

Protesters urged to move signs

GIANT signs put up as part of an anti-quarry campaign have not been taken down despite the controversial planning bid being withdrawn.

And now the protest group behind the "Say no to the quarry" notices alongside the B1332 Norwich-Bungay road has been asked to uproot them.

Quarry plans for ancient parkland at Ditchingham were dropped in February by international aggregates firm Lafarge but the roadside banners have stayed in place.

Having been put up by the Enraged group (Norfolk residents against gravel

extraction at Ditchingham), the signs have stayed in place because of concerns that a new planning application could be lodged before the end of the year.

But Ian Hollingsworth, who lives in the village, feels that leaving them in place could lead to them falling into disrepair and damage future campaign efforts.

"We've had a campaign, that's fair enough, but it could be another five years or so before Lafarge come back," he said. "If the signs have deteriorated in the meantime, then it's not going to look very good.

"And I think villagers are

likely to look less sympathetically on the campaign.

"What I didn't want was signs being left here, there and everywhere," he added.

"Some of the signs have already been changed, by the kind of people who have nothing better to do, to 'Say yes to the quarry'."

Mr Hollingsworth, who helps produce The Parishioner, a magazine covering Ditchingham, Broome and Ellingham, said he believed putting the signs back up if and when a new application is lodged by Lafarge, "would give a bit of fresh impetus".

Julian Green, from

Enraged, said the signs had been left in place to keep the issue in the public eye because the scheme had not "gone away for good".

"I understand the perspective, but the signs are made of plastic and are still presentable now, some seven or eight months after they were first put up," he said.

"Having said that, two of the biggest signs are outside my gate and I don't particularly want them there.

"But nor do I want a huge hole close to my home and I don't want dozens more HGVs rumbling up and down the B1332," he added.