



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Duncan Evans
Case Officer (RU.21/0597)
Planning Development Team
Surrey County Council
Quadrant Court,
35 Guildford Road,
Woking
GU22 7QQ

Our reference: BS14134

4 January 2024

Dear Mr Evans,

I write as the Member of Parliament for Runnymede and Weybridge in response to the planning application on Land at Whitehall Farm, Stroude Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 9UZ.

I fully and comprehensively oppose these plans for gravel extraction at Whitehall Farm.

As the MP for Runnymede and Weybridge I am campaigning to reduce noise and air pollution, protect our natural environment and I am working to address the impact of HGVs and industrial vehicles through our towns and villages. The plans for Whitehall Farm would undermine every one of these aims and very negatively impact local residents.

In my opposition to the initial plans in June 2021, I highlighted a number of areas of concern, including flood risk, heavy vehicle traffic impact, air and noise pollution, hours of operation, the impact on the Green Belt and my support for local residents, who overwhelmingly oppose these plans. These concerns remain valid and I re-submit my initial objection (attached) alongside this response for your consideration.

The issue of large vehicles through our towns and villages is increasingly raised with me by residents, causing concern over the impact on health, safety, and congestion. This application proposes 148 daily 20 ton truck movements - a huge increase in large, polluting vehicles on already congested roads. **More trucks on our roads are especially harmful locally given the delays and disruption already experienced with local level crossings.**

I have also championed continued investment and improvements in our local railway network, including the construction of a Southern Heathrow Rail link. This would bring economic benefits through investment and jobs, improve services for residents and help to reduce emissions by reducing reliance on cars to get to and from Heathrow Airport. These plans for gravel extraction could seriously undermine the viability of this project, and the detrimental impact should therefore also be taken into account as a material consideration when assessing the benefit of this application.

As part of the consideration of this application, I would therefore ask:

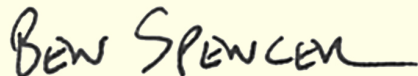
- What assessment has been made of the impact of addition traffic on air pollution levels?
- Whether any consideration has been given in traffic assessments to the issues experienced around Egham level crossings?

- How air and noise quality will be monitored and enforced, if the application is approved?
- How will flood risk be mitigated?
- What compensation will Cemex provide to residents when there are demonstrable adverse effects (health impact or risk to property) from the development, if the application is approved?
- What assessment has been given to the economic harm of the application, should it impede the possibility of a Southern Heathrow Rail link, and have relevant stakeholders been consulted?

In addition to these issues, I also want to raise my serious concerns over the process that has been adopted to determine this application. Given its potential impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, and our natural environment, I do not believe it is appropriate to adopt a shortened consultation process, allowing only 5 weeks over the holiday period for residents to have their say. Especially as this followed months of delays and uncertainty over when these plans would come forwards. I would like the Surrey Planning Authority to consider whether this is appropriate or could be grounds for calling in the application should it be approved.

I want to thank local residents who have engaged with me throughout the lengthy process of opposing these plans, in particular the Residents Against Gravel Extraction. I look forward to full consideration being given to the issues raised above and the serious concerns of residents, in the hope and expectation this application will be refused.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ben Spencer MP
Runnymede and Weybridge