

**From:** [Duncan Macdonald](#)  
**To:** [DC Consultation](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Variation To Planning Permission 14NP0057  
**Date:** 13 September 2022 00:13:00  
**Importance:** High

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**Your Ref: 22NP0066**

Dear Colin,

I am a homeowner within Biddlestone village which sits directly next to Harden Quarry which is currently asking to extend its permitted end date from 2029 to 2054. My wife and I own 2 properties in the village (number 1 and number5) and have lived in the village for 17 years. We have 3 children who all live in the village and one of our children has severe autism and severe learning difficulties. I strongly object to the extension and my comments on the extension are as follows:

1. **Danger from the single track road leading into Biddlestone which is unsuitable for the quarry traffic.**
  - a. The main road within the immediate vicinity of the quarry is a single lane which goes down a steep hill to a ford with a tight turn into the village. Quarry traffic using this road presents a danger to local residents and walkers since there are no pedestrian footpaths and the quarry lorries are driving too fast without a clear line of sight as to approaching pedestrians. Recently, my wife was hit by a lorry while jogging in the area, the lorry did not stop and the police were informed, but the vehicle was not identified
  - b. The roads in the immediate vicinity are falling into dangerous disrepair due to the continuous use by the quarry traffic. At the moment, vehicles are having to swerve around multiple potholes and it is inevitable that there will be a serious accident in the near future. The quarry simply blames the council for not maintaining the roads adequately and there is a lack of ownership of the problem
  
2. **Lack of support from the quarry for the immediate local community**
  - a. The quarry has stated that it supports the local community and have highlighted projects for Rothbury and Harbottle. These villages are many miles away from the quarry and do not have to cope with the daily noise and traffic from the quarry. Throughout the 17 years we have lived in Biddlestone we have not seen any contribution from the quarry to support the Biddlestone village community. Recently, I am aware of some request for gravel to support local logging within Biddlestone, but these requests were refused
  - b. A request from the Biddlestone village community has now gone to the quarry (August 2022) to provide financial support for a village project to implement a

borehole to supply fresh water to the village (the water supply from the current village spring is declining each year). To date, there has been no reply from the quarry to provide any support.

**3. Danger to our Special Needs child**

a.

This is a particular concern as due to

his particular diagnosis, he obsesses about wandering and escaping.

- b. An extension of the quarry traffic to 2054 will have a massive impact on the standard of living of this special needs child and on the entire family who will remain on edge continuously making sure he is secure and safe (our son requires 24/7 monitoring at all times and cannot ever be left unsupervised)

**4. Impact on the village environment and standard of living**

- a. When we moved to Biddlestone in 2005, the quarry was due to close by 2008 with the creation of a nature reserve in its place. There have been multiple extensions without consultation with the immediate local community and has affected the stability of the village community and the value of properties within the Biddlestone village
- b. The village community is becoming more and more unstable due to the high turnover of residents in recent years. There is a sustained pattern of residents buying property, moving into the village and subsequently leaving the village within a few years due to the points raised in this email (noise from blasting, danger from quarry traffic, state of the roads, etc)
- c. This is becoming a significant problem as of the 6 properties within Biddlestone village, 1 now lies empty, 2 have very elderly single residents, 1 is now a holiday home and only 2 homes have families in. The shared areas of the village require continuous maintenance and upkeep, but there are fewer and fewer able residents to do the work due to the high turnover.

**I would like my comments to be carefully considered especially relating to safety concerns due to the quarry traffic on inadequate roads, the concerns and impact to the standard of living of a 12 year old severe special needs child and the community instability within the Biddlestone village.**

Kind regards,

*Duncan Macdonald*

**Development Management Committee**  
**18th January 2023**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [DC Consultation](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Objections to planning reference 22NP0066 (variation to permission 14NP0057)  
**Date:** 13 September 2022 12:04:32

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>  
>  
> Dear Colin  
>  
> Ref: Objection to planning reference 22NP0066 variation to planning permission 14NP0057  
>  
> Further to my husband's (Duncan Macdonald) email which I fully endorse, I wish to add my own additional concerns and ask you to record my formal objection to planning variation 22NP0066 - the lateral and time extension to Harden Quarry.  
>  
> I am very concerned by proposed new end date and believe such a lengthy extension could be highly detrimental to the quality of life of the residents of Biddlestone, local wildlife and the environment. In effect rendering us powerless in our own homes for many years.  
>  
> There is significant noise pollution created by the quarry through the blasting of material and lorry transportation. The whole house shakes when blasting occurs and I am concerned about the damage that this causes to the fabric of the buildings in Biddlestone. The lorries start early in the morning and continue throughout the day. There are dangers associated with the lorries to pedestrians and other road users which have been highlighted by Duncan as has the constant negative impact upon the quality of the road surfaces.  
>  
> The further destruction of the hillside will mean the loss of the important archeological history it contains. I am concerned about the impact to our local red squirrel population with the enlargement of the quarry area and long time extension. We now need to be creating a sanctuary for them not removing their habitat further.  
>  
> Please note and take these concerns into your considerations.  
>  
> Yours sincerely  
>  
> Nicola Macdonald  
No 1 and No 5 Biddlestone

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments -Support

This company does not just take from valley but has many years given back to help our local community!

Name - Anne Duncan

Address - Rannoch Hillside East Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

Strongly supported. A great asset to the rural community.

Name - Alexander Hunter

Address Old Doctors House High Street Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

The quarry and its operators are of huge benefit to the local community and Northumberland. The quarry has made Northumberland famous internationally for its product, both geologists and the wider public.

I fully support their application.

Name - Amanda Tomas

Address - Charity House Sharperton

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

I fully support this application, it has been a long-standing and excellent company that has only done good for the local community in many ways. We must not lose this outstanding company!

Name - Bryan Collis

Address - Old Orchard Hillside East Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

Excellent and conscientious operators of this site.

They actively support the local area, economy and community and are an asset to the area.

Fully support this application.

Name - B Stevens

Address - Low Prendwick Whittingham



Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

Provides jobs for local community

Name - Catherine Burdis

Address 8 Jubilee Crescent Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

I support this application because the stone quarried is in demand and the local area benefits from the continued mining of this lovely rich red stone.

Name - Catherine Cook

Address - 6 Armstrong Cottages Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

I may not live in the area anymore but did live at Netherton and my children were at the school in the temporary building that tarmac provided. My son then went on to work for many years at the Harden quarry before training to be a quarry manager paid for by tarmac and now is a manager at Howick. They do so much for the locals it would be a shame not to extend the license.

Name - Chrissie Gray

Address – 1 Burn Cottage, Howick, Alnwick

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

I whole heartedly support this application to extend the Tarmac application to continue extraction of red granite from the Biddlestone Quarry. I have a driveway made with this exact stone and it has been used extensively as a major roadstone throughout the UK.

Northumberland County Council needs to grant this extension and protect the vitally important jobs at the quarry and ancillary businesses which benefit from the extraction of this unique and much sort after roadstone.

Name - Christopher John Gwilt

Address Banklands South Terrace Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

I would like to give my full support to the Tarmac application to extend Harden Redstone Quarry. It supports our community, it sympathises with us if we have problems with them and we are very proud of it. When we are returning from a day away and we see that red patch on the hillside we know we're nearly home. In fact I feel that all our local roads should be surfaced with red chippings, but that's another story! Just please keep it going.

Name - Carol Plater

Address Holly Tree Cottage Holystone Morpeth

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

I am writing in favour of the proposed extension of the end date from 2029 to the year 2054 instead.

This quarry is a vital asset to a rural community in one of the country's poorest regions. Not only does it provide jobs to the local community it also serves a valuable contribution to the wider community - more than can be said for the National Parks who only seem to serve the tourist industry and not those of us who love inside the park full time.

Name - Dale C

Address 5 The Croft NE65 7LZ

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

Fantastic asset for local community. Local jobs.

Puts Northumberland on the map when the produce from the quarry is shipped all over the world.

Name - Denise Lafferty

Address - 18 Jubilee Crescent Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

It is an asset to our community, providing steady employment.

Name - Diane Pringle

Address - 6 Addycombe Close Rothbury



Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

This Quarry is a great asset to our valley. Its stone is highly prized and the well respected company supports many jobs as well as practical help to many in our communities.

This application to extend the quarries life gets my full support.

Name - Graeme Urwin

Address - Mews Cottage High Street Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

Provides much needed jobs and income to the area.

Name - Ian Clark

Address 4 Village View Thropton

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

Great product that goes far and wide.

Name - Justine Rutherford

Address - 26 Addycombe Gardens Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

I and my husband are both in support of the continuing extraction of biddlestone red gravel as long as the lorry drivers drive responsibly going to and from the quarry.

Name - Karen Watson

Address - 3 Yetlington Lane Farm Cottages, Whittingham

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

Variation to planning permission 14NP0057 for a lateral extension to quarry and time extension to operational life beyond its current permitted end date of 2029 extending to 2054

Name - Linda Hubbucks

Address 5 Hurley Knowes Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

As a lifetime resident of the area I am proud to support this application to continue further extraction at Biddlesstone quarry. They supply an iconic product that is both useful, unique and visually recognisable nationally. They provide sustainable local employment and local community support.

Name - Liz Laidler

Address – Lynnwood Croft Road Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

The quarry should be permitted to extend both the site and the time it may operate. It provides badly needed employment in our area and the company supports the community in a number of ways. The National Park should not be allowed to become a museum, it is a resource for many people, but it is also where we live and work.

Name - Maureen Kristen Faester

Address Mayfield Back Crofts Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

Just means pride in our quarry keeping locals in work, contributing to local community and environmental support.

Name - Mavis Lawley

Address 4 Mount Healey Villas Garleigh Road ROTHbury



Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

In full support of this application as it provides many jobs in our little community

Name - Michelle Milburn Potts

Address Maricourt Croft Road Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

This appears to be a well-reasoned proposal from a competent and reliable company. It will bring both direct and indirect benefits to the area. I believe it should be fully supported.

Name - Richard Maudsluy

Address High Ecclestown Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

This planned extension would benefit local employment and the stone is a vital resource.

Name - Richard Wallhead

Address Hillside 3 Hillside Road East Rothbury

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

Jobs provided in the area as well monies spent in the area

Name - Susan Croyle

Address 8 Heron Close Netherton

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments - Support

A great local quarry massive bonus to the local community

Name - Stuart Hall

Address - The Raw Farm Elsdon

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

I support this application

Name - Susan Hall

Address - 14 Cheviot Lodge

Website Comments for 22NP0066

Comments

. I support this application as the site is managed very well currently and I see no reason why it shouldn't continue in the future.

Name - Vanessa Willcock

Address - 9 Wrights Square Rothbury