

AGENDA ITEM 6

APPENDIX 2a

2018/0140/DET

REPRESENTATION OBJECTION

From: Eric Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 May 2018 11:20
To: Gavin Miles
Cc: Aa Ian Kirk; Ann McNeilage; Karen Meyer; Willem de Jong
Subject: Broomhill Quarry - planning application 03/00046/FULBS and 08/00038/FULBS under Section 42 to vary condition 1 of Planning Permission 08/00038/FULBS to extend time limit for further 10 years

Highland Council References:

Reference	18/01332/S42
Alternative Reference	08/051/CP
Application Received	Wed 21 Mar 2018

Dear Mr Miles,

Thank you for meeting with our group of residents on Tuesday to hear our concerns regarding working practices and possible damage to our properties from blasts at Broomhill Quarry. Our group comprises 2 businesses, one in a listed building - Broomhill House and the other, Auchendean Lodge. The 3rd is a private home, Spey Bend. We are all closely situated and directly affected by the quarry and from past experience we have real worries regarding ourselves, people who happen to be in Curr Wood and our properties.

It is worth saying that none of us has ever objected to plans to use the quarry in the past. We don't like it, it is an ever-present background noise with associated dust especially when there is an explosion or when the rock is being crushed and graded; but we would all love for it not to be worked anymore!

The following points are summaries of each of our concerns and the reasons behind them.

Willem de Jong and Karin Meyer, from Broomhill House

Broomhill House is a listed building which Willem & Karin bought for updating and converting to provide tourist accommodation.

- Having finished the tiling in two bathrooms on the quarry side of the house, a crack in both the tiles and the underlying granite walling was evident after the last explosion at the quarry. This was corrected at their own considerable expense but Karin and Willem are now looking for re-assurances that the next explosion(s) will be small enough to ensure this does not happen again.
- They also worry that there may be underlying problems which do not show up on the surface of their property but which appear at a later date. The house is old

enough that there is no natural subsidence anymore so they consider the jolt from the earthquake caused by the explosion in the quarry to be the only possible explanation of the crack which appeared and any similar damage which may occur in the future.

Frank and Ann Mcneilage, Speybend

- Frank and Ann wonder what safeguards there are on the amount of dynamite used for each explosion and consequently how much rock is extracted.
- They too are worried about the jolt from the explosion causing unforeseen damage to their house.
- Frank makes the point that the period of waiting for the explosion is nerve-racking for us all and that it causes unnecessary stress.

Ian Kirk and Eric Hart at Auchendean Lodge

1. Eric has written more than once in the past regarding health and safety concerns at the quarry where the operator has not met the clauses attached to their past planning permission. This refers to the operation of HQC as well as Munro.
 - There have been occasions where the warning hooter couldn't be heard at Auchendean
 - There was one explosion where no notice was given locally - this resulted in a woman who lived as far away as the Causer in Nethy Bridge thinking there had been a boiler explode nearby.
 - In this same explosion two students from Aberdeen were looking for the twinflower at the top of the quarry when no warning notices or siren were given. They were very close when the blast went off and were lucky not to be injured
 - Following the student incident, Eric has twice asked for and it was agreed that there should be a person from the quarry at the top in Curr Wood to warn walkers. This has never happened.
 - Following the student incident, another request was that notices should be posted to warn walkers in Curr Wood. This was done in 2017 on A4 paper with typing so small that anyone would have to go right up to the fence to read it - that would be a risky place to be in an explosion.
 - The explosion before last - Eric was at the top of the quarry and decided to stay for the event. Even 10 trees into the wood from the quarry there were some shards of rock raining down around him after the blast.
 - The twinflower at the top of the quarry which specifically was to be protected was killed by dumping a huge mound of quarry rubble on to it.
 - Other infringements of planning permission which has been observed - eg lorries not being covered to keep the dust to a minimum;
 - In the past, the operator placed seismometers on the doorstep of nearby houses. The readings were declared fine - could this be done again but with an independent, knowledgeable observer?
 - Could all neighbouring properties be warned in simple terms of the size of the blast and therefore the resultant earthquake? ie small, medium, large so that we build up a knowledge of what will happen?

We would be grateful to receive an indication of what to do and who to contact should damage re-occur or if the conditions of the application are not met. (Presuming the application is successful) Is it yourselves at the National Park; or the Highland Council or Health and Safety?

Can we finish by reminding you that you were to let us have the contact details of the Health and Safety officer to whom I should also copy this letter of our thoughts and concerns?

Would you please circulate this letter from us all to the members of the National Park Planning Board members and any other interested parties in order that our points can be discussed at the appropriate time. One or more of us may wish to make a presentation to the committee, so please let us know when the application is to be discussed.

Thank you,

Sincerely

*Willem de Jong and Karin Meyer - of Broomhill House,
Dulnain Bridge.*

*Frank and Ann Mcneilage - of Speybend, Dulnain
Bridge.*

*Eric Hart and Ian Kirk - of Auchendean Lodge,
Dulnain Bridge.*