

# WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

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Peterborough  
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Clerk to the Council  
Mr Ian Coles

4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Councillor Smith

Ref: Scoping Decision EIA/15/23

(for the proposed new 127 hectare, 30 to 40 year open-cast mine and industrial development immediately adjacent to the village of West Deeping, the West Deeping Conservation Area, and abutted by the Mill Stream of the Grade II\* listed Molecey Mill & The Granary on its entire southern boundary and abutted by the listed heritage assets Grade II\* Listed Molecey Mill & The Granary on its entire eastern boundary.)

The West Deeping Parish Council (WDPC) has appreciated the opportunity to present our objections to you against the recent previous repetitive mining extension applications in West Deeping over the past year. Now totalling 7 in the last 6 years. We thank you for that opportunity.

We have indicated to you during our presentations that yet more major applications would be forthcoming over the coming year for the West Deeping area, and we would like to draw your attention to the recently presented and decided scoping opinion **EIA/15/23** by the applicant Breedon for the area south of the A1175 in West Deeping an immediately next to the village and community of West Deeping. (<https://lincolnshire.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=EIA%2F15%2F23>)

Whilst the applicant is proposing to submit an application for a new 30 hectare, 8-10 year open cast mine with a new industrial development right next to the village of West Deeping, **a site with LEVEL 1 ABSOLUTE CONSTRAINTS**, the reality is entirely different – a 127 hectare, 30-40 year open cast mine and industrial development which would affect the entire area.

What we are witnessing is the continued modus operandi of the mining industry and aided and abetted by the minerals and waste teams of the council, in submitting an application that on face value they may try and make palatable and acceptable but hides the true extent of their intentions which is for a much more impactful and destructive end goal. Achieved through continued planning creep and allowed by LCC. If successful, well over 75% of the parish of West Deeping will have been dug up and subject to open-cast mining.

In the recent call for sites for the Updating the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, the applicant Breedon have submitted the site SG11 south of this proposed site as an extension to this proposed new mine. The WDPC have implored LCC to ensure that the sites are assessed and considered as one new mine but the applicant and LCC have so far resisted. The Cumulative Impact of the whole site would be far, far more destructive.

We urge you, if you have the time and inclination, to please read our response to LCC's scoping decision (attached), and our comprehensive response to the scoping opinion request as statutory consultees (attached). We also urge you to read the LCC decision. (attached)

**We very much welcome LCC's decision that this extensive proposed new site, with its significant change in circumstances, can no longer be considered an allocated site. However, with its level 1 Absolute Constraints it should never have been considered past the first stage in the selection process under LCC policies.**

We urge you to further consider that -

The proposed dewatering that would be required of this site would have serious unmitigable consequences for the houses of West Deeping and the Grade II\* listed assets abutting the site. Further it would have a permanent destructive effect on the integral mill stream for this valued heritage asset.

The proposed placement of the industrial processing plant would have serious unmitigable consequences for the community of West Deeping and its conservation area, and it would have serious unmitigable consequences on the health and amenity of the community of West Deeping.

The inevitable future eroding of any proposed stand-off distances or buffer zones as recent history has taught us (PL/0129/22 and PL/0130/22) would cause even more acute and unmitigable effects.

The WDPC remain seriously concerned over the lack of proper consideration and the lack of consideration of best practice guidelines of the Cumulative Impact Assessment that should be required by the MPA. The continued reluctance to acknowledge the true extent of the cumulative effects of the – ***Successive and simultaneous effects comprise the impacts caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments that occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future*** as outlined in the judgement of Mr. Justice Burton in the 'Long Moor Judgement' signals an ignorance of the policies or a deliberate effort to divert proper scrutiny of the proposal at the expense of the health and wellbeing of residents.

The WDPC do, as ever, and is proven by our tolerance and acceptance of over 70 years of unbroken open-cast mining in our parish, accept the need for minerals for the greater good of society. All we are asking is that for the 'acceptable balance' that is outlined in LCC's policies to be properly considered and for our community to be properly protected from the worst impacts of the proposed mining.

We ask that you fully acquaint yourselves with the vitally important circumstances of this proposed application.

With thanks,

Yours sincerely

**Ian Coles  
Parish Clerk  
On behalf of the councillors of West Deeping Parish Council**

