



Hamble Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Hewitt BA (Hons) PGCE



Dear Hampshire County Council Planning Department,

Ref: HCC/2021/0787

We are writing to you about the development of an Urban Quarry on Hamble Airfield. We are very worried about how this will affect all the children at our school and we do not want this to go ahead.

We, the School Council, have decided to write to you to make sure that the voices of the children are heard. Our school teaches us about the UNCRC (the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child) and we know that it is our right to have our say about things that will impact our lives. We believe that building the Quarry on Hamble Airfield will be going against these rights and we will explain this below:

ARTICLE 3 (best interests of the child)

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

There is no way that building an Urban Quarry almost opposite a school is in the best interests of the children. The increase in lorries will make our journeys to school more dangerous and the dust and air pollution will be harmful to our young lungs. There are children who have asthma at school who will be affected by this. The development of the Quarry will directly impact our lives and the UNCRC says that the interests of the child should be a top priority in decisions that will affect them. Please realise how serious this could be – a child just starting in Year R will have 12 years of schooling with noise, dust and dangerous journeys.

ARTICLE 12 (respect for the views of the child)

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

It is our right to have our views taken seriously and this includes in our day-to-day lives. We are telling you that we do not want this Quarry near to our school (and our homes) as it will give us a poorer quality of life and education. IT IS OUR RIGHT TO BE LISTENED TO!

ARTICLE 24 (health and health services)

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

The key part of this Article is 'clean environment'. We know that the air quality in our playground and woods will be worse if the Quarry is built, not to mention when we are walking to school right next to it. Governments are supposed to be ensuring children can STAY healthy – not make them live in worse environment and breathe in dust instead of enjoying the air from the green spaces.

ARTICLE 28 (right to education)

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

We try very hard to concentrate in class, even with Hamble Lane already being quite noisy and there are often sirens racing past which can distract us. We want to be able to listen to our teachers in the classroom and when we are learning outside without having to worry about the noise from lorries and the work being carried out at the Quarry. We do a lot of our learning outside as we have such lovely school grounds (pictures below) and the noise and dust from the Quarry will mean that this is not as safe and enjoyable for us, as well as our lovely trees being damaged by the pollution from the site which is just across the road. Our Year R children spend a lot of time learning and playing in their outside area and they will be scared of the noise, as well as being outside exposed to all the dust and air pollution.



ARTICLE 29 (goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

This Article states that education should encourage respect for the environment, and this is exactly what Hamble Primary School does. We have many lessons about looking after our local environment as well as what is happening around the world and we often learn outside in our lovely school grounds and out in Hamble. The building of the Urban Quarry is not being respectful to the ecosystems there – the exact opposite of what the Convention says children should be learning to be and do. The extra noise, traffic and dust would also make our outside spaces less safe for us to carry out all our fieldwork and outdoor learning which is such an important part of our school curriculum.

ARTICLE 31 (leisure, play and culture)

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

This links to the above comment about us spending time in our outside areas for learning but we also need to add that we spend at least one hour outside each day for our break/play time. This should be a time for us to enjoy ourselves, not worry about what dust we are breathing in or listening to lorries and machinery. We also would have to walk past the entrance of the site to get to the Hamble Secondary school where we go for swimming and other sports events. This journey is hard already as the pavements are narrow and often flooded so we are very worried about having to walk next to so many lorries and cross the entrance where they will be turning. It is our right to be able to take part in and enjoy these activities safely.

We know that lots of people living in Hamble have written to you about this because they do not want the Quarry built, but we feel that our reasons are very strong as it is actually going against our RIGHTS if you let this development go ahead.

We learn about Greta Thunburg at school, and she used the UNCRC to make Governments listen to her about Climate Change. Please see that we have a right to be heard and listen to the voice of the children as what you decide will affect our lives for the next 20 years.

SAY NO TO THE URBAN QUARRY ON HAMBLE AIRFIELD!

Yours sincerely,

Hamble Primary School Council