From: [redacted]
To: Joanna Vincent
Subject: Consultation response Ellenbrook Fields, Hatfield
Date: 15 March 2026 21:18:22

Good evening,

Here are my comments on the above consultation:

1. Connection to the Local Area

I live [redacted], Smallford, directly beside the boundary where the proposed access road to the quarry would run. My family regularly uses Ellenbrook Meadows, which is a valued local green space and an essential part of our daily life.

2. Main Concerns About the Proposal

A. Loss of safe, accessible routes and public amenity

The proposal would significantly reduce existing accessible walking and cycling routes, particularly the old concrete taxiway. Only around 40% would remain, with the rest replaced by narrow gravel or grass paths that would be difficult or unusable in winter and bordered by high bunds and fencing. This represents a major loss of amenity and undermines the expectation that the area should be delivered as an attractive, accessible country park.

B. Environmental and wildlife impact

Ellenbrook Meadows is a wildlife-rich landscape. In the past week, my daughter and I observed a water vole and a crested newt. Deer and a wide variety of birds are regularly seen, and the area includes ancient woodland and diverse habitats. The quarry would progressively remove access to these wildlife areas and disrupt ecosystems.

C. Health impacts (dust, noise, traffic)

There are serious concerns regarding dust, including silica dust, which is associated with long-term health risks. Noise, vibration, and increased HGV traffic using the proposed access road would directly and negatively affect households such as mine [redacted].

D. Conflict with the intended purpose as a country park

Ellenbrook Fields has long been expected to become a country park after decades of waiting. The current proposals contradict this expectation and fail to provide the attractive, unfettered access routes previously identified as essential.

E. Incompatibility with planned new housing

Significant housing growth is expected in the area. Removing a major green space that future residents will depend on contradicts good planning practice and community wellbeing.

F. Community and local authority concerns

Local resident groups and councils have consistently raised substantial concerns about amenity, environmental impact, and safety. The reopening of the planning inquiry reflects unresolved issues regarding whether the proposal properly balances mineral extraction with community needs.

3. Overall Position

I strongly oppose the quarry. Ellenbrook Meadows is an irreplaceable natural asset providing ecological, recreational, and health benefits. The proposal would cause lasting environmental harm, health risks, and significant loss of amenity—particularly for those of us living next to the proposed access road. The site should instead be protected and delivered as the long-promised country park.

Many thanks,

Peter