

# QUARRY QUARREL

By ROSS THOMSON

**T**HE row over the proposed extension to Dunduff Quarry has taken a twist.

Lesmahagow residents have accused Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill Co-ordination Group of not representing all views.

In a statement to the *Gazette* the residents, who are unhappy that the volume of traffic from lorries from Patersons of Greenoakhill, will be transferred to Lesmahagow, expressed their disappointment that the community group was supporting the application.

A spokesman for Lesmahagow residents said: "The group's mission is to transfer their problem onto a quiet, more dense rural residential area.

"This area also houses the only high school with over 650 pupils from all the surrounding villages.

"A new Tesco has opened and traffic at the entrance has overwhelmed local's expectations.

"There are delays exiting Tesco when turning right back to the village at present, and down the old A74 although queues are manageable.

"The petrol outlet has never stopped, with each pump constantly occupied and often a queue.

"We are awaiting a comment from



**Lorry route...is planned for Strathaven Road in Lesmahagow**

Tesco as to how it feels the proposed quarry traffic could impact on business, as well as their customers' safety."

The spokesman added that their campaign had support from people living in Boghead as well as Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill.

So far more than 300 objections have been submitted to South Lanarkshire Council.

At present the re-routing of the lorries to Lesmahagow is supported by all three local councillors and Clydesdale MSP Karen Gillon.

However, that hasn't stopped Lesmahagow residents from fighting to stop the lorries being re-routed past their homes.

A spokesman for the Clannochdyke Estate residents said they felt that they were being shunned by local councillors; Archie Manson, Alex McInnes and Danny Meikle.

He said: "It seems incredible to route this traffic down a road which is the only access to over 1,000 residents with another residential estate having just been approved with again single access

onto the same 100 metre stretch of rural road. It beggars belief!

"This will impact on well over 400 homes, and it is the only route for our schoolchildren to walk to school. We do not get buses or taxis to our school unlike most of the children on the existing route.

"There is a gross injustice in the situation."

Jim Cook, from Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill Co-ordination Group, responded to the complaints.

He said: "Unfortunately the situation is not ideal because it does polarise communities.

"However, we have to do what is best for the communities of Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill.

"We haven't made a lot of progress regarding Patersons and the proposed route does take traffic away from the primary schools."

Jim also confirmed that the co-ordination group would be supporting the extension.

Clydesdale MSP Karen Gillon added: "I have had various meetings with people in Lesmahagow and have been very honest.

"If the choice is between the current route going past the schools in Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill or the route that is being proposed I would support the proposal going through Lesmahagow.

"I have also set-up meetings with the Lesmahagow residents and Transport Scotland."