

To: Joanna.vincent@gateleyhamer.com

MEP Response to the Consultation about new (Feb 2026) Public Access Strategy proposed by Brett Aggregates Ltd (application ref **PL/0232021** appeal ref **APP/M1900/W/24/3346607** for the quarry at Hatfield Aerodrome

My residents in Salisbury village have raised concerns about the new public access strategy (Feb 2026) proposed for the quarry at Hatfield Aerodrome.

This includes the resident students and lecturers at the University of Hertfordshire immediately adjacent to the quarry site. Over 10,000 students use the "Sports village" on Albatross Way and many use the sportsfield within 10m of the quarry site.

- 1) As a specialist in Public health , I am concerned about the health of receptors - those walking along the proposed footpaths within the quarry site and the students (and school children) who use the sportsfield immediately next to the quarry site inhaling silica dust and PM2.5 particles from the Brett vehicles accessing the quarry site. It has previously been shown in public health publications that children's lungs and older people are most vulnerable to Coronary heart disease, asthma and damage to lungs from inhaling PM 2.5 particles and silica dust. The silica dust has been shown to cause lung cancer and Silicosis (as was argued in the case of the Public Inquiry into Bengeo quarry being close to a primary school; this quarry was rejected in Hertford in July 2019), but the school was not as close as this sportsfield is to this proposed Aerodrome quarry, and the risk of groundwater pollution is much higher
- 2) We believe the new Brett plans do not provide adequate access routes across the quarry site from Barlow Close and Albatross Way in Salisbury village to Smallford, and do not address the Secretary of State's concerns.
 - a) The proposed paths are narrow, bordered by bunds and fencing, and lack the visual appeal and safety of the current wide pathways. The new paths will not offer the same variety of walking vistas and environments. Many of the proposed paths are gravel or grass, and not concrete which from experience and the picture shown by Colney heath group , become unusable water-logged, and muddy during the winter months. The replacement of the popular concrete taxiway with narrower paths is seen as unsuitable for users with mobility issues, bicycles, wheel chairs, prams and children, or elderly visitors.
 - b)The narrow grass pathway between lagoons is considered unsafe and impractical, especially in winter when it is likely to become muddy and difficult to use. The proximity to deep water also poses a safe-guarding risk to

children . Paths near quarry operations, roads, and bunds are not attractive and not seen to be safe for dogs or children. Users appear to be challenged with dangers along the new paths such as navigating crossings, avoiding vehicles, and compared with the current paths they will be dealing with lengthy diversions -to reach their currently easy to find destinations

c) The proposed strategy does not effectively integrate restored areas into the unaffected parts of Ellenbrook Park due to i) barriers like lagoons, work areas, and plant sites. ii) the Ellenbrook Park Preservation Trust, has not been formed yet. This trust with Arlington/ARC should be agreeing the pleasant landscaping of the non-quarry area, East of the Quarry site, in an integrated way with Brett, to join up the paths in a harmonious and completed fashion to ensure a continuous, pleasant and fairly direct experience of a safe walk from Barlow close to Smallford village. These plans are not yet in place .

So the claim that 85% of the park will remain accessible is disputed.

- 3) My residents have concluded that the proposed strategy does not provide convenient cross-park access or timely integration of restored areas into the park.

Your sincerely

Cllr Margaret Eames-Petersen

Councillor for Hatfield villages ,Hatfield Town Council