

ASTRONOMER BOB MIZON, CO-ORDINATOR OF BRITISH ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION'S COMMISSION FOR DARK SKIES, EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT LIGHT POLLUTION FROM PROPOSED DEAN SUPERQUARRY.

Bob Mizon, MBE, FRAS addresses action group Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry on behalf of the British Astronomical Association's Commission for Dark Skies '...to express our concern at the possibility of the threat to the dark skies of the Lizard Peninsula from this proposed quarry development'.

Bob Mizon continues:

'As the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has so often stated in its recent initiatives on the subject of light intrusion into rural areas, the loss of rural dark skies is as damaging to the rural quality of life and tranquillity as are more conventional and less measurable issues of visual intrusion, and this fact is too often not taken into account when assessing environmental impacts.

'The number of sites in the UK where dark night skies, free from excessive light pollution, may be found is shrinking, and, in the words of the recent report by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution: "we seem to tolerate the daily destruction of arguably the most culturally universal and historically pristine of natural vistas – the night sky, filled with constellations of stars, and planets and galaxies".

'Mindful also of questions which we know have already been raised by local inhabitants about the destruction of rural spaces, marine environment, effect on wildlife and sustainability, noise and other impacts, we would earnestly request that environmental concerns should in this case over-ride arguments for industrial expansion into the countryside, and that our heritage of starry skies above should be a priority in this matter'.

Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry welcomes the vital support of the BAA, and echoes its concern of this form of pollution which could not help but occur as a result of the proposed loading and launching of 10,000 barges throughout the night from a 535 metre jetty, in the scoping Planning Application submitted by Shire Oak many months ago to Cornwall Council.

At St Keverne's Oct 1st Parish Council meeting, local MP Derek Thomas confirmed that the relevant government ministers now acknowledge and accept that the two projects, Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay (TLSB), and Dean Quarry from where the rock for Tidal Lagoon was planned to be sourced, are separate. Their timelines are, therefore, not inter-dependent. Thus, whatever the outcome of the TLSB, now set to be delayed one year, until March 2017, the reopening and massive upsizing of Dean Quarry for this purpose is not a given.

The High Court hearing for the Judicial Review, Silke Roskilly vs Cornwall Council, on 13th November will determine the status of the initial Planning Application by Shire Oak, which lacked an Environmental Impact Assessment.

CADS continue to fundraise for legal costs as the Judicial Review proceeds to the High Court. So far, the group has raised £18,000 and seeks £7,000 more to cover the total cost of this key first stage of the legal battle. CADS also anticipates the need for further fundraising. This will go toward the next legal challenge, posed by the imminent major planning application, which is expected to be made by Shire Oak Quarries whatever the outcome of the Judicial Review. This application will seek permission for a third-of-a-mile long breakwater and loading jetties. Donations can be made on the CADS website: www.cads2015.com.

ENDS

Further information and imagery available from:

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