

**P-06-1476 1000 Meter mandatory buffer zone for all new and existing quarries,
Correspondence from the petitioner, 14 November 2024**

Petition Regarding Concerns About the Impact of Quarry Operations on Glyncoch and Surrounding Areas.

Dear petitions committee,

I am writing on behalf of the residents of Glyncoch and the surrounding areas to formally express our deep concerns regarding the ongoing and future impact of the quarry on our community (Craig Yr Hesg) operated by Heidelberg Materials UK.

As the proximity of the quarry moves closer to our homes (*within 150 meters & within 100 meters of dust crusher to properties*), we are increasingly alarmed about several critical issues that we believe will be exacerbated if not addressed immediately.

These concerns include:

Dust Pollution: The levels of dust produced by the quarry are a serious health and environmental concern for the community. Previous monitoring of air quality by Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Council has been incomplete and lacking in substance, leading to a significant underestimation of the impact on residents' well-being. On investigation, we have found that some years where data has been extracted from for planning approval purposes, the one monitor that's used was non-operational for a number of months over 80% of the year.

After seeking expert advice, we have collected dust samples from various parts of the mountain including dust that gathers on the communities properties and sent these samples away to be analysed by accredited organizations with the results very concerning of the composition of the material (Quartz & Cristobalite). The question is when and if this dust has been analysed in the past, obviously with the new area of extracting the aggregate, has this area been tested. These samples were collected from members of the community window sill.

Visual of sample stations are enclosed in this pack, where you can see just how close properties are to the quarry and why the concern.

Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) Traffic:

The small B road (B4273) servicing the area is already overwhelmed by the high volume of HGV traffic from the quarry. This has raised safety concerns and disrupted daily life in Glyncoch, a problem we fear will worsen with the planned extension. Application stated that approximately there will be 140 HGV movements per day for aggregates, basic surveys has

been done by the appropriate authorities however, the real issue of safety has not been addressed, We have conducted a number of surveys at the entrance of the amount of HGVs arriving and have found that in the first 2 hours of operation (07:00-09:00) we were having on average 90 HGV vehicle movements, therefore over 64% of the vehicles are arriving during the busiest time of the day, ie Rush hour and school transport, this heightens the risk of accidents to the public and children trying to get to school safely. Past surveys of the authorities have not looked at the timings of transport just overall average. The road is narrow and numerous times a day HGVs are having to mount pavements to get passed.

Ground Vibrations and Property Damage:

Residents have experienced vibrations from blasting operations at the quarry, leading to concerns about the structural integrity of homes in the area. Complaints of property damage have been repeatedly overlooked by both Heidelberg (Previously Hanson) and RCT Council, which is unacceptable given the potential risk to homeowners. We believe these issues, which directly impact the health, safety, and quality of life of our community, have not been adequately addressed by those responsible for the quarry's operations. Recent blasts have been felt over 2 miles away with no warning, including Maesycoed, Graigwen, Pontypridd, Trallwn, Cilfynydd & RCTCBC Head Offices by senior members of council.

Over the years, complaints and concerns raised by the community have been ignored or not properly documented, reinforcing a perception of complacency and disregard for public opinion. After investigations we have found flaws in the reporting of complaints process by both Heidelberg & RCTCBC and only now after highlighting the flaws RCTCBC are moving forward and reviewing/improving the procedure. We have evidence right up until August of this year of a number of complaints from the public which was not recorded and acted on. No complaint references were ever given so no traceability, No simplified version of how the public could raise their concerns and how to, and also RCTCBC who "police" the quarry relies on all information coming from Heidelberg which this could be perceived as not "policing" at all.

In light of these ongoing issues and the potential for even greater harm with the quarry's expansion, we have petitioned for a 1000 metre buffer zone to be considered for all existing and future quarries, with immediate action to address our concerns. With 13000+ signees, this shows how much it means to the local communities and we are all genuinely scared for our health.

October 21st 1966 was a Sad day for Wales where we lost 144 lives (116 children) in the Aberfan disaster.... We are frightened that Craig Yr Hesg quarry will end up being taught in

school to our great-grandkids due to another disaster of a similar scale if not more deadly, with questions being asked "How did we let this happen?"

Please don't let this happen!

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to a meaningful response that acknowledges the community's concerns and works towards a solution that ensures the safety and well-being of all affected residents.

Please take the time to read the following statements from members of the community of all ages.

Resident's Impact Comments

"Gutted my mountain has been taken away, We are left with a boggy path to take our dogs for a walk, memories of my childhood have been taken away and I would've liked to have made memories with my boy. A massive hole will be left in our lives."

Keanan aged 26

"I miss the mountain being green and open, The blasts are loud and scary and there's always so much dust"

Hadley aged 6, Glyncoch

"I hate the Quarry, fed up of having to fill in the cracks all the time, My husband has rebuilt the back wall 3 times, I make sure my granddaughter is not here when they blast as she gets so frightened, If I could afford to move I would. I lost my husband 3 years ago and flew birds of prey up there and would be able to find all sorts of animals like voles and lizards, My friend is also scattered up there, I can no longer visit her and the birds aren't as plentiful now, It's no longer a Happy place"

Denise, Glyncoch

"During COVID, my mum had a terminal cancer diagnosis. We couldn't visit her in hospital. Walking the mountain, sitting beneath the Bonsai trees helped me through it, I felt so close to her there. I am devastated by the loss of ALL of them"

Paula

" I sold my house in 2016 to my son, they have recently relocated to the other side of the world, We are trying to sell the house but after 3 estate agents have been involved the valuation has dropped by £65k due to people being interested but then pulling out when they find out about the quarry expansion, we will just lose money that no-one can afford to do"

Loretta

" staff members of the school next door, cleared an area in the woods next to fence and created a makeshift campsite with boulders around in a circle and logs in the middle, classes would then be timetabled to spend some time out there each week in the outdoor area, kids loved it, playing, exploring, drinking hot chocolate. It's so sad future generations won't have the opportunity of such a unique experience"

Debbie

"Air pollution is known to cause airway diseases including COPD & Asthma, of which I have now been diagnosed with, what it will also cause is fatal strokes and heart attacks, British Heart Foundation says roughly 40 people a day will die from heart and circulation problems caused by toxic air, having a quarry less than 145 meters from a deprived residential area shows complete disregard for people's health & welfare and should be stopped"

Douglas H Williams. County Borough Councillor for Glyncoch

"Dydw I ddim yn cael lle i gymryd fy nghi mas am dro. Mae'r bws ysgol yn mynd yn sownd mewn traffig oherwydd mae'r loriau yn trio mynd heibio I fynd i'r chwarel. Rydw I'n teimlo yn nerfus pan welaf gonfoi o loriau yn mynd heibio fi yn y bore"

(I don't have a place to take my dog out for a walk. The school bus gets stuck in traffic because the lorries try to get past to go to the quarry. I feel nervous when I see a convoy of lorries go past me in the morning.)

Skye Whiles, aged 15, Glyncoch

"I'm really astounded and concerned about the possible health impacts on the residents of Glyncoch which appears to have not been given due consideration during the planning appeal hearing or by Welsh Government"

Anon

"The mountain means a lot to me, my family and friends, My Dad used to take me and my brother up when we were younger, we'd watch the sunset under the trees, have picnics, make Dutch arrows and run around playing.

Now we can't even walk the mountain without security machines going off or security following us.

A safe place that I could go and sit to watch the sunset and remember my Dad as he passed away is now gone and is being destroyed in front of us daily.

How can anyone say they care about our mental health when a beautiful place has been ruined, its breaking my heart watching it become nothing.

Years of memories are being taken away by greed."

Aaliyah Addis

Aged 14

What the expansion means to me? Our way of life has been stripped and our home is about to be destroyed by dynamite. Our future has been blasted, while our hopes and dreams are crushed. The future generations act, clean air bill and such policy's that promise people matter have been replaced with particulate matter. We are ignored and drilled about decibels when all we can hear is hells bells. We have been and are being injured mentally and

physically both directly and indirectly. We are living in fear with broken hearts in a challenging environment that threatens our community cohesion, suffering reduced quality of life with mental wellbeing in decline. We were a ruby in a gravel pit, the ruby snatched, now just a gravel pit. A mean reality replaces amenity. Memories, heritage and homes shaking at the foundations, anxiety and depression served. I am personally grieving the loss as are we all. Won't you help?

Ian, Glyncoch

Closing Personal Statement

I would just like to thank you for considering this petition, with over 13,000 signatures, it shows how much of an impact Craig-Yr-Hesg quarry is having on the community. I don't usually open up, I'm more of an individual who observes and tries to help where I can to people in need.

I have lived in Glyncoch for 15 years, and whilst I do not have the memories of my childhood at the mountain, I want to make memories with my children for the future. What I have witnessed with the Glyncoch community is completely inspirational, This is a community with limited knowledge and skills on this process, this is a community frowned upon by other communities in Wales, this is a community in the bottom 5% of deprived areas... but yet with all this negativity, I've seen a community grow, I've seen a community proud of where they live, proud of their land, and proud to be Welsh. I have seen individuals break down in distress due to everything going on whilst having comments of their children if it's safe and if the school will fall down. I think in the last 12 months I have seen every campaigner break, including myself... But then something special happens,,,,, the community sticks together and supports each other which in turn lights the fire in our bellies again to continue fighting.

Why keep on fighting??? Because if we don't, who will? Our children?

I can honestly say I am proud to say I'm from Glyncoch and will always teach my children to fight for what they believe in.

Dust Sample Results



Sample Number		Quartz %
Samples 1	Darren Court, Glyncoch	51.0
Samples 3	Garth Avenue, Glyncoch	24.4
Samples 2	Garth Avenue, Glyncoch	40.3



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