

'Gow Lorry campaigners meet MSP

LESMAHAGOW residents have met with MSP Aileen Campbell regarding the proposed extension to Dunduff Quarry.

Those living on Strathaven Road and the Clannochdyke Estates met with the South of Scotland MSP to voice their displeasure about the volume of lorries passing their homes if planning permission were granted.

The plan, which will be submitted to the council by Patersons of Greenoakhill later this summer, would see lorries going past their homes every three and a half minutes.

At present the traffic from the quarry goes past three primary schools before making its way onto the M74 motorway.

However, the residents already have drawings for alternative routes, which would see the lorries bypassing both villages.

Strathaven Road resident Alan Cardwell said: "Several residents met with Aileen and were encouraged with what she had to say.

"We maildropped 400 homes throughout the Hillpark and Clannochdyke Estates to get the message across.

"We also have architectural drawings of the various routes and have more detailed plans to build up a stronger case."

The operational hours of the quarry would be 7am to 7pm on weekdays and 7am to 4pm on a Saturday.

Earlier this month the *Gazette* reported on the issue with local councillors Alex McInnes and Archie Manson admitting that the current route had to be changed because the lorries were going past the Bent, St John's and Blackwood Primaries.

In a letter to Patersons Aileen Campbell said: "None of the constituents who have contacted me have suggested that the current route of quarry traffic through Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood is in any way satisfactory and I believe it is unfortunate that the choice of routes has been presented simply as an either/or choice with no indication that any other alternatives have been considered or proposed."

She continued: "I understand that a number of residents have made suggestions about alternative routes.

"It would be helpful if you could indicate what consideration Paterson's has given, or would be prepared to give, to such alternatives."

Readers can follow the campaign by logging onto www.lesmahagow.com.