



***Aileen Campbell MSP
South of Scotland Region***

Mr William Paterson
Chief Executive
Paterson Quarries
Gartsherrie Road
Coatbridge
ML5 2EU

17th June 2010

Dear Mr Paterson

DUNDIFF QUARRY – PROPOSED CONSOLIDATING PLANNING APPLICATION

I have been contacted by a large number of constituents regarding the above proposal, including over 30 residents of Lesmahagow who attended one of my constituent surgeries on 14th June 2010 to discuss their concerns.

In particular, residents of the Clannochdyke estate and surrounding housing on Strathaven Road at the junction with Teiglum Road have expressed serious concerns about the proposed rerouting of quarry traffic along these roads. I share many of these concerns, and believe that Patersons must take these into account when preparing its planning application for South Lanarkshire Council.

Safety of pedestrians, especially young children, and other road users is a major concern, given the steep, narrow nature of the road and number of corners and difficult turns. I would be grateful if you could indicate what consideration the company has given to ensuring the safety of other road users in this proposal.

Noise and pollution are also concerns, as is the impact of vibrations from heavy lorries on the foundations and structural integrity of the houses. It would be helpful if you could provide a response to these concerns, and also to those constituents who believe the value of their homes may be affected negatively by all of the above factors.

The impact of increased traffic on the road infrastructure had also been raised. My constituents are understandably concerned that heavy lorries will increase the number of potholes with no indication of how the cost of repairs will be met. It would be helpful if you could outline what steps Paterson's

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takes to monitor the impact of its traffic on the road infrastructure it uses, and what contributions it makes to the repair and maintenance of such roads.

Concerns have been expressed about the pressure on the junctions at either end of Teiglum Road, given the expected construction of a major new supermarket at the current 'truck stop' site. This is likely to generate even more traffic and exacerbate many of the issues outlined above. Again, it would be helpful if you can indicate what consideration have been given to these concerns.

A number of constituents have also asked for further information about the remaining lifetime of the quarry, the likelihood of applications for further extension beyond the current proposals, how long it is expected that lorries would therefore be using the new route, and any planned uses of site after excavations are complete. Any information or reassurances you can provide on these points would also be welcome.

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. 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.

My constituents have also expressed concern about the way in which the pre-application consultation has been conducted, stating that they were not aware of the proposals or consultation meetings until after these had taken place. I would be grateful if you could outline what steps Paterson's is prepared to take to ensure full and meaningful engagement with residents affected by these proposals in the future stages of the planning application process.

I have copied this letter to your consultants, Johnson Poole & Bloomer, and look forward to your response in due course.

Yours sincerely,



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