

Dear Hampshire County Council

Hamble Airfield Application - HCC/2021/0787

As I am sure you are aware, many people are unhappy with the current plans to build a quarry on the Hamble Airfield. This is a concerning matter for many residents of not only Hamble, but the surrounding areas too. This development would cause distractions to people's home lives, the neighbouring Hamble School and primary school and would be detrimental to overall quality of life.

We conducted a survey to investigate opinions on this topic throughout our school community. Students were given the option to express their views and gauge their level of concern. 70% of students have a good understanding of the quarry and of that statistic, 88% of them have deep concerns. Some students have said how they are afraid of the effect on wildlife and how school life will be disrupted in and out of class. One student raised the point that "You would not build a school next to a quarry, so why would you build a quarry next to a school?"

Constructing the quarry will create extensive amounts of pollution in the surrounding atmosphere. Dust and small particles in the air have a potential to cause respiratory and cardiovascular health problems. There is a substantial number of students and staff members with conditions that affect their breathing, for example, asthma. One student stated, "I have asthma and if the quarry is built, I will have to move schools; my siblings, who are planning to attend The Hamble School in the upcoming years might have to go to a different school that is not at risk from air pollution." The Hamble peninsula has already been flagged as having poor air quality. A clean air scheme carried out by the Eastleigh Borough Council is "aiming to improve air quality in Eastleigh Borough," however, the quarry construction will cause substantial problems, with a new development massively increasing irritation caused by airborne particles.

The geography of Hamble is recognised for its lack of accessibility – there is one road in, one road out, making it heavily congested, especially in rush hour times. If the quarry were to be constructed there would be up to 144 HVGS per day, for at least 5 years. The council have stated that these movements would be taking place between the concentrated hours of 7:00am and 10:00am. This is the one of the peak times for school and work commutes. One student has expressed concerns, saying "large trucks and lorries constantly driving on the road could be very dangerous to those commuting to school. Personally, I cycle, and I would feel very unsafe." Many of our students walk and cycle to school, and if the quarry were to go ahead, even getting to school would be an issue.

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Another concern that has been raised is the increase of noise that would be caused by the quarry. A student at The Hamble School shared their thoughts that the quarry “would be a major disruption to our GCSE preparations and could negatively impact results.” From our mock GCSE experience, we have realised how even the smallest of sounds like a door shutting can make us lose concentration. We cannot even begin to imagine how the commotion of construction will disturb our exams.

On a personal level, our Year 11 experience will not be affected by this, however, while we are attending college, the quarry will disturb our studying. As residents of Hamble, we are worried about noise the quarry would produce would be far above what can be classed as a nice working environment. Not to mention the affect it would have on social lives as well. The airfield is a place where many people walk dogs, socialise, and relax in nature. It is a nice green space in a village that is already falling to urbanisation.

Furthermore, there is a nursery directly next to the Hamble School, which is at remarkably close proximity to the proposed building site. After speaking to a local doctor, we have gathered information that “inhaling dust particles constantly can lead to respiratory trachea disease, which is a high risk for children in the area, especially those under the age of 5, who are more vulnerable.”

Overall, we understand the purpose and benefits of creating the quarry on the Hamble Airfield, however, there are far more disadvantages and concerns it will create, and these heavily outweigh any advantages. It will cause more problems than it fixes and the negative impact on school and home life cannot be ignored.

Yours faithfully

The Student Leadership

On behalf of the staff and students at The Hamble School

If, at any time, you should require special arrangements to be made when visiting the school and/or in order to participate fully in supporting your child at school (e.g. an accessible venue for meetings, if you are a wheelchair user, assistance with translation of documents or enlarged copies of communications etc.), please do not hesitate to let us know.