

Tote Hill Farmhouse
Stedham, Midhurst
GU29 0QJ

1st February 2019

Dear Lord Cowdray,

On behalf of Woolbeding with Redford Parish Council and Bepton Parish Council, we are very disappointed that the Cowdray Estate has chosen to promote the Severals East and West sites for inclusion in the Joint WSCC/SDNPA Minerals Plan and ask you to intervene. The Severals is in Woolbeding with Redford Parish, but its close proximity to Bepton make this a matter of joint concern.

As you can imagine, the threat of turning the Severals into two giant sand quarries is causing great consternation for residents living in the area in both of our Parishes, as well as the neighbouring parishes of Midhurst and Stedham. It is fair to say that passions are running very high with local residents who have lived with the threat of sand quarrying here for some time. Because the sites have been rejected in, at least, the last two plans, people had thought the matter was closed. There is great anger and puzzlement that the sites are now being promoted again by the local estate. Both of our Parishes have had lively well-attended public meetings at which local residents expressed their unanimous opposition to the proposals.

This area is much loved by locals as an amenity with its many footpaths, wildlife and natural habitat. It connects with Midhurst Common and people come from neighbouring areas to walk in a pleasant countryside atmosphere. This will be destroyed by sand extraction. There are a number of houses in Bepton which will be directly affected. But the most serious impact will be on Severals House which would be completely surrounded by the quarries.

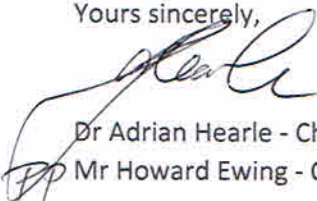
For your estate's Chief Executive, Jonathan Russell, to justify in his recent press release that the quarries "will provide positive social, economic and environmental benefits" only inflames peoples' passions and risks harming the reputation of the Cowdray estate.

Your firm stance against fracking in Fernhurst was well received. At the time the Cowdray Estate issued a press release that stated, "*Cowdray Estate has a number of concerns about Celtique Energie's proposals for an exploration well at Nine Acre Copse, Fernhurst. These include traffic, noise, light pollution and the impact on an area within the National park.*" These are very similar to the concerns that residents have about quarrying in the Severals, never mind the more extensive harm to the landscape of quarrying and concerns over impact on the water table, loss of habitat etc.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you and invite you to a public meeting that we would be happy to organise together with Bepton Parish Council.

We look forward to your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Adrian Hearle - Chair Woolbeding with Redford Parish Council

Mr Howard Ewing - Chair Bepton Parish Council

cc. Parish Clerks