

**Froggs Hall
Norwich Road
Ditchingham
BUNGAY
Suffolk
NR35 2JU**

David L Walker (JW Gough)
Chartered Surveyors
Albion House
89 Station Road
Eckinton
Sheffield S21 4FW

04 October, 2005

RE: The Ditchingham Quarry (Land off Norwich Road B1332).

Dear Mr Gough

Thank you for your letter of 30th September 2005.

Damage only accidents: In my letter of 24th September I confirmed that we would provide the 'damage only accident' information as soon as we are confident that it is comprehensive and appropriate to do so.

With regard to the conversations of 18th July and subsequently. I have always made it clear that the information that I submitted to the County Council was only a small sample of the far larger number of accidents on the B1332. Indeed, the details relate only to those accidents within a short distance of my property and/ or where I have personally seen the resulting damaged vehicles.

I also noted in my letter of 24th September that '... as Lafarge has not been able to provide any firm indication as to volumes of traffic; or direction of routing (ie towards Bungay, or towards Norwich) that the traffic implications impact potentially the entire length of the B1332. Hence we need to collect data from, for example, the parishes of Hedenham, Woodton, Framlingham, Brooke, etc.' ***An exercise I am sure that you understand will take considerably longer than 'a couple of weeks' to conduct.***

Other Matters: I would be grateful if you would provide clarity in respect of the other matters noted in the earlier correspondence.

- **Access to Fen Lane site:** '... we note that the NCC Highways Department has no record of any discussions with Lafarge or the Ditchingham Estate as to the proposed access to the site. This, notwithstanding indications at the Bungay exhibition to the contrary.' ***Please confirm what the intended proposals are, as those identified by NCC are clearly different to those indicated by Lafarge at the Bungay exhibition.***

- **Traffic Assessment:** '...you commented in your letter 9th August 2005 (Section 4.4 Traffic), you are disappointed that local residents were unhappy with the traffic assessment. Not least, perhaps, that you advised us that this assessment was undertaken when the speed limit on the B1332 was set at the national limit (60mph), since which it has been reduced to 50mph, and is now 40mph from Belsey Bridge Road to 'Chicken

Roundabout'?. ' **Please advise when the traffic assessment was actually conducted and by who. I would be grateful for ENRAGED to be provided with a copy of the report.**

- **Ready Mix:** '... we derive no comfort that 'the readymix concrete plant will not be promoted within the scheme'. We are of course aware that the existing Lafarge contract for 'plant operated within the Earsham Quarry complex' will terminate at around the same time as you propose the Ditchingham Quarry site will commence operations. It is common knowledge that aggregate operators bear no hesitation in requesting 'enhancements' to initial proposals [hence we have no confidence that whilst not currently promoted, Ready mix could be subsequently be reintroduced into the Ditchingham scheme].' **Please advise what Lafarge's intended proposals are with the cessation [or otherwise] of the Ready mix batching facility at the Earsham site.**

- **Land Fill:** '... even though 'no landfilling is being proposed' there is every likelihood that it could be reintroduced at a later stage once gravel extraction has commenced... ' **Please provide clarity in respect of the initial assumptions that indicated that landfill was necessary to restore landform, and of the revised assumptions that it is no longer necessary and that landform can be reinstated from material contained within the site boundaries [as to do so might require more disruption to the natural landscape?].**

The Ditchingham Quarry option agreement: Since our earlier conversations **ENRAGED** has learnt of the existence of the 2001 option agreement signed between Lafarge and the Ditchingham Estate. The existence of this agreement, which was not revealed at the Bungay Exhibition, identifies not one site for potential mineral extraction but four sites. It is clear that Lafarge may have more significant intentions for mineral extraction in the locality... impacting a far greater area, and for a longer period of time than the one scheme publicised. Additionally, none of the sites identified in the option agreement are identified in the Local Minerals Plan. Such intentions may not be limited to contractual arrangements with the Ditchingham Estate alone. **Please indicate what planning justification exists for Lafarge to exploit mineral extraction in an area not identified in the local minerals plan.**

I am sure that you will acknowledge that there are already large inconsistencies in the information concerning the Lafarge plans and that this is of significant concern to local residents. **ENRAGED** wish to ensure that all information published concerning the scheme is accurate and properly informed. To this effect I would be grateful if you would provide absolute clarity with regard to my request for further information [as above] to include:

- NCC has no record of discussions concerning **proposed highways access;**
- **traffic assessment** information that appears less than robust;
- the potential of either, or both, of **readymix**, and **land filling**, together with an acceleration of the extraction rate [as you indicated may be possible] could more than double your current estimates of HCV movements; and
- the site is not identified in the **local minerals plan** and includes potential for an extended extraction area as indicated by the existence of the previously unpublicised **option agreement**.

Yours Sincerely

Julian Green
ENRAGED

Copies:

- John Smith, Clerk to Ditchingham Parish Council; Alan Burrell, NCC; Richard Carden, SNDC; Richard Bacon, MP.
- Chris Tyack, Clerk to Hedenham Parish Council.
- Mike Jackson, Director Planning & Transportation Department, NCC.
- Mr Stuart Anderson, Projects Director, Lafarge Aggregates Limited; Michael Horton, Savills.
- Jerome Munro-Lafon, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co Ltd.
- Ruth Rolls, RR Environmental Communications.

Attached: DL Walker letter 30/09/05; J Green (ENRAGED) letter 24/09/05.