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

Mr Alan Burrell  
County Councillor  
Norfolk County Council  
34 High Street  
Loddon  
Norwich

01 March, 2006

**Planning Application no. P/C/7/2005/7019** (The Ditchingham Quarry [Withdrawn]).  
Highways matters.

Dear Mr Burrell

Further to our conversation yesterday you are aware of local residents' continuing concerns regarding this application. While the application has been withdrawn this is purely a timing technicality [as a consequence of the current land bank level now exceeding 7 years and largely due to the successful appeal by Tarmac with regard to the Horstead site]. Indeed the applicant [Lafarge] has indicated that it is their intention to resubmit the application '*when the time is right*' and this is recorded as a minute in the NCC case file.

The high likelihood of resubmission of this application reinforces local residents' concerns that the County Council properly considers the merits [or otherwise] of this application. With regard Highways, there is no evidence of application of proper process, indeed, although perhaps anecdotally, quite the opposite. Clearly it should be a matter of importance to Councillors that officers undertake their duties in an appropriate and diligent manner, and of course, it is Councillors themselves, that are ultimately accountable to the electorate.

As our elected representative and a local resident you are aware of the safety issues that concern the B1332. You are also aware that officer opinion found '*no fundamental objection*' to the quarry scheme on Highways grounds. That officers were able to form such a resolute opinion with little apparent justification promoted ENRAGED to request that NCC provide evidence of process, using a request for information: provided '*either in the course of 'normal business' or under the Publication Scheme; or more formally, for provision of information under statute, in which case this request cites the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000*' ... '*copies of documents, minutes, correspondence, transcripts and other information concerning Planning Application to. P/C/7/2005/7019 and any pre-application communications (for example pre or post request for a 'scoping opinion') that refer to related highways issues, whether access, routeing, traffic volumes, impact, or otherwise generally, ...*'

NCC has now provided ENRAGED with a response to their request. Copies of the documents provided are enclosed herewith. As you will note, that **while the process and procedure notes are comprehensive, there is little evidence of the actual information used to inform the opinion reached.**

If the response to the information request is indeed the only information considered by officers with regard Highway matters then **it should be of significant concern to Councillors** that there is a high likelihood that the opinion would be biased in favour of the applicant, as there is little evidence of any information considered other than that provided by the applicant themselves. Officer opinion does not appear to consider broader issues, for example, the [acknowledged] Accident History, the independent 'expert report' by GH Bullard Associates, Parish Council and local resident representations.

At your request, I also enclose herewith other information on issues concerning the B1332 Accident History. However, I would ask you to note that this information is not intended to represent a comprehensive history of accidents, but should be considered as anecdotal and illustrative of the type of issues that concern local residents.

Recognising these concerns, I would ask you on behalf of the membership of ENRAGED to raise the issues identified with the relevant parties in NCC. Specifically, I would ask you to establish whether:

- the response to the information request [as provided by NCC 23/02/2006] is complete;
- process and procedure was properly followed with regard reaching officer opinion [on highways];
- there was proper consideration of the application site, given its location [with regard to policy on development areas, commercial traffic, access, impact etc]; and
- in context of [routeing] policy, the standard of maintenance and of other engineering matters [geometry, forward visibility, width, etc particularly south of Kirstead] the B1332 should be re-assessed with regard strategic priority or improvement.

Please address your response to Froggs Hall, as above.

**Yours sincerely**

Julian Green  
**ENRAGED**

**Copies:**

- John Smith; Clerk to Ditchingham Parish Council. Chris Tyacke; Clerk to Hedenham Parish Council.
- Richard Carden; SNDC. Richard Bacon, MP.
- Adrian Gunson, Alison King; NCC
- Mike Jackson, Director Planning & Transportation Department; NCC.
- Nick Johnson, Maureen Orr, Gill Medlar; NCC.
- Gerry Bullard; GH Bullard & Associates.

**Enclosed:**

- NCC response to information request 23/02/2006
- GH Bullard Associates report
- Miscellaneous press coverage, photographs and maps etc collated by local residents