

Press release – 10 March 2020

Villagers hit £15K target in less than 2 weeks to stop quarry threat!

Warwickshire villagers have hit their target of raising £15,000 in less than two weeks to help stop the proposed development of a mineral quarry 300 metres from homes in Barford. The money raised will provide professional advice to prepare the best case to take to the Inspector in June.

Earlier in the process over 800 residents submitted their significant objections to the county and hope these will be taken into consideration during the forthcoming inspection. Many of these donated to the campaign through various methods including a Go Fund Me, contributions via the Village Shop and bank transfers. The committee behind the campaign has been raising awareness of the potential quarry threat through individualised letters sent to key supporters, a leaflet drop around the local villages, social media campaigns and media coverage in the local press.

Malcolm Eykyn, one of the committee members who has been instrumental in heading up the campaign said “Two weeks ago we launched the campaign to raise £15,000 to pay for professional fees to acquire specialist advocacy leading up to and including the Inspection in early June. This weekend we hit our target. There is no question that this is testament to the strength of concern our residents have and their determination to stop this Quarry which will otherwise permanently scar this “Barford Valley” and risk permanent scarring of residents lungs”.

Oxford University’s wealthiest college St. John’s owns the land near Barford and Wasperton. The college, which has assets of over £650 million, has requested that Warwickshire County Council include it in their minerals land allocation plan which will allow a developer to extract vast quantities of sand and gravel from this 220-acre site which borders Barford. The final decision on whether this site is included is now with the planning inspectorate, with a hearing in early June and a decision later in the year.

The local MP for Warwick and Leamington, Matt Western, has also helped with the campaign. He recently delivered a petition to parliament to urge the government to scrap the Council` quarry plans. Matt believes quarries should not be sited so close to towns and villages.

If the quarry goes ahead it will see 60 lorries a day (120 lorry movements) exiting off and trying to pull across and onto the A429 for over 15 years transporting minerals along the A429 and onto the Longbridge roundabout. This will greatly impact on dirt, noise, vibration, safety and traffic congestion. Slow water-spraying lorries will also block the road which is

Press release – 10 March 2020

already over congested and it is likely the lorries will use the Wellesbourne roundabout as a turning point for the M40.

For more information please visit <http://www.barfordresidents.co.uk/latest-stop-the-quarry-updates/>

- ends -

For more information, interviews and photo opportunities please contact:

Tanya Aspinwall at Marketing Aloud on 01926 624991 or tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk