Email communication Unitary Councillor Bill Parks

You will recall that we discussed the response to Somerset CC re Whatley Quarry planning consultation.

I have raised this with Wiltshire Council officers who have now provided me the initial comments and concerns that they have raised.

I have looking on Somerset CC planning portal at SCC/3795/2021 and note their submission (22/07/21) as a Statutory Consultee and also see that of the Parish Council and M/B Weightwatchers

*Please accept the comments below from Wiltshire Council as Highway Authority.*

*Before the Council can offer a final response, there are several points that require additional information or clarification.  These are as follows:*

*There is a discrepancy within the documentation relating to movement of minerals. At one point it is suggested that only road traffic will leave Westdown Quarry, whereas Whatley would be via rail only.  This is at odds with further information provided saying there will be an equal split of road haulage of 2mtpa between the two quarries.  Clarification is required on this point.*

*It is noted that Whatley Quarry is limited (as set out in condition 30 of planning application 109122/002) to transport up to 4 million tonnes per annum (4mtpa) via road haulage.*

*Throughout the proposal, there is an informal intention from the applicant to ‘share’ the currently permitted 4mtpa road haulage via a 50/50 split between the Whatley Quarry and the proposal for Westdown Quarry.  Clarification is sought from the planning authority on how the ‘intention to share’ the 4mtpa permitted at Whatley Quarry will become formalised and legally binding through the planning process on the suggested distribution and amount.*

*The applicant argues that there will be little impact from road haulage because the combined mtpa from both quarries is intended to be no greater than that already permitted at Whatley Quarry.   However, the proposals state that road haulage from Whatley Quarry will only occur between 6pm and 4am (and 6am to 8pm at Westdown Quarry).  The information provided does not state the current / allowed operating times of Whatley Quarry only the maximum haulage of 4mtpa.  Clarification is sought on the current operating times allowed at Whatley Quarry.  Any changes in these may result in a severe impact on local residents amenity, both in Somerset and Wiltshire.*

*Route management for both the rigid and articulated HGVs generated by the sites to/from the primary route network is absent and should be rectified.*

*The scope of the TA is such that it does not adequately provide information on the potential impacts of the proposals in several communities in Wilshire that have long standing HGV issues, namely Maiden Bradley, Corsley Heath and Chapmanslade.   In addition, these communities were not directly included/targeted in the consultation events.  Additional information on how these communities could be affected by the proposals is required.*

*I look forward to hearing from you.*

I would draw your attention to the penultimate paragraph.

Also attached is the fairly lengthy Planning Statement  – the Introduction starting on Page 6 goes some way to outlining the current planning position, and explains the implications of ROMP and IDO submissions.

I will continue to support the village cause as best I am able.

Kind regards,

Bill

**Bill Parks
Wiltshire Councillor Warminster North and Rural**

