

**PLANNING:** Residents step up campaign against quarry

# Protest signs along the road

By MIKE SHERBURN

Protest signs are set to appear this morning along the B1332 Norwich-Bungay, as campaigners step up their battle against a proposed quarry.

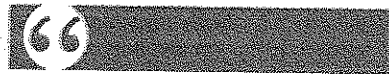
The new signs have been put out after a single sign opposing the development was stolen from a front garden near the site.

Villagers in Ditchingham are determined to stop the sand and gravel pit being created near Grade 2 listed parkland near their homes.

Aggregates firm Lafarge has applied to develop land belonging to Earl Ferrers, and filed a planning application with Norfolk County Council last week.

People in Ditchingham, Broome, Hedenham, Woodton and Bungay have joined forces to fight the proposal, citing damage to the environment, noise and traffic issues as their main concerns.

Julian Green, campaign manager for Enraged (Norfolk residents against gravel extraction at Ditchingham), said allowing more lorries to travel along the B1332 at Ditchingham was dangerous.



To add to the number of heavy commercial vehicles on that stretch of road and, worse still, to have them turning into and out of the site is to invite disaster

“To add to the number of heavy commercial vehicles on that stretch of road and, worse still, to have them turning into and out of the site is to invite disaster. It is absolutely ridiculous,” he said.

He added that concerns about traffic had already led to the speed limit being dropped along the Belsey Bridge.

“The stretch of road that passes the site between the Hedenham crossroads and Bungay is particularly dangerous with narrow sections at Hedenham and Hollow Hill where lorries frequently clip wing mirrors when passing,” he added.

Another resident said the community was “determined to ensure this scheme is soundly rejected”.

“We have no objection to gravel extraction from a suitable site,” he said.

“East Anglia is not short of sites and there are existing quarries at Earsham, Flixton, Aldeby and Raveningham and consent recently given for one at Mundham, all within a few miles from Ditchingham.

“But this is not a suitable site for a gravel quarry. It is part of a historic landscape and only accessible via a particularly dangerous section of road.”

Viscount Tamworth, Earl Ferrers’ son, has so far declined to comment on the development, while Lafarge told the EDP that they have an “ongoing dialogue with the community”.

NETH James October ite of ber-in-andpa illesby ctober rds at m, all ry and Great  
d and by in-law acle of  
OIM, Marie, Paul, apa to fican, y and mbered  
MAVIS love a s, gone Mark,  
PRICE, Dad, the it seems ou were mory is hearts.  
ou. You ve and  
had the as I'm you very told by  
E ses stay.  
d Mum

(Barbara... from...)