

PREFACE ITEM

APPLICATION NO. 20/0702/FULL

APPLICANT(S) NAME: Bryn Aggregates Ltd

PROPOSAL: Enable the retention of, and proposed extension to, quarry operations including new drainage systems and settlement ponds, landscape bunds and associated works and a site restoration scheme.

LOCATION: Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm Gelligaer Road Gelligaer Hengoed CF82 8FY

1. This application was reported to Planning Committee on 3rd November 2021 with a recommendation of approval. The previous report is attached as an Appendix. A decision was deferred to allow officers to draft a reason for refusal based on the concerns of the local members and residents.
2. If Members are minded to refuse planning permission for this development, the following reason for refusal is suggested, based on the concerns raised by Members at Planning Committee:

“The proposal would result in a significant expansion of the quarrying operations at the site which would unacceptably extend the period of mineral operations as well as the proximity and cumulative impacts of quarrying (especially in terms of noise, dust and air quality) on the local communities including Gelligaer and Penybryn to the detriment of the amenity and well-being of residents contrary to the well-being goal of a healthier Wales as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and it has not been demonstrated that these impacts can be justified by the need for the mineral given current mineral landbanks. The proposal would therefore also be contrary to both Minerals Technical Advice Note (Wales) 1: Aggregates and policy CW2 of the adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021.”

3. As detailed in the attached Committee report, there is no evidence or technical support to justify a reason for refusal on grounds of the impact of quarrying operations on the local community. On this basis Members are advised that a reason for refusal on these grounds is unlikely to be sustained and would likely place the Local Planning Authority at risk of costs being awarded in the event of an appeal.

RECOMMENDATION: That planning permission is granted subject to conditions as set out in the attached report. However, if Members are minded to refuse planning permission, it is suggested that they do so on the basis of the reason set out in paragraph 2 above.