

PRESS STATEMENT

Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry (CADS) responds to the BEIS and Welsh Affairs committee meeting held on 9.5.2018.

On 9th May 2018, MPs on the BEIS and Welsh Affairs committee took evidence from a range of witnesses, including Mark Shorrocks, Chief Executive of Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay Plc, as part of an enquiry into the decision-making process in respect of the project.

Action group Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry (CADS) followed the meeting with interest. CADS is campaigning against the massive upscaling of Dean Quarry, which is owned by Shire Oak Quarries Limited, another of Shorrocks's businesses, with the intention of supplying rock armour for the tidal lagoon projects.

CADS was surprised by elements of Shorrocks's evidence to the joint select committee:

- Shorrocks twice denied that his company Shire Oak Quarries Limited had offered a financial inducement to the St Keverne Parish Council, conditional on them supporting and not making representations against any future planning application at Dean Quarry.
- Shorrocks said he intends to place the ownership of Dean Quarry under an environmental foundation. CADS believes it would be a direct contradiction to ship millions of tonnes of rock through the Manacles Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).
- Shorrocks encouraged the two committees to believe that Dean Quarry has full planning permission until 2035. In fact his planning application for the ancillary buildings at Dean Quarry was quashed by The Hon Justice Dove in the High Court back in January 2015. At the time Justice Dove castigated Cornwall Council's unreasonable decisions leading to their 'unlawful' approval to open Dean Quarry. He concluded that the planning consent was 'infected with illegality.' Whilst Shire Oak Quarries has mineral (ROMPs)* permission until 2035, the fact remains that, in order for Dean Quarry to operate at any viable scale in the future, a new planning application must be made with an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). A marine license would also be needed from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

RELEASE DATE: TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018

CADS submitted information to both Chairs and all committee members in advance of the BEIS and Welsh Affairs committee meeting held on 9.5.18.

Our concerns have always been about the environmental damage this major industrialisation at Dean Quarry would cause. Our small community has lived under the shadow of this threat now for three and a half years when in January 2015 Mark Shorrocks announced his quarry plans at a public meeting.

Dean Quarry is located within the Coverack to Porthoustock Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and extends seawards into the Manacles Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). The quarry also immediately abuts a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and South West Coast Path.

ENDS

Further information and imagery available from:

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www.cads2015.com Twitter: @cads2015 Facebook: www.facebook.com/CADS2015

EDITORS' NOTES

*ROMPs is an acronym for Review Old Mineral Permissions, i.e. permission to extract minerals.