

KCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation.

Please see below the response from Barming Parish Council. Residents are reminded that the consultation closes on the 25/07/2023.

Response from Barming Parish Council to Kent County Council's proposed plan to extend the Hermitage Quarry by 64 hectares.

As a parish council representing a community which will be directly affected by this proposed expansion, we strongly object to this proposal for the following seven reasons:

- 1. As a community we cherish the natural beauty and tranquillity of our surroundings, and we strongly believe that this expansion will have significant negative impacts on both the environment and our quality of life.*
- 2. The proposed expansion of the quarry will lead to the elimination of valuable natural habitats and ecosystems with the loss of 80,000 trees and the destruction of undisturbed woodland soils. This will result in the release of significant greenhouse gases, further compounding the climate emergency that the KCC recognised in May 2019.*
- 3. Oaken wood has been created over many hundreds of years through man and nature working in harmony, using rotational coppice management. This has not only produced an indefinite supply of sustainable timber for the construction and agricultural sectors, but also a unique and precious habitat which will be destroyed for ever and can never be replaced. It is our responsibility to safeguard this precious relationship and protect this unique environment for future generations.*
- 4. To replace this sustainable ecosystem which enhances our environment, with one which damages it, will be seen by our children and grandchildren as the height of irresponsibility and, only done for our generation's selfish gain and at their expense.*
- 5. This proposed quarry expansion will further compound the ever-diminishing green space that is disappearing under housing along the Hermitage Lane and A20 corridors, removing the opportunity that we as a community cherish from future generations.*
- 6. It is unacceptable that no alternative hard rock quarry sites are being investigated so that this special environment can be preserved.*
- 7. We do understand the economic significance of quarry operations and the potential for job creation, but believe it is crucial to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship.*

We request that the Kent County Council explore alternative avenues for sustainable development that minimize the negative impacts on our environment and community.

Response submitted: 21/07/2023