

DITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

John Smith - Clerk

01986 892235

Mr Mike Jackson
Director of Planning and Transportation
Norfolk County Council
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich NR1 2SG

6 Tunneys Lane
Ditchingham
BUNGAY
SUFFOLK
NR35 2RQ

21st March, 2006

**RE: Planning Application C/7/2005/7019: Land off Norwich Road (B1332).
Now withdrawn**

Dear Mr Jackson

We refer to the County Council's reply (dated 13 March 2006 and signed by Mr Higgins) to our letter of 9 March 2006. This reply however is unsatisfactory. We can only assume that Mr Higgins has failed to understand this Council's request. We have therefore endeavoured herein, to explain our request more succinctly, and trust that you as Director, will, by return, provide a more satisfactory response.

1. Correspondence. We remarked that: 'You will note that our letter and the copy correspondence makes reference in particular to Highway issues, matters of significant concern to local residents. The Council finds it difficult to comprehend what the applicant proposes and these issues requires clarification, particularly as this Council has previously been informed by NCC that to introduce traffic calming measures on the B1332 would be contrary to policy. It is also difficult to comprehend that this Council has not been copied this correspondence as the elected representative body for Ditchingham and impacted stakeholder.'

Mr Higgins' letter makes no comment with regard to our observation, only that 'as there is no application to currently consider the Highways Authority cannot enter into any debate....' Yet at the time of the correspondence, the application was very current, but the Highways Authority did not copy this Council. If this is indicative of Highway Authority policy (ie to keep the public in the dark irrespective of circumstance), then this is unacceptable.

2. Schemes. We commented that: 'By copying NCC, both officers and Councillors alike, we seek clarification of what schemes would [and would not] be likely to be approved by NCC'

This Council is not requesting debate as Mr Higgins implies, but simply seeking clarification of what schemes would [and would not] be likely to be approved by NCC.

This Council now requests an explanation of why:

[1.a] it was not informed of the continuing correspondence and/ or dialogue with the applicant while there was a current application; and

[1.b] while noting the remarks that the Highways Authority makes that it cannot enter public debate without a current application (ie inconsistent with 1.a above) it appears prepared to entertain correspondence and/ or dialogue with an applicant (refer to NCC file correspondence with DL Walker, agent for Lafarge) prior and/ or post the application.

This Council also requests that NCC comply with their request as made in their letter of 9 March 2006, ie that:

[2.a] we seek clarification of what schemes would [and would not] be likely to be approved by NCC.

We look forward to the courtesy of your prompt reply. Our parishioners have already expressed their concern over the governance and conduct of this application and believe that both the applicant (Lafarge) and NCC have not been totally open and transparent. We as a Council are frustrated by the unhelpful nature of Mr Higgins' letter.

Yours sincerely

**John Smith
Clerk to Ditchingham Parish Council**

Attached:
Copy Letter NCC to DPC 13/03/06

Copies to:
Mr J Green (Enraged), Mr J Chadd (Enraged)
Mrs C Chamberlin, Hedenham Parish Council
Mr Nick Johnson, Mr Tim Edmunds, Mr David Higgins, NCC.
Mr Shaun Murphy, Mr Adrian Gunson, NCC.
Mr R Bacon, MP. Mr A Burrell NCC, Member for Clavering. Cllr. Richard Carden, SNDC



Director : Mike Jackson

Tel: 01603 222143
Fax: 01603 223128
Minicom: 01603 223833

Email: david.higgins@norfolk.gov.uk

Please ask for: David Higgins
Contact Number: 01603 222789Your Ref:
My Ref: P.9/7/05/7019/DLH

13 March 2006

Dear Mr Smith

**Ditchingham: Proposed Quarry for Mineral Extraction at land off Norwich Road
Planning Application (C/2005/7019) by Lafarge Aggregates Ltd**

Thank you for your letter dated 9 March 2006. With any application it is for the developer to put forward any highway improvements that the developer considers appropriate to mitigate the transport impact of that development. The Highway Authority will consider those proposals and advise the Planning Authority accordingly. It is for the developer to put proposals into the public domain for consideration and not for the Highway Authority to provide a shopping list of schemes for the developer to choose from. Therefore at this stage with this particular proposal it would be inappropriate for the Highway Authority to say what mitigation measures may or may not be acceptable. As there is no application to currently consider the Highway Authority cannot enter into any public debate unless Lafarge or its agents specifically open a public debate about potential mitigation measures.

Should you require any clarification of the comments made or any other queries please contact Mr Higgins on the telephone number or e-mail address above.

Yours sincerely

Senior Engineer Major Developments
for Director of Planning and TransportationFor the attention of Mr J Smith
Clerk to Ditchingham Parish Council
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