



MEETING: COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 6 - PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No.	Petition, deputation, or question	Name of Speaker(s)
1	Deputation	David Baker, David Hodson, and Jane Denyer. David Baker will make the deputation.

DETAILS

DEPUTATION CONCERNING GREETHAM QUARRY SAFETY

It is as a last resort that we feel a deputation on this subject is necessary in order to engage Rutland County Council with its statutory responsibilities.

The old Greetham Quarry is now worked out and in some places the quarry floor is 50 feet below ground level.

According to The Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC) quarry operators should provide barriers specifically to comply with Regulation 16 of the Quarries Regulations 1999 (relating to perimeter security around the quarry).

In brief (and I quote):-

“The regulations require the quarry operator to ensure that, where appropriate, properly maintained and suitable barriers are provided around the boundary of the quarry for the purpose of discouraging trespass”.

Under section 151(s)(C) of the Mines and Quarries act 1954, any quarry (whether in the course of being worked or not) which does not have an efficient and properly maintained barrier, designed and constructed to prevent people from accidentally falling into the quarry, and which by reason of its accessibility from a road or public place constitutes a danger to members of the public, is deemed to be a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act.

THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, NOT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY, ENFORCES THIS PROVISION.”

Greetham Parish Council are aware that there are several areas around the perimeter of the old quarry, where adventurous and curious children could gain access up a bund and slip and fall over into a 50-foot drop.

There is very little evidence of any signs warning of the dangers (if any remain they are mostly over 20 years old and broken and lying flat on the ground, and as you are aware both the old and the new quarry boundaries are very close to the village and the community centre and that curious children could be in danger.

Since July 2021 Greetham Parish Council have recorded the following actions:-

1. In July 2021 we identified a large hole in the fencing leading to a 50-foot drop and brought it to the attention of Mick George. They responded by erecting a fence with Chicken wire and attached 2 "Danger Keep Out" signs.
2. We wrote in October 2021 to Mick George the quarry operator, who advised that they had "undertaken an inspection of the perimeter around the entire site and the Company can confirm there is no easy way to access the quarry.
3. We strongly disagreed with this statement and in response to this information GPC wrote to the Planning Enforcement Officer on 1st December, 2021 providing him with the guidance information and Mick George's response and requesting that he obtain from Mick George the risk assessment they undertook to come to this conclusion.
4. On 14th February 2022, the Development Manager advised Cllr. Begy that the Planning Enforcement Officer and the Environmental Health Officer would walk the entire boundary and inspect the fencing to make sure it was secure. We have requested a brief report on this site visit, but to date had no response.
5. In July 2022 a quarry death is announced in the press. [A 15 year old boy died and a 14 year old girl in a critical condition](#) and in the same month [a boy of 16 drowns in an abandoned quarry](#).
6. On 15th July 2022, Ken Edward (Chair of Greetham Parish Council), walked the entire quarry perimeter with the Development Manager who agreed that the perimeter fencing was not sufficient to discourage trespassers and that there were dangerous gaps in the hedging and bunds.
7. After chasing yet again via our Ward Member Cllr Begy, we have been advised that we should undertake yet another walk around the perimeter, but this time with Mick George.
8. And finally, at a meeting we had on the site with Jon Gibbisson of Hereward Homes (Greetham), he confirmed he was the landowner and has not been made aware of the fencing issue.

This situation has now dragged on for 2 years and needs to be resolved, not by us but RCC. We would ask that this is done with immediate effect before there is a tragedy.