

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

David L Walker (JW Gough)
Chartered Surveyors
Albion House
89 Station Road
Eckinton
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02 November , 2005

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

Dear Mr Gough

Mr & Mrs J Chadd have been kind enough to provide me a copy of your letter to them dated 24th October as it mentions my name and connects me to the issue disinformation. I take great exception to such inference and consider it defamatory. I would be grateful if you would retract that statement and apologise appropriately.

If I may, I refer you to my letter of 4th October (and your response of 12th October) the subject of which specifically addressed the issues of the *'already large inconsistencies in the information concerning the Lafarge plans and that this is of significant concern to local residents.'*

My opinion (and that of other supporters of ENRAGED) is, that ever since conception of the 'Fen Lane' scheme, information made available to residents or other stakeholders more broadly, has only been provided by; Lafarge; the Estate; or Savills or you as their agents, on a reluctant and piecemeal basis. Even now, the full application and ES is only available by inspection at official premises or on payment of £95 copy fee. Very few of the local community have either the time, or will, to review something in excess of 1000 pages of text and A3 drawings and other materials in public offices and at times that these are open, or to pay the fee for the full opportunity at their leisure. Such arrogance (of Lafarge) is wholly inappropriate and is not an approach that we would imagine that Lafarge would wish to be indicative of its own standards of business ethics (albeit that these are self-promoted).

I wish now to refer to the specific comments on disinformation that you refer to in your letter of 24th October, and to the article in the October edition of the Parishioner magazine (written mid September due to copy date).

Vehicle movements: I maintain that at the exhibition Lafarge failed to associate the vehicle movements with the activities of landfill and of readymix concrete batching. Based on the information made available (from Lafarge) at that time, and for that matter subsequently, those estimates were (and remain) more representative of the proposed scheme (and/ or of its future potential) than currently promoted by Lafarge at this time publicly, or as included in the ES.

The Parishioner magazine: May I assume that as you chose to illustrate the issue of disinformation by reference to the issue of *'...the felling of trees in Heater and Ten Penny plantations...'* that by your silence, or your failing to take advantage of an earlier opportunity to clarify any other issue that the article raises, that this implies your tacit acknowledgement that the article is largely accurately informative.

To this effect the article refers to:

- **the Ditchingham Quarry Option agreement dated February 2001:** about which Lafarge (and the Estae) were silent until pressed by local residents;
- **blight for 30 years. A ReadyMix concrete plant. Inert Land fill:** 30 years being consistent with working other sites beyond this initial application, Readymix batching that Lafarge refuse to provide any form of legal obligation (eg covenant) preventing its inclusion in this or future proposals. Landfill now or in the future (and not limited to inert);
- **anything from 90- 120 vehicle movements a day. Maybe more:** These estimates consistent with readymix concrete batching (and potentially landfill);
- **loss of amenity and destruction of historic landscape:** clearly this is a matter of fact as evidenced by the ES;
- **environmental and ecological destruction:** similarly, clearly this is a matter of fact as evidenced by the ES. It is only with the publication of the ES that the extent of the destruction (eg including the regrade area) is now so evident; and
- **noise and light pollution. Dust problems:** again a matter of fact as evidenced by the ES. For example, Lafarge made no mention of lighting in its initial consultation with residents.

Lafarge remains silent on the issues of the *'ancient hedgerow has been grubbed out and a large oak tree cut down in preparing the site for this scheme'* but wishes to take issue with my comment that *'... The proposals will involve the felling of trees in Heater and Ten Penny plantations'* but is again silent on the remainder of the article. *'... and the removal of other hedgerows and ponds and the inevitable destruction of wildlife habitat. Never mind loss of [human] amenity? Wanton destruction? Importantly, in the context of the planning process perhaps it is. Consider:*

- *The planning process with regard to mineral extraction is 'plan' based. The current Norfolk Minerals Plan is dated January 2004 and has been extended as regards its validity until 2007. The Ditchingham site is not provided for within the current Minerals Plan for Norfolk*
- *Therefore there is a presumption against development and thus an assumption against the County Council Planning Committee granting any application for that site. There would have to be very good planning reasons for consent to be granted*

I repeat my question asked in the Parishioner magazine article *'.... On that basis then, on what ground does the Ditchingham Estate propose to proceed? Are they wrongly advised by Savills? Whose pockets are being lined? Should not the Estate be custodians of our heritage?'* Perhaps Lafarge will wish to answer that question now?

I look forward to your response to include the retraction of the defamatory statements made, your apology in that respect, and for your response to the questions asked in the last paragraph above.

Yours Sincerely

Julian Green

Copies:

- Robert Tamworth; Mr & Mrs J Chadd.
- 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 24/10/05