

TEMPLE GUITING PARISH COUNCIL

Position statement on quarrying in the North Cotswolds

Over the past 10 years there has been a significant increase in quarrying activities in the North Cotswold area (a cluster which is accessed via the B4077 and Buckle Street). The cumulative impact of this affects the peace and tranquility of this corner of the AONB. Daily interactions between residents and visitors with the HGVs operated by the local quarries have caused distress and damage.

TGPC fully supports quarrying in its area where the purpose is to produce local limestone for Cotswold dry stone walling, building blocks and tiles. It recognises that some aggregate production will be a by-product of this quarrying process.

Our review of the GCC Minerals Plan, together with a number of quarrying applications over the past few years, prompted TGPC to develop a document called 'A Fresh Approach to Quarrying' in 2019. One of the main points emphasised in the document is the need to review the cumulative impact of the cluster as a whole, rather than to see each quarry in isolation. This requires all stakeholders to work together through open engagement with the aim of understanding and mitigating the cumulative impact of quarrying in the area.

TGPC welcomes the invitation by the CCB to move this forward with the first Quarry Stakeholder Forum on 29 January 2020. TGPC has created a Working Party to focus on its contribution to this forum. The Working Party is keen to support the following short, medium, and long-term objectives:

Short term:

- Establish a coordinating group and work with the CCB, Planning authorities, Local Parish Councils and Quarry operators to arrange future meetings and other activities.
- Develop a voluntary 'Driver Code of Conduct'
- Agreement to create a North Cotswold Quarry cluster managed area within GCC plans and policies
- Understand and document production history and HGV movements in the past and the present time.
- Plan and attend regular quarry visits

Medium term:

- Develop a clear understanding of quarrying activities and their cumulative impact on the surrounding area, environment and residents.
- Establish criteria for defining an acceptable level of traffic and quarrying.
- Develop items agreed in the earlier 'short term' stage
- Develop and implement plans to mitigate any impacts which are agreed to be excessive.
- Identify and use best practices for quarrying activities across all three stages of the process: production, transport and restoration

Long term:

- Establish the North Cotswold Quarry cluster as a reference area for best practices in quarrying; stakeholder co-operation and for the quality of the legacy for future generations.