

AGENDA ITEM No. 4

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING
9 MARCH 2007
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

PART A

1. QUARRYING AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)

Purpose of Report

The Authority Meeting on 9 February 2007 received a report on the removal of limestone at Wagers Flat and agreed that officers would report to this Authority Meeting on the possible basis for a stop notice.

A separate confidential Part B report with the same title will be provided relating to legal and financial issues. For the Part B item, the Authority will be asked to exclude the public from the meeting to avoid disclosure of exempt information. This Part A report provides an opportunity for public participation prior to a discussion under Part B.

Background

A report to Planning Committee on 19 January 2007 explained the basis on which officers were considering the quarrying activity at Wagers Flat. Further background to this case was set out in that report.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That this report be noted.**

Representations

In preparing the reports to Planning Committee on 19 January and the Authority Meeting on 9 February 2007, officers wrote to Bremners, the solicitors acting for Bleaklow Industries Ltd and to Marrons, the solicitors acting for MMC Mineral Processing Ltd., seeking information to be taken into account in an assessment of the quarrying activity at Wagers Flat. The responses received and officer comments on those responses are included in the Part B report.

Those earlier reports to Members summarised the public correspondence received about the quarrying activities at Wagers Flat and oral updates on correspondence were also given. Further correspondence has since been received. Taken all together, the correspondence often relates to both Wagers Flat and Backdale, and comprises:

- duplicates of a first letter summarised in the Planning Committee report - a total of 364;
- duplicates of a second letter in which correspondents register their strong opposition to limestone quarrying on Longstone Edge and their support for the enforcement action taken at Backdale Quarry – a total of 709 of those letters had been received by 26 February;
- 38 individual items of correspondence, which together cover - strong opposition to quarrying, demand/support for action by the Authority, concerns over lack of legal powers, concerns over highway matters, the need to consider revocation, criticism that the Authority is not preventing the quarrying, concerns that this is a national not just a local issue.

The Part B report will discuss the situation at Backdale following the public inquiry now ended, as well as the situation at Wagers Flat.

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

Nil