

It is a follow up to the deputation of 13th September 2006 as the conditions of Rein Road and the Tingley Bar junction are pretty much the same in relation to the dust, mud and stones falling from the wagons as they are leaving Britannia Quarry. We're certainly not Luddites who go sneaking in at night to smash machinery, trying to close it down or put workers on the dole, it is good to see at least one of Morley's original industries still surviving the natural stone market. Why is it always left to the same few residents to complain each time Rein Road is in a disgusting condition? The Woodkirk Stone Management is surely failing to monitor themselves.

Council officers and the quarry operators both keep agreeing that the surface of the approach road leading down to the quarry needed to be either of tarmac or concreting in an attempt to reduce the amount of mud on the wagon wheels, which in turn becomes dust in dry weather. E-mail dated 24/1/06, stated the company had budgeted to do these works last year. Letter dated 1/10/07, states as part of the required 15 year Mineral Review submitted for 17th February 2007, it is proposed, please note only proposed, to hard surface the access road from Rein Road down to the office block within the quarry. Proposals and promises are worth nothing until they are delivered; Queen Victoria made similar promises to the Maoris back in 1840! So we can live in hope that more practical work is done on the hard surface programme in the years of 2008-9 than has been achieved in the last 21 months!

I will admit that we did have a stay of execution for a few weeks this glorious summer, as only dimensional stone was going out and not aggregates. However, on my unannounced inspection of 18th October 2007, it was business as usual once again with all the haul road needing to be doused with water as it was dry and quite dusty, muck had dropped off quarry excavators in the path of vehicles leaving the site after they had been through the wheel bath and both of the wagon 'shakers' were full or overflowing with solid muck. These devices are intended to vibrate the mud off the wagon wheels as they run over them. Surely they would be more effective than defective if the pits below these 'shakers' were cleared out occasionally.

There's still confusion from the public not knowing, the various departments of Leeds City Council (LCC) as to which of them deals with any specific problem. When it comes to unsafe loads and unsheeted wagons, surely it's not asking for the moon for the drivers to check whether their loads are levelled off below the wagon sides before they're sheeted. Some wagon sheets fit the load like a thimble on an elephant's backside and one or two wagons have been reported by residents recently for going out completely unsheeted.

When you try to ring up and complain about this matter, you usually spend time and money getting sent round the famous Leeds City Council and the Police force's Mulberry bush. LCC Legal Dept advised that spillage of stone on the highway was an offence under Section 22A of the Road Traffic Act, which is prosecuted by the Police. LCC states they have no jurisdiction on the Road Traffic Act. Holbeck Police comments are that it is referred to LCC Highways, or would you believe it, Trading Standards! After decades of such treatment, you start to get the impression that everybody is trying to pass the buck around to each other, in other words it's like horse manure if you kick it about long enough, you'll lose it!

The 21st century state-of-the-art, 'Best Practical Means' wheel washing facility at the quarry during recent weeks, have amounted to a chap spraying water from a hosepipe under the body and around wagon wheels outside the offices, until the wheel bath was relocated towards the bottom of the quarry. Unfortunately, by the time they have travelled along the unmade haul road and reached Rein Road the wagon wheels have picked more muck up than they have had washed off them. No matter where the wheel bath is situated, unless there is an improvement of the entire haul road in order for it all to be swept efficiently, the same problems will continue to prevail.

Reading the letter of 1/10/07 we're going back 70 years, as the original George Armitage said when he first opened his quarry, if anybody on Rein Road doesn't like my quarry, I'll buy all the houses on Rein Road then put in the people who I want and they will have to lump it! It states the landowner will not permit the quarry operator to use the Howley Park exit and the Council does not have powers to enforce the use of this access for mineral operations. The crux of the matter is; when Prime Minister Thatcher dismantled the West Riding County Council (WRCC) did she also dismantle the powers vested in the WRCC relating to the Mines & Quarries Act, Minerals & Waste, Town & Country Planning, Environment, and the Highways Dept? Did LCC inherit the same powers from the WRCC? If LCC does have the same powers, they appear to be feebly reluctant to exercise them by using the statutory acts within the relevant departments.

Britannia Quarry was originally worked by Pawson Brothers, subsequently taken over by Irvin Ainsworth (Holdings) still operating as Pawson Brothers; the main route for stone leaving this quarry travelled along an antiquated steam powered mineral railway cutting through both Tingley House Farm and Stump Cross Farm respectively, crossing the Stump Cross Farm track, which is now Howley Park Road East, up to their saw sheds opposite the Stump Cross Inn on Britannia Road.

The only access road to Britannia Quarry was a cart track running through Tingley House Farm and coming out at the Tingley Bar junction between the farm and Askey Crescent, where the Rein Park housing estate is now. As the Howley Park industrial estate was developed, the steam mineral railway was dismantled, the saw sheds were moved down to the position in the quarry they are now. Irvin Ainsworth (Holdings) operating as Pawson Brothers started to come out of Britannia Quarry by accessing the now, non permitted Howley Park Road East and then onto Britannia Road, only a few hundred yards away from the original Stump Cross saw sheds.

At the Quarry Action Group meeting of 17th April 2007, the Chairman stated that Britannia Quarry have had access from Rein Road for 50 years. When this statement was disputed he asked for documentary evidence, you will be pleased to hear I am submitting documentary evidence from the Company Surveyor and Group Property Manager of George Armitage & Sons PLC. Marshalls PLC. Fortunately this gentleman is au fait with the Rein Road area and its history, having achieved 43 years service; no doubt he was the best person to investigate the matter.

The access road linking Britannia Quarry with Rein Road Quarry was built across gazing land forming part of Tingley House Farm and two cattle grids were put in to stop farm animals from either getting in to Britannia Quarry or out on to Rein Road. A verbal agreement was made to start with for cars only to use this road to the

fireplace showroom down in the quarry, which Pawson Brothers/Irvin Ainsworth (Holdings) had at the time. I kept my horses on some land nearby belonging to Geo Armitage & Sons/ Marshalls PLC. I can remember this agreement lasting a fair while before any HGVs were seen coming out onto Rein Road from Britannia Quarry.

We dispute several points in Leeds City Council's Director of Development statement prepared for the Executive Board on 18th October last year saying that Rein Road was the main access to Britannia Quarry, as this has been used for a long time historically. The 15 year Minerals Review was due on 17th February 2007 at the absolute latest, now over 8 months later, can LCC Planning tell us the position please?

That Howley Park Road East was indeed another potential route into the quarry. The company has spent £30,000 on a JCB Loadall 5265 sweeper-water bowser due to be delivered imminently. A Minerals Enforcement officer had seen an invoice for the same JCB 526S in July 2006, it seems to have run into protracted delivery problems. I'm willing to go round the neighbourhood with a begging bowl to collect the amount of money for the VAT element of this highly expensive piece of equipment on condition, we can see it cleaning the quarry road first.

We are informed a dust monitor was installed on the Rein Park housing estate earlier this year but was removed at the request of the residents due to it attracting youths and anti social behaviour, although by the Council's own admission, they had not received any complaints relating to dust from the Rein Park residents. Was this simply to achieve the negative readings and show the results they wanted for the benefit of public opinion?

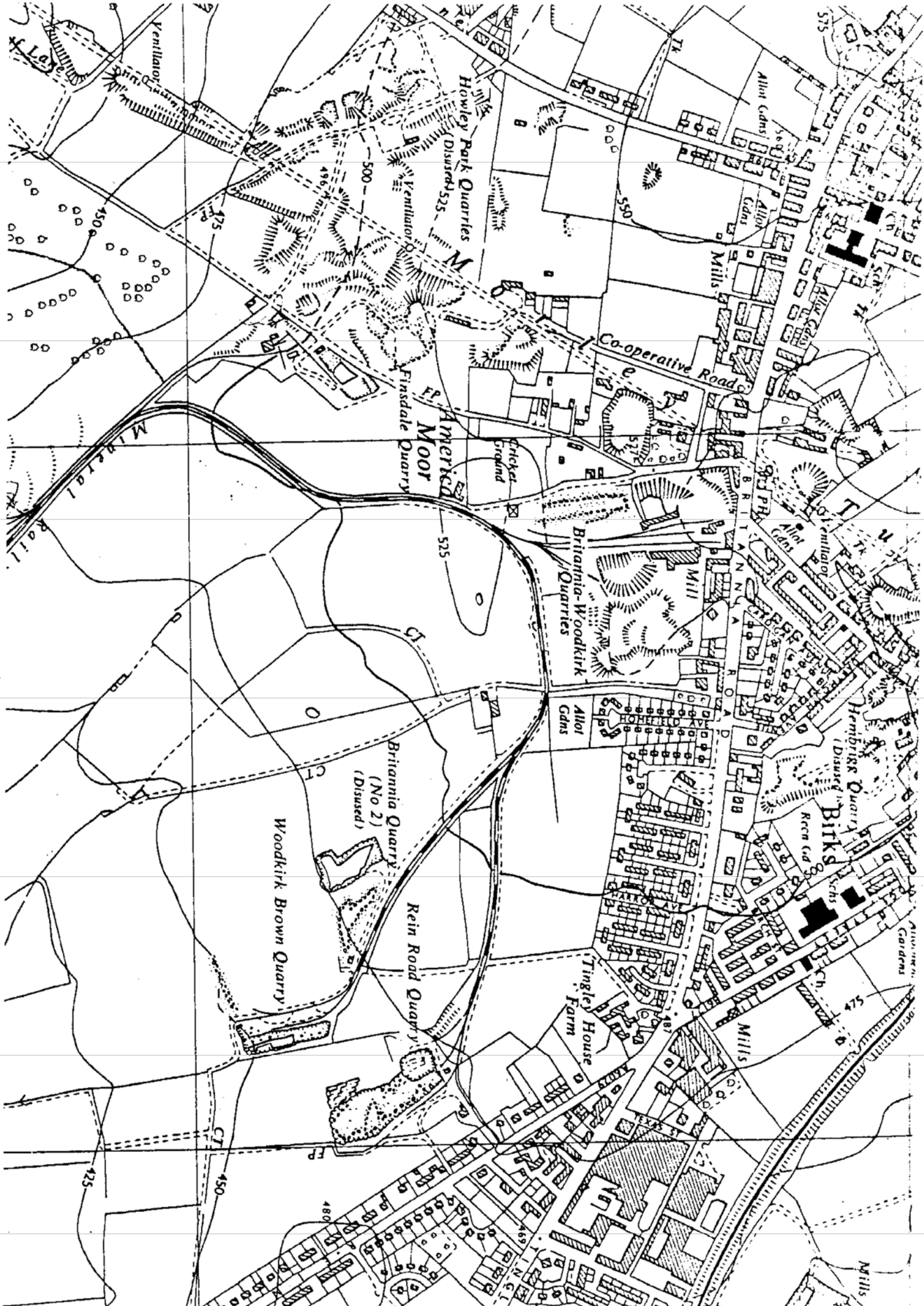
If there were prizes for managerial incompetence, then City Services, who run the cleansing dept would definitely qualify for a gold medal. The road sweeper comes down Rein Road sometimes as if it was going to a fire! The footpath sweeper must have an agreement with Osama Bin Laden or the KGB, as whenever the sweeping circle day is due, it always seems to fall on the same day as the wheelie bins are out on the footpath blocking the way for the sweeper to have a clear run of the footpath. This expensive waste of Council-tax payer's money and resources has been brought up time and time again at public meetings but as usual, nobody in authority is listening to Joe Public or takes the slightest bit of notice in order to rectify the matter.

Most residents on Rein Road have either given up the ghost, to coin a phrase, or are fed-up of the constant platitudes they keep receiving from the quarry operators, Councillors and the various Enforcement teams. Councillors and officers seem to be taking a leaf out of Lord Nelson's book with "what problems I see no problems" when they visit the same quarry as the one I used to play in and lived near for over 60 years.

They must be wearing the same rose-tinted glasses as they did when they went trotting down to Britannia Quarry with their Community hats and fluorescent jackets on. You know the saying: We can't see the wood for the trees; it appears our Councillors can't see the stone dust for the stone statues and working space that Woodkirk Stone has kindly donated to the Morley Murals Project. This exercise could be clouding their judgment between whether they are representing the interests of the residents or company representatives and apologists for Wood Kirk Stone. Is there any record or minutes of your members declaring an interest in this matter?

This deputation has already received widespread publicity over the last few weeks at several council and public meetings by at least one member of your Executive Board referring to this in a derogatory manner. Ironically, this person advocates a democratic accountability and transparency approach. They say there is no such thing as bad publicity, you don't worry what your critics say about you, as long as they spell your name right!

I give credit where it's due. Rein Road had its best sweeping for a long time on 22/10/07, with water being sprayed in the gutter in front of the brushes. The last few weeks has seen a road gulley siphon wagon cleaning out the road gullies, the gully near No 16 Rein Road has received attention twice. I was really surprised to see this as I thought these machines had entered the Endangered Species category!





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Registered Office as above
Registered in England No. 5100353

11th June 2007

Your Ref: CC/MB

Our Ref: TEE/VR

Mr Colin Challen MP
2 Commercial Street
Morley
LEEDS
LS27 8HY



Dear Mr Challen,

Mr Slingsby – 7 Rein Road, Tingley, LS27 0HZ

Thank you for your letters dated 25th April and 8th June 2007 enquiring into the history surrounding the usage of the Rein Road Quarry entrance which post my holiday I now have had chance to investigate. Fortunately I am au fait with the Rein Road area and its history, as from 1964 I was the Company surveyor of George Armitage & Sons Plc being responsible for all their land holdings and following the acquisition of GA&S by Marshalls, I was appointed their Group Property Manager.

By way of background :-

- 1) GA&S acquired the land during the 1930's, originally owning all of the minerals North and South of the M62.
- 2) Two quarries were opened in this locality: –

2a) **Britannia Quarry** (owned subsequently by Pawsons/Irvin Ainsworth/Biffa Waste Services/Pullan) a mineral lease was granted by GA&S to Pawsons enabling Pawsons to operate their Britannia Quarry. Stone was won, then worked in their adjacent saw sheds off Britannia Road at the rear of Stump Cross and dispatched onto Britannia Road ie all stone from the Britannia Quarry was dispatched to the West of the quarry

2b) **Rein Road Quarry** (owned subsequently by Armitage/Irvin Ainsworth/Biffa Waste Services/Pullan ie similar history of ownership). Stone was won then dispatched on to Rein Road, to be worked in the GA&S Howley Park saw sheds, ie all stone from the Rein Road Quarry was dispatched to the East of the quarry. Originally only a few residences existed along Rein Road.

- 3) July 1976 GA&S transferred to Irving Ainsworth the minerals under Britannia Quarry (subject to the Pawson lease) also granting a Right of Way from Britannia Quarry to the Rein Road highway. This was the first time that Britannia Quarry had access to Rein Road. Although the ROW granted was "for all purposes and at all times" a verbal agreement was made at the time that the access would only be used by cars.

- 4) September 1981 GA&S transferred the surface and minerals of Rein Road Quarry to Irvin Ainsworth including again the same ROW onto Rein Road.
- 5) Pullan who already owned and operated the Howley Park industrial estate acquired, through its subsidiary Horus Ltd, both the Britannia Quarry and Rein Road Quarry from Biffa. It was generally reasoned at the time that Pullan acquired these quarries to be in control regarding both the stone extraction and the subsequent eventual tipping/restoration, ie to limit/prevent stone sales and tipping lorries traversing through their sensitive adjacent industrial estate.
- 6) The Town and Country Planning Act Mineral review required that all "old" mineral consents be reviewed to include modern conditions of operation. It appears that under that review the various mineral planning consents were merged and that instead of continuing the "split" of lorries entering and leaving by 2 separate accesses - industrial and residential - that both quarries were apparently allowed to solely use the residential Rein Road access, to the distress of the local residents.
- 7) Referring to your letter's enquiries:-
 - a) "**Marshalls quarry is defunct**"- Rein Road quarry may not be currently used for stone extraction but is within an area leased by Pullan to Woodkirk Stone Ltd for mineral extraction.
 - b) "**Britannia Quarry should use the original exit**" (to the West) – see above but is a mineral/highway planning decision.
 - c) "**Only cars were given permission to use the access at Rein Road** " – only verbal subsequently negated by legal grant of a ROW as above.
 - d) **Rein Road "exit road and is being told that the use has operated for over 50 years"** – Rein Road quarry has used the Rein Road access since the 1930's ie 70 years but the Britannia Quarry could only have used the Rein Road access at the earliest around 1976 ie for a maximum of 30 years.

I trust that the above throws sufficient light onto your enquiry.

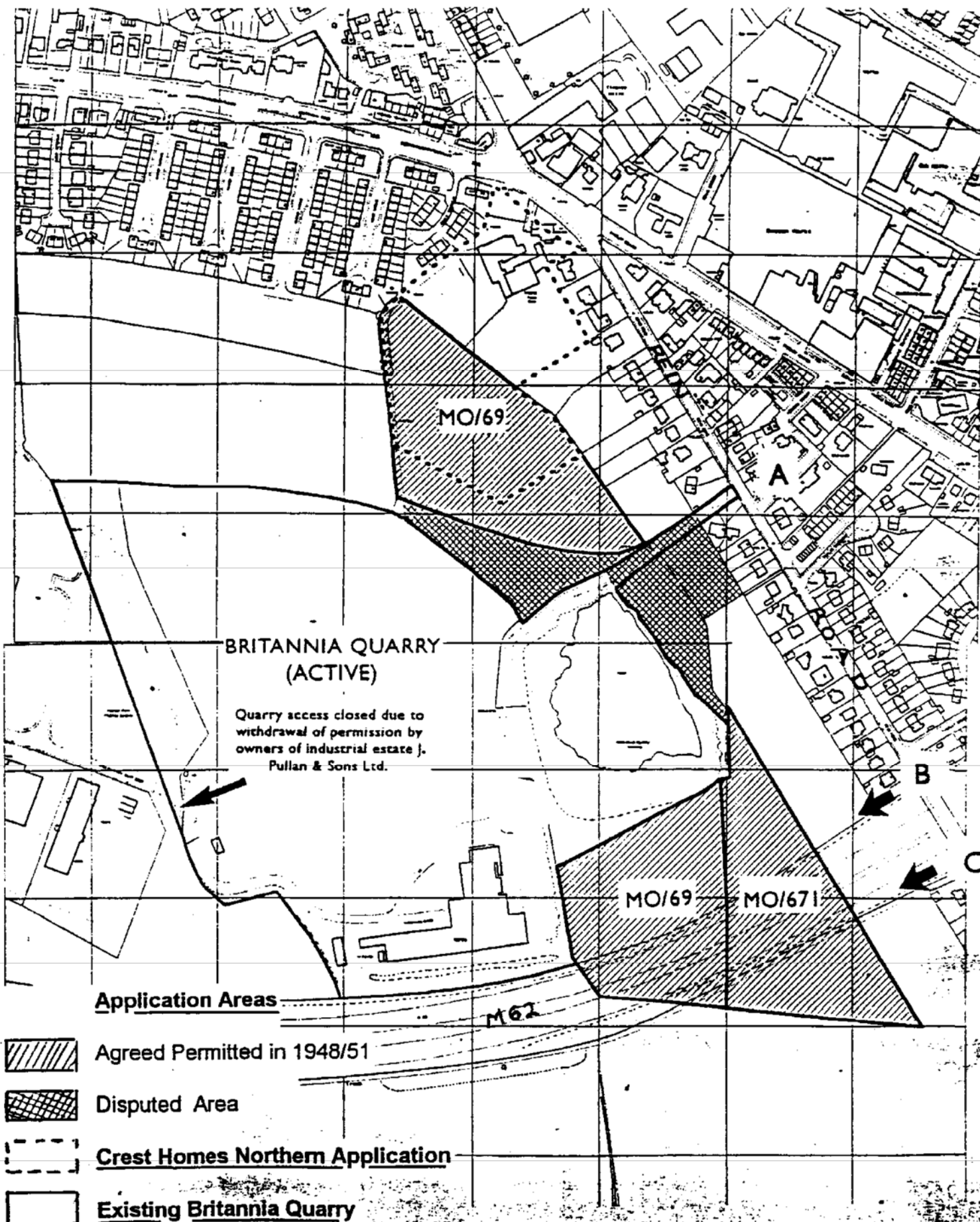
Yours sincerely,


TERRY E ELMS
 Group Property Manager

Encs:-

- a) 2 No colour aerial photo's 2004
- b) B& W aerial photo 1932
- c) pre M62 OS plan
- d) post M62 OS plan



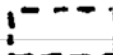
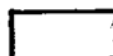
Copy :- Mr Slingsby, Rein Road Morley (letter only)



BRITANNIA QUARRY (ACTIVE)

Quarry access closed due to withdrawal of permission by owners of industrial estate (Pullan & Sons Ltd.)

Application Areas

-  Agreed Permitted in 1948/51
-  Disputed Area
-  Crest Homes Northern Application
-  Existing Britannia Quarry



**MINERALS REVIEW
SECTION 96 ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995**

**LAND ADJOINING REIN ROAD, MORLEY
of MO/69, MO/671**

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
FACSIMILE 0113 275711 DIVISION OF PLANNING

PLAN NO. GC4787 DATE 21/07/97
SCALE 1:125 O.S. REF. 11
11 NORTH

PREPARED BY J.E.C. CHECKED BY J.E.C.

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REIN ROAD / ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

Further to our last newsletter, we have now received the appraisal report from Michael Townsend .

As suspected, there are various issues involved, but he has suggested some actions we could take.

The recommendations put forward are extensive, a number of which are outlined below:-

Britannia Quarry - current practices.

Discussions are ongoing between the site operator and the Council re dust, noise problems etc.

It is planned to set up a liaison committee, which it is hoped will take place in September.

Members from the Residents Committee will be involved in this.

Minerals Application.

We now have a report which went before the Planning Sub Committee on 1st August and are currently examining this in order to make comment.

Crest Homes.

It is suggested we submit a detailed objection to this development.

Further details or a copy of the report can be obtained from any committee member.

We wish to stress that these are issues affecting everyone who lives on Rein Road and associated roads. Whilst the extended quarrying will effect those immediately adjacent to it, the new permissions applied for and/or the Crest development will bring increased traffic, heavy lorries, more dust and dirt, noise and blasting (see map overleaf). These are serious problems and could ultimately lead to a devaluation of your homes.

We are obviously prepared to act on your behalf but we do need your support and financial help.

For those of you who have already donated we extend our sincere thanks. However we still have a shortfall and do require more funds.

As yet we have not carried out door to door collections. But following the issue of this newsletter, we intend to collect week commencing Monday 18th August, for those who have not already donated. Alternatively contributions can still be handed in to any committee member.

Please note we will assume that if you do not wish to donate then you will not be interested in receiving any further newsletters.