

Sub 97
Ref 204-1
off

Eve O'Sullivan

From: russ bailey [mailto:russbailey@iol.ie]
Sent: 06 January 2005 17:16
To: m.doak@epa.ie
Subject: Whitestown courtcase

Hello Malcolm

I refer to our telephone conversation a few weeks ago in which you said you were unaware of the legal proceedings with regard to the illegal dumping at O'Reilly's quarry. The case was to come up later this month in Wicklow Circuit Court but an application was made by several of the defendents to have the case moved to Dublin as they believed they could not get a fair trial in Wicklow. This view was upheld by Judge Raymond Groarke who said that "the perception around Wicklow that their health is under threat would be near impossible to put out of a jury's mind". **The case will now be heard against some of the accused in court no. 8, Four Courts, Dublin, at 10.30 on 14th Jan, i.e. a week from tomorrow, Bill no.1204J.**

The work still goes on removing sand and reconfiguring the entire area of O'Reilly's pit, completely covering all areas that were dumped on. After walking through the quarry last week, I note that there is no evidence anywhere of waste material; roads have been re-routed and areas not unlike an arena are being created, which indicates to me that they are preparing to line these areas to receive new rubbish as all the old rubbish is completely buried and lost to sight. These workings continue day after day and all sand that is being removed to create space is being transferred to Stephensons quarry across the Carrigower River.

It is of great concern that the gates for the most part are left open and not secured even at night. Considering that this site is a crime scene it seems extraordinary that activity continues unabated. We are unable to access even the hydrology reports undertaken by the EPA for Wicklow Co Council as they and all other environmentally relevant information are sub judicae.

In relation to the Brownfield licence application, I want to make the following observations:

Wicklow Co Council recently advertised for tenders to manage the expansion at Rampere Waste Management Facility, Baltinglass, thereby refuting the necessity for any further landfill in the west Wicklow area. The recent County Development Plan has no provision for any further landfill site in this area.

I believe the SAC which forms part of O'Reillys quarry is in grave danger, we know that the Carrigower River is polluted already. Stephensons are pumping water from the river (without permission) to wash their sand, and in the process decimating the salmon stocks. O'Reilly's quarry borders a wetland area with a delicate ecosystem, and I also fear for the otter population. People in the area are very worried about their water safety. Our own well is 150ft deep, approx 26m, and we are located less than 400metres across the Carrigower from O'Reillys. The Chrysalis Retreat Centre which receives over 2,000 visitors a year specifically for peaceful healing, therepeutic and holistic reasons is less than 200m from the quarry. Brownfield has no interest in the local environment. Their only interest is in making vast profits from the most lucrative business in the state - waste. Even Co Council officials openly refer to Brownfield as a front for A1 Waste, who no doubt will be rewarded for polluting the area by being given the management of the site if licenced. Illegal dumpers decide on the location for dumps, and officialdom is only required to rubber stamp it. They have huge financial resources to lobby for their interests, all political parties have been involved and large political donations made on behalf of both Brownfield and A1 (these are a matter of public record). The environment has no financial resources and only a small population looking out for its interests.

This whole situation is a calamity of immense proportions.

The decision with regard to the future of this area is yours. Please take on board my concerns and those of all the local residents, and refuse this licence.

Regards

Russ Bailey

07/01/2005

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