

From: [Ellenbrook Area Residents Association EARA](#)
To: [Joanna Vincent](#); [Brenda Taplin](#)
Subject: Resident statement - Stephen Ross
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Statement from Stephen Ross

Stephen Ross – Residents Statement to the Planning Inquiry to quarry minerals on the Hatfield

Aerodrome site

I wish to object to the Brett Aggregate application to quarry minerals from the above site. I live in the northern part of Smallford, and have seen three sizeable housing estates completed or under construction within the last 12 years and within 100 metres of my home – as such I don't think I can be considered a nimby!

However, this quarrying application takes disruption to another level

Perhaps I could get over the additional 168 or 174 HGV movements/day that this quarry would generate (depending on which Brett application is under consideration) and that add to the well over 200 movements that thunder pass my house every day from the CEMEX quarry, as the combined traffic flow turns into Hatfield Road. It will be a shame that I could no longer walk the aerodrome fields behind where I live and where hundreds of people walk every day in this time of increased mental anxiety. Never mind about the noise and dust.

However, the possibility of an environmental disaster arising from further pollution from the bromate plume running in groundwater under the site is beyond concerning.

I am a civil engineer by profession, and not a hydrogeologist. I retired from Affinity Water 6 years ago after working there and for its predecessor companies for 36 years. I do emphasise, I am speaking for myself, not any company or entity. At the time of discovery of the bromate plume around 20 years ago, I was a senior operations manager and well remember my shock and that of my colleagues at discovering bromate in routine water quality samples, and the excellent investigative work that was carried out by the then Veolia teams working with the Environment Agency to find the cause.

From a water supply viewpoint, the loss of a local source was significant and customers needed to be immediately supplied by alternative sources of water. Decisions had to be taken, now well documented, about what was to be done about this new found plume of pollution. When the decision was taken to use the now polluted Bishops Rise source as a scavenging point, research had to be carried out to determine some form of primary treatment to deal with the now polluted water, as there was no known treatment at the time. A new large sewer pipe had to be laid down the Bishops Rise hill to connect in with existing pipework to take the partially treated water away for final treatment.

I don't think I can convey simply the seriousness of the situation, and the disruption it caused. All very well you might say, but what has it got to do with this Inquiry?

Here's the point. The discovery of the plume was also causing alarm to our neighbouring water company, who were concerned about it reaching the boreholes supplying the New River, 20 miles or so away. This was one of my most vivid memories and when I see that on this application, we are talking about the plume not deviating 50 or 100 metres, I am absolutely amazed. Have we learnt nothing?

I do understand that what I have referred to happened 20 years ago, and is now probably a couple of sentences lost in a forest of technical information that is being considered at this Inquiry. Surely, the pollution risk we see now needs to be removed not mitigated, or we end up playing Russian roulette with the very few local public water sources left in this water scarce area.

I urge that we learn from history and make any decision sustainable and as such, refuse permission to quarry minerals on this aerodrome site

On behalf of the EARA Committee

Local residents trying to preserve our community and local environment for future generations with no political affiliation. Website - www.ellenbrookresidents.org

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