Plumbland Parish Council

Public Meeting with residents re High Close Quarry Planning Application

Wednesday 25th September2019 at 7.30pm

Plumbland Village Hall, Plumbland

Notes of meeting

Welcome by the Chair of Plumbland Parish Council who introduced a presentation by the working party.

**Brief History**

Quarry opened 1954 and closed at the end of 1950’s

Between 1975 and 1990 it was used as landfill with no controls on deposits

2017 Armstrong’s submitted a scoping opinion to Cumbria CC with the intention of re-opening the quarry

two and half weeks ago Armstrong’s submitted two planning applications. One for access at top of the brow and the other with proposed conditions for re-opening the quarry

Need for the quarry.

Each area must submit it resources and is required to have a minimum of 10 years supply. In this area there is 43 years of reserves. Therefore, there is no need.

**Traffic**

Most of the traffic will be on the B5301 which is a narrow road, no road markings and in places two HGV’s cannot pass. There are blind corners and a single-track bridge.

In 2017 a survey revealed 260 HGV’s which equates to one every 6 minutes.

Road is not adequate as now HGV’s are more dangerous which is unacceptable.

The proposal is for 60 additional HGV movements a day. The width of an HGV is 2.55m and therefore the minimum for two to pass is an absolute 6.1m

The road width in Parsonby is 4.3M and the average are 5.5m. The only suitable place is at the new entrance which will be 7.3m

**Sound**

Very technical report but it illustrates the average sound will increase but will not hide louder noises.

Blasting will carry on for 8 weeks of the year whilst they are stripping out

Noise will be greater than normal village life

**Dust**

What is interesting is what is not included in the comprehensive report.

No mention of the school, which is within 500m, children or the elderly

No reference to Moota quarry which has just been granted a 10-year extension on the basis that there is no other quarry within 5 km.

Another concern is emissions and diesel particles from HGV diesel engines at the school field is within 150m of the B5301.

Regulations require quarry operators to have consideration for the safety of their employees and other locals to incur risk to children is unacceptable.

There is a contradiction in the report and that for Moota Quarry. Moota say the prevailing wind is NE while High Close says the prevailing wind is SW.

**Visual Impact**

The excavation will be over an area of 180m and to a depth of 41m.

Five separate phases three one side of the gas pipeline and two the other

Concern about the price of properties (true, but not a valid ground for objection)

Iron Age circles which require and archaeological and geo-physical survey.

**Landfill**

Waste Operations Dept confirm that the landfill that they have no specific knowledge what is in the tip. There is household, industrial and poisonous waste in the tip.

There will be blasting up to the boundary of the tip. Nobody knows what will happen to the watercourse from the tip which could run into the village.

Planning have been notified but the final decision rests with the Environment Agency

**Hours**

There is a discrepancy in hours.

Hours of working of the Quarry 7 -1900 Mon-Fri

7.1200 Sat

Hours of working of the Access Road 7 – 1800 Mon - Fri

Working on site 1800 - 2200

Everybody invited to make an individual response to the application

**Questions**

All quarry traffic should be excluded from all road other than B5301 (list supplied to the clerk)

Landfill is 100m x 300m and 30m deep

Were cattle deposited there?

Chair of Governors thank you to Working Group and Parish Council

There should be wider publicity

How would it affect the new water resources put in by UU?

Need to have emissions and particle readings now as a base line? (only a desk top study completed)

Gas pipeline is a major concern. (whether moved or not)

Land not stable?

Radon area. What will be the effect of blasting?

Hydrology of the tip?

Success elsewhere based on number of objections and the levels of uncertainty