

PWEST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

DECEMBER REPORT

CLLR JESS BAILEY, DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL AND EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR CONTROVERISAL QUARRY AT STRAITGATE FARM – REFUSED

As you will be aware the planning application for this highly controversial 100 acre quarry was refused by Devon County Council Planning Committee on 1st December. Other speakers included Cllr Townsend who spoke very well on behalf of West Hill Parish Council, Cllr Roger Giles on behalf of Ottery St Mary Town Council and residents Monica Mortimer and Chris Wakefield. I am very glad that the planning committee listened to the concerns raised by the speakers and refused the application.

When refusing the application, the planning committee used my grounds as the basis for refusal. These included the great weight afforded by the NPPF to the protection of heritage assets irrespective of the degree of harm; the potential unacceptable impact on human health relating to private water supplies; the unresolved road safety issues relating to the cattle crossing; the lack of evidence of protected species due to the failure to provide up to date surveys; the lack of finalised surface water management plan; and the loss of mature trees and 1.5km of important hedges. The committee also added a further ground for refusal - the unsustainability of transporting material for processing in light of the climate emergency.

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN ISSUED ON FRIDAY

I notified the Parish Council that the working draft plan had been issued on Friday 3rd December. The link can be found here [Committee details - Strategic Planning Committee - East Devon](#) The EDDC strategic planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14th December. I am a member of the committee. The meeting will be live streamed live on EDDC's you tube channel. **I was notified yesterday that the time of the meeting has changed and will now be starting at 9.30 am and not 2pm.**

There are hundreds of pages to digest, and I had not had any sight of it before it was published on Friday so I am currently working my way through it.

My preliminary response is that I am very concerned about the large number of potential West Hill allocations and the proposed developments on the West of Ottery St Mary. I am also concerned that West Hill may be further allocated even more houses due to the need to accommodate an additional 900 homes that have not yet been allocated. The parish council may like to give me their initial feedback or discuss with me.

BADGER CULL ON DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL OWNED LAND

I was very disappointed that DCC members, largely Conservative, voted by a substantial margin at its full council meeting on 2nd December to continue to allow the badger cull on its land. This practice is widely regarded as inhumane and ineffective. Conservative Cllr Brook described “the profound positive impact” the cull is having on the issue of bovine TB. I spoke against the cull being allowed to continue stating that I felt that members of the public would be shocked that the County Council allow this practice on their land. I said that I believe that the focus should be on rolling out badger vaccinations, accelerating research into cattle vaccination and improved testing regimes for cattle. Devon Wildlife Trust does not allow culling on any of its land. This issue was debated by DCC in 2014, how disappointing yet members vote to allow it to continue.