

Brandy Hill Quarry Submission – 9/4/17

We have lived in Seaham for the past 21 years and in the past we have not felt much of an impact from the Brandy Hill Quarry.

Over the past few years we have noticed an increase in the Semi Trailer trucks that travel along Brandy Hill Drive, the increased deterioration of the local roads especially after rain and the increase in the dust in and around our house.

In the past Brandy Hill Drive was used by the locals as a place to walk for exercise and walk their children to meet their transport for before school and after school collection etc. Currently friends and locals have not been able to walk Brandy Hill Drive as it is now totally unsafe due to the increase in large transport vehicles currently using this road, the pollution they create, the speed they travel at and how close they are to you when you walk.

The way Brandy Hill Drive is set up at the moment, there is nowhere to get off the road as these trucks pass you. I would hate to get a flat tyre and have to change it while these huge vehicles fly past or be standing waiting for a school bus so I could collect my child. As the volume of trucks increase this will only get worse.

We oppose the expansion of the Brandy Hill Quarry and their proposal to operate 24/7 but we want it known we don't oppose the quarry. We have lived with the quarry close by for many years.

We are fortunate that we don't live on Brandy Hill Drive but we have many friends that do and to access their driveways and to move in and around this area will become significantly harder and more dangerous if the quarry expands. As the trucks are now, we have noticed the increase in road noise when we visit. This will only get worse as the quarry expands.

We feel that if the quarry expands the two intersections either end of Brandy Hill Drive will become more dangerous than they already are. The speed of the traffic around these intersections, the limited range of sight and the increase of slow turning trucks is an accident waiting to happen.

The black dust that already finds its way into our houses, onto wet clothing, outdoor furniture and buildings will only get worse if the quarry expands. We moved into this area to enjoy the country life and to take advantage of the fresh breezes. But opening our windows, especially when the breeze comes from the direction of the quarry will not be possible. With the increase in the size of the quarry will come an increase in the dust created from the quarry.

Our local roads are not holding up now and with the increase in heavy vehicle traffic if the quarry expands I can't imagine how bad they will be. The road surface isn't designed to cope with such large vehicles constantly using this road and at such a large volume.

In regards to our health, we are concerned – how can the increased dust, pollution, diesel fumes and increase in heavy vehicle traffic be good for us.

Brandy Hill/Seaham is a rural country area. The area is not designed to have huge trucks using its roads for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is not what one would expect to have to live with when you purchase property in such a rural setting.

If the Brandy Hill quarry expansion is allowed to go ahead, I am afraid the quality of life in our area and the surrounding districts will be severely compromised.

The expansion is not in the interest of the public, it is not in the interest of existing or future residents, it will lower value of our property, it will cause health issues, it is a traffic nuisance/danger and the roads certainly will not cope. It is not welcome as part of the future of this area.

We oppose the expansion of the Brandy Hill Quarry and their proposal to operate 24/7.