

PRESS STATEMENT

Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry (CADS) vows to continue its campaign amid developer's eleventh-hour attempts to overturn Government decision on Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay

Action group Cornwall Against Dean Superquarry (CADS) vows to continue its campaign amid last-minute lobbying within Westminster by the developer of Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay (TLSB) to revoke the June 2018 decision by the UK Government not to subsidise the project. The project was rejected on the grounds that TLSB did not meet the requirements for value for money. Since then, the project has struggled to move forward despite the developer claiming that a revised business model requires no Government support. Now in an article with London business paper City A.M. dated 22nd June 2020, Mark Shorrocks, founder of TLSB, states that the project will require £18million from the Government.

On 30th June 2020 the Development Consent Order (DCO) for Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay will expire, five years after it was granted, marking the end of the project's planning permission.

Last-minute attempts by the developer to extend the DCO, citing COVID-19 as a reason for project delays, have failed. On 9th June 2020 Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Minister for State for Business, Energy & Clean Growth, wrote to Mark Shorrocks rejecting his request to take a standalone bill through Parliament to extend the DCO. Despite this, with less than one week to go, a Tidal Lagoon lobby group has sprung up and is attempting to overturn these Government decisions.

CADS believes that this last-ditch attempt to revive TLSB is ill-timed and without foundation, given the UK Government has twice rejected the project for being unviable.

CADS is a volunteer action group, formed in January 2015, after Mark Shorrocks announced at a public meeting his plans for a superquarry at Dean Point near St Keverne on the Lizard Peninsula. Dean Quarry is owned by Shire Oak Quarries, another business venture of Mark Shorrocks. This sent a shockwave through our small Cornish community because it threatened to cause environmental damage to the newly appointed Manacles Marine

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Conservation Zone, through which Shire Oak Quarries planned to ship millions of tonnes of rock armour to Wales for Tidal Lagoon projects.

Despite holding a public consultation with our community back in July 2019 to discuss other uses for Dean Quarry, Shire Oak Quarries' website continues to state that it hopes to supply rock to the UK's emerging tidal lagoon industry, as well as other markets.

CADS supports renewable energy and a green economic recovery from the coronavirus crisis, but not at any cost to the environment. It is essential that green energy means green energy from start to finish, including the supply chain.

We have only ever sought to protect the landscape and seascape of the Lizard Peninsula. Dean Quarry is located within the Coverack to Porthoustock Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and it 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. The impact of Shire Oak Quarries implementing their super-sizing plans would have a devastating effect on the environment and coastal ecology here, but would also damage local businesses that rely on the protected status and untouched nature of the area.

CADS has always maintained that if the Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay project was as valuable and well-founded as its proponents claim, the business case would not depend on getting rock from Dean Quarry, above and beyond other existing and more sustainable sources.

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Further information and imagery available from:

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