



Tuesday 8th August 2006

Communities and Businesses to Suffer from Peak District Nimbyism.

The British Aggregates Association (BAA) has responded sharply to the draft document "*Help Shape the Future*" from the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNP). Although submissions were due by the 4th of August, the minerals industry were only alerted to its existence by a small item in the local press, seven days before the closing deadline for comments.

**Association secretary Peter Huxtable;**

*"Far from being an honest consultation, the PDNP make it clear that it wants to see quarrying in its Park ceased by 2011. We are at a loss to understand why the Park authorities are so against mineral extraction which has been an integral part of the culture and economy of the region for many centuries. Quarrying is directly responsible for providing so many of the distinctive features of the Park, including its buildings, and over one-third of all sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) nationally are a direct result of quarrying."*

Not only do local quarries produce local material and reduce road transport, but they provide a great deal of local employment and create skills both in the quarries and in the companies that supply them. Local stone for local building is also the best possible environmental option. The alternatives, steel, composites, plastics and glass have a much greater environmental footprint and a much shorter lifespan. The UK is rich in mineral resources but these are being progressively sterilised by over-zealous planners, ill-informed pressure groups, red tape and lack of expertise. Our operating, environmental and safety standards are the best in the World. Over 6,000 people were killed in Chinese mining accidents last year and we now import increasing quantities of stone from China. A global perspective is required and local nimbyism, as demonstrated in the PDNP's draft, must be dismissed as being selfish and short-sighted.

**Peter Huxtable;**

*"Our association does not normally respond directly to local consultations, however, the potentially wider impact on mineral extraction in other National Parks has prompted our reply. This is the second occasion of late where local authorities would appear to have tried to sneak in proposals which were contrary to national guidelines and which had potentially serious national implications."*

ENDS:

**For further information please contact: Peter Huxtable**  
**[phuxtable@british-aggregates.com](mailto:phuxtable@british-aggregates.com)**      **Tel 07711 492378**

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Notes for editors:

1. The British Aggregates Association is the representative trade body for independent quarry operators [www.british-aggregates.co.uk](http://www.british-aggregates.co.uk)
2. The Association represents some 70 members across the UK producing crushed rock, sand and gravel from over 100 individual sites
3. The principal aim of the Association is to protect the interests of SME quarry operators against red tape and market dominance by the five multi-national companies who account for almost 80% of aggregate production in the UK.
4. The Association is a recognised participant in all EU and UK consultations on environmental, economic, and health and safety legislation; it is a member of the *Confederation of British Industry* (CBI) Minerals Committee, and the *Construction Products Association* (CPA). It operates its own mutual restoration fund for quarry restoration.
5. The full BAA response to the PDNP consultation can be found on <http://www.british-aggregates.co.uk/documentation/documentation.html>
6. The PDNP consultation is available on request.
7. Gloucestershire CC recently attempted to impose extensive weight restrictions and night-time bans on lorry traffic throughout their County in their "*Transport Local Plan 2006-2011*". <http://www.tnn.co.uk/UKNews/plonearticle.2006-07-03.6730830245>
8. Almost 100% of granite headstones are now imported from Spain and Portugal as UK dimension stone production has virtually collapsed

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