Clerk** <wdparishclerk@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, 6 Dec 2023 at 17:06

Subject: Re: Complaint (ref: 8401189)

To: Customer Relations Team

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Dear Ms. Barnes, Mr. Gutherson and Councillor Hill,

Ref: PL/0129/22 and PL/0130/22

We thank you for your customer relations advisor Emma's reply to our complaint regarding the above two planning decisions. We feel however that it is important to register with you our extreme discomfort and displeasure with the whole process for the approval of these applications and the highly unsatisfactory subsequent complaints process. Whilst further highlighting the continued ignorance or deliberate obfuscation of the planning officers to the Council's planning policies.

At the initial planning committee meeting concerning these applications where we were given the opportunity to speak in opposition, the majority of the councillors were minded to refuse these applications. Your minerals and waste officer Marc Willis 'persuaded' the committee to defer their decision by warnings that to refuse the permission would leave the council open to an appeal by Breedon. A site visit ensued, as Mr. McBride points out below, where the councillors were shown exactly what Breedon and the minerals and waste team wanted to show them without anyone who objected being allowed to attend. This is therefore not a fair and open process, nor can it be when only one side is allowed to put forward their point of view.

Following our complaint about the further 'misdirections' from Marc Willis, the minerals and waste officer at the following planning meeting, you have referred the complaint to the very team about whom we are complaining. This cannot be correct procedure for the complaint to be self-addressed. Where is the independent scrutiny? Surely you can see this? We therefore request that our complaints are brought before the Monitoring Officer of LCC to provide a more independent assessment and failing that we request that they are brought before an independent scrutiny body.

We take great exception to Mr McBride's comments that *"The applications were rightly considered on their own planning merits, and the allocation has no bearing on whether these proposals are acceptable or not. This is well founded practice within planning law"*.

Your policies DM3: Quality of Life and Amenity and DM17 Cumulative Impacts which states *"local planning authorities should take into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality; and that, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take into account the cumulative effect of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or from a number of sites in a locality"* and further *"the cumulative impact on the quality of life of local communities from a relatively unbroken sequence of working and restoration"*.

Your policy document goes on to clearly say *"In Lincolnshire, there are parts of the county where there has been a gradual build-up of sites in close proximity to other mineral sites. For example, sand and gravel extraction has been concentrated in 3 particular areas of the County. The cumulative impacts on amenity to local communities in these areas and on the existing landscape will need careful consideration when considering future developments."*

It is patently clear from the Council's own policies that each minerals and waste application needs to be considered alongside all of the other existing and proposed open cast mining for minerals in the area and their cumulative interaction and impact. For Mr. McBride, in his response to our complaint, and Mr. Willis, in the council chamber, to claim otherwise shows either a complete disregard for the Council's policies or a deliberate attempt to divert due process. Both are unacceptable.

We await your detailed personal responses to our genuine grievances so that we may decide whether to proceed with taking this to judicial review.

Yours sincerely

Ian Coles

Parish Clerk

On behalf of the councillors of West Deeping Parish Council

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