



SIMON HOARE MP
NORTH DORSET

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Ms Lisa Kirby-Hawkes
Hampshire County Council
Economy, Transport & Env Dept
Elizabeth II Court West
The Castle
Winchester SO23 8UD

20th May 2021

Dear Mrs. Kirby-Hawkes,

Re – Planning Application NF272, Mineral Extraction in the Ringwood Forest (known as Purple Haze)

The above site has attracted a great deal of attention and interest among my constituents in and around Verwood. I wish to object to the planning application for mineral extraction.

At the Public Inquiry and subsequent reports, it was noted that the Inspector identified several environmental concerns which were to be addressed, satisfactorily, at the planning stage. The natural presumption therefore being that if they were not planning should be refused.

The clear and key test is that any grant of permission should not impact negatively on the integrity of European protected sites. The hydrological impacts of the application, in my assessment, represent a significant and damaging impact on the delicate balance of the ecosystem of internationally designated Ebblake Bog, which is a SSSI, part of the Dorset Heathland, SPA, SAC and RAMSAR. It sits no further than 520m from the Purple Haze site. I know I need not amplify to you the importance of our all too scarce bogs and heathlands. They have evolved over centuries. They cannot be replaced, resited or loss/damage compensated for. The presumption must be their total safeguarding and protection as a result of the development and the planning application before you cannot provide that required 'cast iron' guarantee. Reliance on technical interventions or mitigations is simply not sufficient.

I understand that the minerals sought for extraction are broadly in line with those of Blue Haze. They are not of a high quality and would require on-site washing and perhaps other treatments prior to be taken off site. The soft sand is of a quality sufficient only for landscaping rather than for construction. Given the low quality of the minerals it would seem to me reckless and unreasonable to grant consent given the proximity of the aforementioned designated and important ecological area.

Working Hard for North Dorset

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I would also contend that relying upon the applicant's Transport Assessment, with the traffic counts on the B3081 (the key travel route for Verwood), being collated in June 2020 during the Covid when schools were closed, retail constrained and working from home the norm and/or furlough in place. Traffic counts are not acceptable when there is snow, during school holidays or major public or bank holidays as all distort, unnaturally both the volume and timings of traffic movements especially at the peak times. Might I respectfully suggest that planning assessment impact made with reliance on data gathered during Lockdown would open the opportunity for challenge.

I remain to be convinced that the applicants have paid any attention to the requirements of the Development Considerations of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan 2013 where the '**protection** [my emphasis] of the amenity of Verwood residents' is a requirement. No such comfort for my constituents has been provided.

I believe that the application itself lacks the robustness required to put a positive outcome beyond challenge. It has chosen to ignore the required measures of the Inspector which are contingent for the granting of planning permission. It fails to protect the amenity of my constituents. It places in grave jeopardy an important environmental resource merely in the pursuit of the extraction of commonplace, poor quality, non-construction usable minerals. Put simply consenting the application is not worth the risk that such a permission represents. I urge you to recommend REFUSAL of this proposal.



SIMON HOARE
Member of Parliament, North Dorset