

Mr Robert Bryan

Head of Planning

Peak District National Park Authority

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TEARSALL (NP/DDD/0208/0104)

This is the response of the Save Longstone Edge Group to David Bent's letter of 13 August.

We understand that Glebe Mines have said that they will quarry Peak Pasture on Longstone Edge if the Tearsall application is rejected by the Authority on 18 September. This is a matter of some surprise to us, as Glebe have repeatedly stated in the past, including in a statement made to the High Court, that they do not believe that there are significant quantities of fluorspar under Peak Pasture.

I want to make it completely clear that SLEG is totally opposed to quarrying taking place on Peak Pasture, and we will do everything within our power to prevent this happening.

We believe that any further significant fluorspar extraction in the National Park should only be done by underground mining, because of the appalling landscape and environmental damage that quarrying has caused. We call on the Authority to adopt this position as its policy. We further believe that Glebe Mines must be prepared to make the necessary investment or to give up fluorspar extraction in the National Park.. Glebe's arguments against this position can only be financial and not technical, and need to be balanced against the damage caused by quarrying.

We further believe that the Authority should move as a matter of urgency to revoking the 1952 Planning Permission on Longstone Edge. This key strategic asset at the heart of the Peak District should be restored to become a jewel in the Peak District crown.

It is also SLEG's view that the Section 106 agreement as proposed is neither necessary nor appropriate, and indeed experience shows that it would be dangerous. The previous S 106 agreement relating to the Winster permission was overturned by the High Court, and we do not see that the current issues are sufficiently different to significantly reduce the risk of this happening again, the more so as Glebe have not demonstrated that there is significant fluorspar under Peak Pasture and indeed have always said that there is not.

We will want to put these points directly to Members of the Authority at the meeting on 18 September.

John Lambert

Chairman, SLEG