

I object to the proposed development on the following grounds:

Firstly: this application is vexatious, not least because the same applicant already has a live application to build a quarry in the same place as this application. That application is currently subject to a planning appeal having been previously refused. Between the two applications there are many scores of documents that those objecting because of the impact that the quarry would have on our lives are expected to have read.

If this proposal was to go ahead, we, as residents, we would lose access to what was promised to us by the landowners, back in 2000, and the promise of Ellenbrook Country Park would disappear. We do not have many spaces like this left, and for those living in Hatfield or the surrounding areas, without access to a garden, it is invaluable. Indeed during the pandemic, this site has been used extensively by residents for exercise, and for social contact, serving to protect resident's mental and physical health.

Not only are the landowners steadfastly ignoring their promise made when Salisbury Village was built to give back to the community, but there is also an enormous risk that by digging a quarry in this area, the enormous bromate plume lying mere metres away from the proposed digging site (Largest contamination in Europe!!!) will be disrupted and could have unknown and potentially catastrophic effects on our drinking water and the wider environment.

- Herts CC's own review of the planning history of the site in 2004 noted that: "The S106 gives details of the Ellenbrook Park Trust that is to be set up with representatives from Welwyn Hatfield, St Albans District Council, Watling Chase Community Forest, Hatfield Town Council, Colney Heath Parish Council and Arlington. This Trust will be activated when a trigger point is reached and this is linked to the road system improvements, with the last modification joining Ellenbrook due to be completed in April 2004. The trigger points are linked to four Bonds as detailed in the S106 agreement." The promised Trust was never set up in accordance with those commitments. In effect, permission for use of the land as a quarry would mean that the former S106 would not achieve the benefit for which it was intended, for at least another 30 years, if indeed, ever.
- It's also true that for many people that have moved to this area since Salisbury Village was built, pre-contract searches did not reveal the proposed use of the land as a quarry, because in the absence of formal planning applications, the strategic plan for the site was not revealed by Herts CC to prospective purchasers – in fact we were told about the long-term plan to use the site as a country park, which was a key reason for purchasing the house for us. If Herts CC had revealed to our conveyancer that a quarry was planned, we would not, under any circumstances have purchased the house. The quarry will lead to years of blight and mean that we will struggle to recover our investment in the property when we wish to move and retire in the next few years
- The site is green belt and used by dogwalkers, runners, walkers, cyclists, horse riders, students, and no doubt many more would use it if access were further enabled by provision of more parking (the absence of parking might even suggest that the landowners do not want the site used). This would be lost as an amenity, if the outlined site were given over as a quarry.
- This development, if approved, together with potential housing development elsewhere in Ellenbrook fields, would effectively mean the total loss of Ellenbrook as a public amenity.
- The development could mean loss of permissive paths and paths that enable exploration and movement on foot, bike and horse around the land between St Albans and Hatfield

- Another factor that would be lost is the natural or existing contours. We have a good view of the proposed development site, and even with the kind of screening that the developer discussed at its public meeting, we would still be looking onto the quarry from the upper rooms in our house, so the quarry would be visually damaging in the landscape, and would result in the loss of existing views, which would adversely affect our residential amenity
- The site is home to a great deal and variety of wildlife. I personally have seen or heard many species of birds, including woodpeckers, cuckoos, herons, and owls, kites, sparrow hawks and other birds of prey, foxes, muntjac, rabbits and hares, and I've seen evidence of badgers. It is hard to imagine that this wildlife would continue to thrive around the quarry. The site is also home to many species of wild plants. Much of this flora and fauna can be seen here:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/98651538@N08/albums/72157638795462286>; and
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/43324529@N04/albums/72157628150554277>.
- The site is greenbelt, and there is no justification for its loss. The quarry would generate noise, disturbance, and pollution; a significant factor in our decision to buy the house was the absence of noise and disturbance in particular. The boundary of the quarry will be within sight of the front of our house, and this will inevitably create noise during hours of operation. There is also the risk of light pollution from the quarry; at present, the aspect from the front of our house at night is almost complete darkness. Brett argues that the site will generate no more than acceptable levels of noise, but we moved here because of the almost complete absence of 'acceptable levels of noise'. This 'acceptable' noise will be present from Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm and 7am to 1pm on Saturdays: in fact we'll barely get a rest from it for 30+ years. This is NOT acceptable noise. Furthermore, the hundreds of vehicle movements in and out of the site, and along Hatfield Road will create further noise, fumes, and disruption on what is already a busy road.
- The quarry could destroy archaeological remains, many recent (20th Century), but others possibly less so.

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