

Stanstead St Margarets Parish Council

Clerk of the Council
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Minerals and Waste Policy Team,
Spatial Planning Unit (CHN216)
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DN

Dear Waste and Policy team

Stanstead St Margarets Parish council consultation response

St Margarets Parish Council strongly object to the inclusion of Briggens (Olives Farm) in the mineral plan due to lack of soundness for the following reasons:

The inclusion of Briggens would result in a combined total of 35.71 million tonnes of gravel banked by HCC. This is far more than is required under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and removal of Briggens would still allow the Council to meet the requirements.

With full planning permission almost in place for the three specific sites already – once depleted Briggens would be the only new site on the list. This over reliance on one supplier of minerals goes against the NPPF and the Council should be using a higher number of smaller sites operated by different companies.

The NPPF attaches great importance to the Green Belt - an area of beautiful countryside in the Impact Risk Zones for the Lea Valley Special Protection Area, Rye Meads SSSI, Hunsdon Mead SSSI and its surrounding areas used by SPA birds. Stanstead Abbott's Conservation Area and Stanstead Bury Registered Park and Garden (grade II listed) lie adjacent to the site. There is potential to allocate sites outside the Green Belt then the Council is failing in its duties to put this option forward before all other possibilities have been completely ruled out. Various sites on the omitted list are outside the Green Belt and thus Briggens should not be put forward.

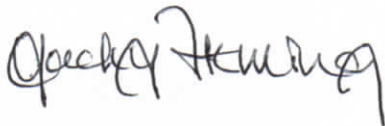
There would be a huge increase in traffic and pollution – all HGV lorries with thousands of extra vehicles with very difficult access – the A414 east goes through the centre of Harlow, the A414 west through the centre of Hertford and the A10 south through the centre of Cheshunt. The obvious access route - down the Rye Road Toll Road to the Aggregates railway sidings in Ratty's Lane won't be available due to the council's proposed incinerator!

The proposal would result in widespread exposure to harmful noise, dust and diesel fumes for residents and children in the area, and especially those attending St. Andrews Primary School

The proposal would result in a substantial and real threat to the water supply and aquifers in an area already facing a water shortage

The proposal would result in unsustainable development on top of huge residential plans at Harlow North / Gilston with the additional risk of the area being declared "Brownfield" post extraction, encouraging urban sprawl across the county border from Essex.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacky Fleming', written in a cursive style.

Jacky Fleming
Clerk to Stanstead St Margarets Council