

## OLD RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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1st August, 2016

Planning Department,  
Powys County Council

Dear Mr. Boothroyd,

### **Planning Application P/2016/0455 Proposed Extension to Dolyhir Quarry**

The meeting of Old Radnor Community Council held on 26th July agreed the following response.

The Community Council wishes to reject Tarmac's proposals in their current form. Significant concern has been expressed to the Community Council regarding the destruction of Stones Farm in the later phase of quarrying and the adverse impact of the proposed quarry boundary on the associated stone barns, **contrary to UDP SP 3**. Stones is the oldest farm building in the Walton basin and of significant historical and aesthetic importance in the local landscape. **The Community Council wish the proposed boundary of working to be altered to ensure that the farmhouse and associated stone barns are preserved for future generations.** A deviation of the proposed Northern face boundary by some 100 yards could achieve this. The Community Council has applied to request that Cadw consider listing Stones Farmhouse and associated stone barns; although the buildings may or may not meet national criteria, the preservation of Stones is of extreme importance to local residents. Given the huge increase in quarrying area encompassed by the current proposal, it is hoped that a modification to the quarry boundary will be possible.

The Community Council is concerned about the impact of the quarry extension on St. Stephen's Church, Old Radnor, an important ancient monument. A "horseshoe" of the Gore, Strinds and expanded Dolyhir quarries around the hamlet of Old Radnor will result in greater damage from blasting operations originating from different directions. This is contrary to **UDP Policy MW8**, and would affect the site and setting of this important building contrary to **UDP Policy Env 17**. The Community Council has some evidence of potential detrimental effect of blasting on the Church structure. Continuous, independent monitoring of vibration should be considered. There will also be an inevitable loss in amenity value, in the setting and character of the settlement of Old Radnor. Many visitors to the area travel up to Old Radnor to see the Church in its setting.

Recent archaeological work in the Walton basin has elucidated that there are internationally important neolithic sites, which should be protected in their landscape context. Given these internationally important archaeological discoveries the Community Council would encourage a full geophysical survey of the proposed

quarry extension boundary to ensure that no significant structures are destroyed where no visible evidence exists above ground. A number of very old oak trees, originally planted on the Harpton Estate, will be lost by the proposed quarry extension. The Community Council reading **UDP GP 1 point 5** wishes to ascertain if more could be done to save some old oak trees on the outer bunding margins of the proposed development, by sloping some of the landscaping. **There is also an important oak in the Stones Farmhouse garden which should be conserved.**

**The Community Council relays the concerns of residents regarding airborne dust from the quarries**, in that the working of the existing extension to Dolyhir quarry has resulted in perceived increases in levels of dust on the prevailing South Westerly wind, blowing towards residences on Old Radnor Hill. As working proceeds in a North Westward direction, this problem will increase in significance. Whilst quarrying is bound to release some airborne dust, residents feel that current levels of dust control are currently insufficient, contrary to policy UDP MW16. Dust clouds can be observed from Hergest Ridge blowing out of current workings from Dolhir quarry. Early planting of trees in the buffer zone on the Northern boundary may help to mitigate this, with other methods of control. **Independent sampling and monitoring of airborne dust to a defined standard, should be a planning condition.**

Concerns have been expressed to the Community Council and Quarry Liaison Committee about existing levels of light pollution from the Gore and Strinds; this may relate to more recent extended working hours of processing plant, resulting in external lighting running at night. Residents are concerned that **UDP Policy DC3** should be implemented to the fullest extent in any scheme involving a Dolyhir extension and that rigorous **lighting conditions are imposed**: lighting should be turned off between 22:00 and 05:00 hrs and should be carefully designed to eliminate light pollution and ensure light sources are only visible from the working areas they illuminate.

Representations have been made to the Community Council concerning the release of sediment and other pollutants into local water courses from Gore and Dolyhir. There is concern from certain local residents that current operating conditions relating to **UDP Policy DC9 and UDP MW1 criteria 5,6,7 need to be more rigorously and independently enforced**. There is concern that the water management in the proposed extension will be similarly under resourced with inadequate settlement ponds. There is also concern as to the effect of proposed quarry extension on underground water movement and the level of the water table. The Community Council proposes that **baseline sampling of brooks and streams receiving run-off** from the proposed Dolyhir extension should be undertaken.

Residents are concerned as a result of experience that compliance with **UDP MW 14** (noise) and that **MW 15** (reversing alarms) in particular, should be independently monitored and enforced. A condition limiting the length of the working day for soils stripping and extraction, would help to both cut light pollution and limit noise disturbance to neighbours. **The Community Council suggests that operations involving the construction of screen/baffle mounds and the stripping of soils should not be carried out outside the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 Mondays to Fridays and 08.00 and 14.00 on Saturdays. 07:00 hrs start to extraction operations should be a condition rather than the 06:00 hrs start in the current Dolyhir workings.**

Concern has been expressed to the Community Council regarding the level of quarry dust building up on the B4595 between Strinds Dolyhir quarries, to the A44 trunk road junction. Provision for road drainage and settlement tanks should be considered on this section of road, in order to allow washing of the road to mitigate the build up of dust. **A condition to maintain surrounding roads in use by quarry traffic dust**

**free should be imposed and enforced.** More efficient lorry washing facilities should be considered. The current situation making is unpleasant and unhealthy for users such as pedestrians and cyclist to use this section of road share with frequent aggregate lorries raising the dust. It is anticipated that the Dolyhir extension can only compound this situation.

The Community Council notes that **the unnamed road leading up from the Crown Inn on the A44 through the hamlet of Old Radnor, is “closed” to quarry traffic** but wish this to be included in any planning conditions imposed on the proposed extension. The quarry can do more to advise delivery drivers and other visitors of this restriction.

In summary, there is strong concern regarding the impact on Old Radnor of three quarry complexes operating concurrently. The current proposal to extend Dolyhir should be re-evaluated in that light.

Regards

Tracey Price  
Clerk to the Council