From: [redacted]
To: Joanna Vincent
Subject: APPEAL REFERENCE: APP/M1900/W/24/3346607
Date: 14 March 2026 20:05:43

Dear Joanna

Response from D Meehan - Ellenbrook Resident with regard to the new Public Access Strategy

APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW QUARRY ON LAND AT THE FORMER HATFIELD AERODROME

APPLICATION REFERENCE: PL/0232/21;

APPEAL REFERENCE: APP/M1900/W/24/3346607

APPELLANT: Brett Aggregates Limited

ADDRESS OR LOCATION AND THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Land at Hatfield Aerodrome, Off Hatfield Road, Hatfield, Hertfordshire

Email: Joanna.vincent@gateleyhamer.com

Response from David Meehan - Ellenbrook Resident with regard to the new Public Access Strategy

I do not believe that the new Public Access Strategy provided by Brett provides a satisfactory solution to the Secretary of States concerns.

The proposed lagoons remain an issue and impede the provision of attractive, unfettered routes across the park from Ellenbrook to Smallford. They are also a barrier which prevents successful reintegration of the restored phases into the country park throughout the lifetime of the park. Unless they are moved then I cannot see how the issues can be resolved.

The extra paths and the incremental work process as described in the strategy are no substitute for the free roaming, go anywhere situation that we have in the park now. To suggest that will be more paths as part of the new strategy is incorrect as there are infinite pathways at the moment.

There is a lack of attractive and unfettered routes

Walking past quarry workings, bunds, plant site, access roads and haul roads is not attractive or unfettered.

There will be crossings over ditches to navigate, vehicles to watch out for, gates to lock and unlock and 5m high bunds to climb over. These do not feel like unfettered routes.

There will be nothing attractive to look at other than lorries, dumper trucks and diggers!

Fantastic if you like Bob the Builder!

There will be no wildlife to see or birds to hear. Even the rabbits will be off limits.

Proposed unsuitable pathways are no substitute for the well-used concrete taxiway.

The taxiway will no longer be the main route through the park for Ellenbrook residents.

The gravel and grass pathways will be waterlogged in Winter, similar to now.

The paths will be narrow, meaning that there will be other users in close proximity, some with dogs.

The sightlines will be significantly decreased, reducing the safety for users, especially for females and elderly users.

Access for disabled users

Disabled users will have more restricted access than they do now. The proposed pathways are not ideal for wheelchairs and buggies.

It is already quite difficult for disabled access into the park but at least one can have a decent, stress-free walk along the taxiway at the moment. Without that solid concrete path which is a wide, open route, with clear sightlines, then I fear that the park will be a no-go area for anyone with mobility issues.

Unsuitable pathway through the lagoons

The pathway through the lagoon will not be useable for most of the year. It will be waterlogged in Winter or during periods of rain.

It will be narrow, especially in contrast to the concrete taxiway.

There will a lagoon on either side with very deep water. The proposed barrier between the lagoon and pathway will only be a low fence. This is a health and safety issue.

Lack of integration of the restored phases into the unaffected part of Ellenbrook Park

I do not believe that the incremental work process will solve the issue of integrating restored phases back into the park. This is a red herring.

It is impractical to think that slivers of land will be regularly returned to “someone” to manage and take liability for health and safety and maintenance.

The lagoons also remain a significant barrier for any successful integration, alongside the plant site and the worked area.

Conclusion

I do not believe that the proposed Public Access Strategy provides convenient cross park access during the life of the quarry and it fails to integrate the restored phases into the unaffected part of the park in a timely manner.

One final point I note that there is not one picture of a real-life quarry

workings in the brochure!

D Meehan - Ellenbrook Resident

14 Mar 2026