

Aldborough Hatch Defence Association

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Lee Scott MP
House of Commons
Westminster
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Lee,

I refer to our conversation today when you kindly joined with members of the Aldborough Hatch Defence Association on the site at Aldborough Hatch Farm where Lafarge Tarmac have indicated that they will be applying to the London Borough of Redbridge for planning permission to excavate sand and gravel.

You will be aware that sand and gravel extraction has been ongoing for some 50 years on Fairlop Plain and that the farm in this stretch of the Green Belt is the final area available for this purpose. There is very real concern amongst residents that this will bring noise, dirt, dust, air and diesel pollution (from the use of dumper trucks to take the extracted materials to the conveyor belt almost half-a-mile distant) to the residential area to the south of the farm. In addition, this will endanger two Grade II Listed Buildings and three Locally Listed Buildings. Further, with the potential for change in the water table, there is fear that the pond at Aldborough Hatch Farm would dry up; this is the habitat of the Great Crested Newt, a protected species on Fairlop Plain.

I am enclosing documents which will provide you with the background to the sand and gravel extraction. They will give an indication of the strength of feeling amongst residents in Aldborough Hatch that they have had more than enough of the blight that these workings bring. The proposed extraction will be very close to the Dick Turpin Restaurant, St. Peter's Church and community halls (the latter being the base for a pre-school nursery, a stage school, Scout and Guide Groups, and senior citizens' club – amongst others), Oaks Park High School, the Aldborough Hall Equestrian Centre, and the homes of many hundreds of residents, many of whom are elderly and suffer from asthmatic and other health issues which are affected by dust, dirt and fumes in the atmosphere.

The Association would be most grateful for your support in drawing the concerns of your constituents in this matter to the attention of the appropriate Minister in Government.

If I can assist further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for your interest and support, which is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Jeffries
Chairman