

Development Control Committee - 4th November 2020

Update Sheet

Item 4 - Application LCC/2020/0018 – Tong Quarry

Consultations:

Rossendale Borough Council: The Borough Council were consulted when the application was first submitted. A reminder was raised with the Head of Development Control at the Borough Council but no comments have been received.

Representations: A submission has been received from the applicant under the public speaking procedures. This is attached at Annex A and will be read out to the committee.

Written Submission by the Manager of the Tong Quarry site on behalf of the applicant.

Clive Hurt Plant Hire has leased the mineral rights for Tong Quarry for 4 years. Working in conjunction with Bacup Clay Company to ensure that we can meet the area's need for aggregate supply and inert waste disposal.

Throughout this time, we have complied with planning permissions and environmental permits.

Our companies together, employ 250 people, 12 employed directly to work from Tong Quarry. In the event of a refusal these people will almost certainly lose their jobs. However, it will also have a knock-on effect within the rest of our company – because of expansion at Tong Quarry, we were able to employ additional staff. If planning is withheld inevitable redundancies will have to be made.

The businesses operating at Tong Quarry create a substantial amount of money to the economy of East Lancashire through business rates and aggregates tax, this is in the region of £450k per year. Refusal would result in the loss of this local contribution.

Tong Quarry currently supplies over 100 customers, made up of sole traders, building merchants and construction companies. We currently have active jobs placed with large companies in the area such as Barnfield Construction, PowerGrid, John Reilly Civil Engineering, North Star Estates, Eric Wright Construction/Civil Engineering Ltd, Lancashire County Council, Barratt Homes, Euro Garages and many more.

There is clearly the need for the aggregates at this location. Should this application be refused it will result in several logistical and economic problems for these companies as well as a significant environmental impact as the aggregate would need to be carried into the area.

On a separate but highly relevant note, we are a business that has continued to trade, through the last recession, and we are continuing to trade through the current recession despite the negative effect of the Covid-19 pandemic. It would be a true shame and a disagreeable decision to condemn two businesses on the grounds of a Policy that is currently under review, of which the Draft proposals (due to implemented in Spring 2021) allow more flexibility in these decisions as it has been recognised that the current stance is rigid.

We do not seek to change any of the current conditions of our current permission. Opening times and vehicle movements will remain the same and we will continue to be respectful to our neighbours.

It is also worth noting that there has not been a single objection regarding this application.

We would like to thank you for the time taken to read this letter and hope that you can take its contents into consideration.