

Please see, for the records of the Planning Inspector, my speaking note from my speech objecting to the appeal for sand and gravel extraction at Bourbles Lane:

I am speaking today as the Lancashire County Councillor representing Preesall and Knott End

This quarry application has been hanging over our community for three and a half years.

Three and a half years of fears that our quiet, close-knit seaside community would be blighted. That the peace and quiet, the chirping of the birds, the clean fresh air that many of our villagers had sought out and settled in this beautiful part of the world for, would be wrecked, at least for a time. As the County Councillor for this area and representative of so many anxious and terrified residents I have been in this fight for them.

Now to be clear I am not against quarrying, I fully accept as I'm sure we all do that it is important activity, in the right location, where the impacts on others can be appropriately managed. This is not the right location.

There are one hundred and fifty homes in 250 m of the site, and there are many more people who use the local highway network, who worry about the impact of this quarry on their businesses, on the wider community of Preesall and Knott End, or who have children who go to school at St Aidan's in Preesall, or school in Hambleton or Stalmine or Cockerham

There are too many people who will be too greatly affected by this

And to be clear, these fears and worries are not without foundation, or to be dismissed or waved away as so often in the appellants various reports they have attempted to do

Our fears are based on a series of evidenced material planning considerations and factors

We know that this is not best or even usual practice, to have potentially 70 decibels of noise with no meaningful mitigations at one of the closest properties - Woodlands. To run an average 75 HGV movements a day on small country roads, lacking the width to accommodate any safe passing when conflicts arise - roads which take pedestrians including school children. To ignore repeated clear reports from the County Council's Highways team demonstrating that the access proposals are totally unsustainable and demand this go ahead on the basis of laughable mitigations many of which are not possible due to the land not being in their control

The unaddressable highways safety problems on Lancaster Road are compounded by the reality that the A588 itself is an incredibly dangerous road - it has been reported in newspapers among the top ten, sometimes as the fourth most dangerous road in England, with severe constraints at Fold House Lane and the safety concerns at the

A588/B5270 junction, Burned House Lane to many of us, is well documented. Even in the report to Lancashire's Development Control Committee Highways attention was drawn to four injury accidents in the last five years' with two 'involving heavy goods vehicles. How are this great number of HGVs to arrive or leave safely?

It is not best or usual practice to ignore requests from the county council for further information on flooding, or to entirely evade answering questions and concerns raised by the Director of Public Health at the County Council, and dismiss his concerns wholesale. It was when Dr Sakthi Kuranunithi asked for additional information and for mitigations to the potential health impacts, and the appellants attempted to wave it away with irrelevant passages about a coal mine that I became really concerned about the approach being taken

This is personal for me because I have supported residents of Sunnyside when they were in terror that their homes would flood, on numerous occasions. I pushed for the County Council and Wyre Borough Council, and the Wyre Rivers Trust to be more involved and more responsive to the needs of the residents here and I don't want to see all of that work to reassure these families undone, because those who wish to quarry here have not even carried out the basic research to ensure they won't flood people's homes.

A much smaller application for housing for a family was quite properly turned down due to the local flooding issues in a field more or less opposite the site entrance, how much greater will be the problems associated with this quarry.

I have spoken to those with businesses, livelihoods dependent on the quiet rural nature of this community. Keeping animals, running leisure activities, worried about putting food on the table if customers are to contend with the noise of a working quarry, right next to them, or with the dust sweeping through

I also find it telling, that after three and a half years of this, when the appellants have had opportunity after opportunity to engage with the County Council and two detailed consultations to take on board feedback, that they are even today evolving their proposals at the eleventh hour.

This shows how inadequate earlier plans submitted by the appellant have been, and a last minute gambit to desperately try to fix their proposals at this point, with no meaningful detail on the material of fencing or opportunity to properly assess the impact of these changes, is in my mind an abuse of the Planning Process

To sum up, the impact of these proposals on our community will be totally unacceptable, and I urge you, on the basis of clear material planning considerations, to refuse this ill thought through appeal

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Best wishes,

**C/Cllr Matthew Salter** (Wyre Rural Central)  
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills  
Lancashire County Council