

Objection No 4

Noeleen Keavey

From: Licensing Staff
Sent: 11 February 2015 11:34
To: Noeleen Keavey
Subject: FW: New Third Party objection entered for Reg no: W0272-01. (Reference Number: W0272-01-150211105151)
Attachments: EPA Quarry Milverton.docx
Importance: High

From: JP Browne [mailto:JP.Browne@cllrs.fingal.ie]
Sent: 11 February 2015 10:52
To: Licensing Staff
Subject: New Third Party objection entered for Reg no: W0272-01. (Reference Number: W0272-01-150211105151)
Importance: High

Objection submitted on: 11/02/2015 10:51
Title: Mr
First Name: JP
SurName: Browne
Organisation Name:
Address Line 1: Hillside Gardens
Address Line 2: Skerries
Address Line 3:
County: Dublin
Post Code: 0000
Email: JP.Browne@cllrs.fingal.ie
Objector Type: Third Party
Oral Hearing: No

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Hillside Gardens
Skerries.
Co. Dublin

Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford

9th February 2015

Re: Waste licence application W0272-01 (Roadstone Limited – Milverton Quarry, Skerries)

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to make a submission in relation to the decision to grant Applicant Roadstone Limited a waste licence for the old quarry site at Milverton, Skerries, Co. Dublin. I am a resident of Skerries and an elected representative of Fingal County Council. I have read all documents made available from your website in relation to the said application and outline my concerns below.

- Traffic

With an estimated average tonnage of 250,000 tonnes (and a maximum of 400,000 tonnes) a year entering the site, there will be a severe increase in the level of traffic on the narrow windy road approaching the old quarry. This could lead to extended traffic jams and the increased potential of public road damage due to the extra heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using the road. I would submit that these quantities are very much excessive. With the increased usage of the road, the safety of road users will also be substantially diminished. Depending on the capacity of the HGVs, there could be sixty plus such vehicles entering the site daily. I am informed that when the quarry was open, there was never this quantity of traffic. It is stated that the landfill could have a ten year work life. This could lead to constant and unrelenting discomfort for the residents of Milverton, Skerries and surrounding areas. Adequate signage as per the Inspectors report (dated 22nd December 2014) does not alleviate any of the potential traffic problems.

- Water Pollution

I have read the documents available made available on the EPA website and have strong concerns in relation to the treatment and dispersal of surface / storm waters. It appears to be the case that no water will escape the site on to public roads; however, I understand the water will be directed to the Mill Stream (which was previously deemed not suitable before being classified as "good") which in turn flows to the sea at the South Strand. This beach was recently awarded a Blue Flag award from An Taisce early last year. Any water flowing from the quarry site (which will be accepting inert waste on a large scale) could have a hugely detrimental effect on the beach as well as the town. The beach is used all year round by swimmers, sailors, water sport enthusiasts and fishermen.

- Wildlife

It is accepted that the site in question is the habitat of the protected Peregrine Falcon, along with other protected and unprotected species. It is proposed that a certain area of the quarry be

left exposed so that the falcons can nest. With the arrival of hundreds of HGVs every week, unloading the inert waste material, and the heavy (and loud) machinery used on site to shift the waste material, it seems extremely likely that the falcons will be disturbed from their current peaceful habitat.

- Vermin

Given that the old quarry is surrounded by fields, it is highly likely that vermin live on or around the site. Although there are strict conditions as to what waste can be accepted, it is likely that the filling of the existing void at the quarry will disturb the land, and in turn, disturb any vermin residing nearby. This could lead to several other associated problems.

- Impact on community

While it is fully accepted that the site in question is in private ownership, the granting of the licence as it stands will undoubtedly negatively impact the community of Skerries. Skerries is a beautiful town on the coast of north county Dublin. We have many sports and community based clubs working with people of all ages; we have a growing tourist trade with many great amenities and events on offer for visitors to the town and produce a large range of local food products from the land and sea. The people of Skerries are very proud of their town and possess a magnificent community spirit. The Skerries Tidy Towns Committee have recently won the Cleaner Communities Award as well as achieving 316 points in the last Tidy Towns Awards (only four points behind the overall national winner). I openly accept change and progression, but believe that the issuing of this licence, as it currently stands, will damage the serenity, beauty and reputation of the town.

I further note from the documents on the EPA website that Roadstone Wood Limited (now Roadstone Limited) have one conviction under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 and 1991 for water discharge in breach of the permitted limits at its quarry at Hill of Allen, County Kildare.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,

JP Browne