Mrs Caroline Jeffrey

*from:*

Principal Planner (Mineral & Waste Policy)

Norfolk County Council

6th Floor, County Hall

Martineau Lane

Norwich

NR1 2DH

Dear Mrs Jeffrey

**RE: Proposed Extraction of Silica Sand at site AOS-A, West of the A149**

I wish to register my protest against the proposed extraction of Silica sand from land adjacent to the A149 at Dersingham. Should this proceed, it will have a detrimental effect on the villages of Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham, and Heacham and the countryside around.

There will be a significant increase in traffic, especially HGVs, on an already very busy, and at times dangerous, road. During the holiday season the A149 is often gridlocked from the Hardwick roundabout to Hunstanton. Traffic is also held up by slow moving agricultural vehicles, or when a road traffic collision occurs. Traffic on the A149 north of Dersingham will only increase with the proposed housing developments in Heacham & Hunstanton. Developments planned in King’s Lynn will see more vehicles using the road heading towards King’s Lynn and Hunstanton. When the A149 bypass was built, access to the road from Station Road, Dersingham was blocked due to Highways concerns. It seems incredulous that the proposed access road will be very close, and HGVs leaving the site will have to cross the line of traffic to head to Leziate.

The population of the villages consists of families with young children, plus a large number of older people who have settled here for an improved quality of life. Many older people have retired to this area to escape polluted town centres and have health issues especially breathing difficulties.

Dust from the extraction works will be carried on the prevailing winds which predominantly blow West to East from the Wash. The designated area is an exposed windy site.

The proposed extraction works will have a detrimental effect on local wildlife flora and fauna. There are several sites of scientific interest and designated countryside areas in close proximity to the site Dersingham Bog, RSPB Snettisham). Many migrating birds flock to the area. Local people have enjoyed access to the area for centuries, and many do still walk to the coast to enjoy the views and see the wild animal, birds, and plant-life that inhabit the area.

The area relies on tourism for a large part of its economy. Many local businesses would be adversely affected if visitors are put off coming to the area due to traffic concerns or the industrialisation of our beautiful countryside.

Yours sincerely