

Appendix 1. Meeting open to the Public & Press: 6pm-7.30pm To discuss the Scoping Opinion request for silica sand extraction and progressive restoration at Maes Droell Quarry, Graianrhyd - To assess the environmental effects and significant impacts. Adam Perry, Managing Director at Stephenson Halliday, Holly Robinson, Principal Planner at Stephenson Halliday and Andrew Duckett and son owners and managers.

- The scoping must address the baseline conditions the risks, likelihood of significant impact and outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant.
- The new proposals are for extraction, processing and export of silica sand and fine clay for glass and porcelain manufacture. Included progressive restoration from south to north utilising the site soils/ restoration material.

- Proposed Operation Times:

Mineral extraction Mon – Friday 7am- 7pm. Sat 7am- 2pm no Sundays or bank holidays

Processing same week times with Sat 7am-2pm and Sunday 7am-2pm

Maintenance same week times with Sat 7am-7pm and Sunday 7am to 7pm

- Access from Graianrhyd Road bell mouth:

60 HGV deliveries from the site would occur of a full working day; limited information traffic likely to be below 100 two- way 30 tonnes HGV movements per day.

- Using front loading shovels then being loaded onto dump trucks to the processing area; In 20 tonne loads - 360,000 tonnes per annum applied for to be extracted – but estimated to be 150,000.No blasting required.
- Water supply would be taken via abstraction from a borehole. The plant would be capable of processing 120tph requiring 30 cubic metres per hour of water.
- Site would have wheel cleaning facilities, a weighbridge and welfare facilities for workers.
- The existing buildings would be demolished on site.

The site indicated to be restored to ‘its original condition – or approved alternative’.

DCC await further reports

Questions and Concerns from the Public Meeting Community

The new application is to make the site bigger, 14 meters deeper and last 15 – 20 years, until 2042.

1. The community are concerned there will be very dangerous sand particles’ blown around the local environment; causing air pollution. It was stated that fine silica sand is a Grade 1 carcinogenic material; thus, causing troublesome H&S dust emissions, not only to workers but close residential properties, the local pub The Rose & Crown, and the community at large. The response given by the owners as what mitigation measures would be utilised to reduce the risk to the bare minimum were not adequate or reassuring. One suggestion was for the stock piles of sand should be stored in covered silos. Our climate is hotter and dryer when the wind blows the volume of dust will be greater.
2. Within the community there are particular concerns about the increased noise pollution and vibration levels. Very limited information has been provided in the report regarding the levels to be generated by the heavy machinery on site e.g. the Dozer, the loading shovel, the screening plant, the crushing machines, the conveyor belts, the movement of lorries. There are residents living in close proximity to the site, therefore the noise pollution will have a major impact on the quality of life of these residents, particularly those with young families.

3. There are fears that the plant could adversely affect the water table/drainage and stability of nearby land. This is of particular concern as much of the surrounding land is agricultural and therefore very susceptible to such changes. Concern has been expressed regarding the build up of sediments in ditches, lagoons and lying water and its potential affect on biodiversity and the watercourse. Any further harm on land drainage and water resources would be considered to be totally unacceptable.
4. What about 'trade effluent being generated' – non-recyclable waste that is not suitable for reuse. This will then need to be transported away, only adding to the local traffic.
5. The Natural Environment: Development affecting the AONB/A.O.B The proposed phase 4 would be situated within an A.O.B. The Community is very concerned about the aesthetic impact of this site especially when viewed from the surrounding footpaths and roads used by the community, tourists and walkers alike. This visual impact would be compounded by the increase in the dust and activity. It has already been noted that the stockpiles and waste tips had been considerably more noticeable in the long term after planning had previously been granted; it is feared that this will reoccur if the proposed extension and new programme is permitted.
6. How do the company propose the heavy plant machinery and vehicles would cross Dump Lane from one site to another safely? This gave great cause for concern.
7. The Maes y Droell Grave yard would be completely surrounded by the quarry workings. Could this not cause instability- causing the graves to move/ sink/ headstones be damaged? What consideration has been included for the correction/ prevention of this?
8. Highways, Transportation & Communications (TRA 6 Impact of New Development on Traffic Flows; Councillors and the community are aware of the difficulty that articulated vehicles and other large vehicles will have in accessing the plant. There are several small, weak bridges on the Llanarmon Road B5430 that are not wide enough for two 30-ton lorries to pass. It has previously been reported that when two articulated vehicles passed each other on the narrow roads in the wrong place, they collided and damaged each other's wing mirrors. Traffic approaching from Eryrys will encounter steep and narrow lanes. Councillors and the community do have reservations that the facility is in a location served by poor transport links, within a rural residential community.
9. Along with the vastly increased lorry movements all increasing the wear and tear on the already poorly maintained roads.
10. Although, there is reference to the wagons being cleaned before leaving the site, all wagons with this fine dry sand should be fully covered; and what are the plans for spillage on the roads?
11. There was a resident who stated it could provide some local employment, contract opportunities for local plant hire business and wished it remembered that this area has a long history of quarrying.
12. Overall, the community feels there has been insufficient consideration of the mental and physical well-being of local residents as a result of this new extended proposal. This is now a residential area and no longer suitable for this type of operation. DCC and the developer need to realise that this development plan needs to be considered in balance with people's health wellbeing, safety and in the context of our global climate and nature emergencies.
13. The fear is that the health and well-being of the community will be collateral damage in order to allow the continued extraction of the silica sand.