

To whom it may concern

Objection to the mining of Limestone and any other mining activity in the Southwell area.

1. We have only been informed of the proposed mining development in the Southwell area today (26-06-2013). This was by kind mention of a neighbouring farmer.
 - 1.1. Surely as a member of the Southwell community we should have been consulted by the company / persons wishing to undertake such mining operations?

Especially since such mining activities will impact negatively upon both the lives and livelihoods of the members of the Southwell community.
2. At this stage, has there been a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study conducted by a recognised independent assessment team?
 - 2.1. If so, please will the results of this study be made available to all the members of the Southwell community.
3. While we acknowledge that this is a business operation and that there is no malice or harm intended, it does not mitigate the fact that harm will be caused both directly and indirectly due to this invasive operation.
 - 3.1. Without the benefit of a proper investigation which would highlight a vast number of negative impacts, the following list mentions only a few of the obvious negative impacts:
 - 3.1.1. Mining by its very nature is invasive and causes destruction to the environment. This will most likely impact upon:
 - 3.1.1.1. The delicate ecosystem of the area.
 - 3.1.1.2. Affecting: insect life, wild life, aquatic life, not to mention extensive damage to the flora.
 - 3.1.1.3. Water is a critical aspect in this area and will be negatively affected.
 - 3.1.1.4. What air pollution due to dust and other forms will result from these mining operations?
 - 3.1.2. The road infrastructure will not support the increase in traffic resulting from this operation.
 - 3.1.2.1. Who will be responsible for upgrading the road, ideally to tar or concrete, to sufficient load bearing specification that will support such a mining operation?
 - 3.1.2.1.1. If the road is not upgraded to tar or concrete the resultant road dust would be problematic.
 - 3.1.2.2. Large vehicles will also require that the road would need to be widened in certain areas so as to reduce the hazards to the pedestrians & cyclists when two large vehicles pass one another such that a 1.5m space is allowed for, between the passing trucks and the pedestrians & cyclists who will also be making use of the road.
 - 3.1.2.2.1. This in turn will also require that all of the drainage systems be redone.
 - 3.1.2.3. All of the roads signage will need to be upgraded and or moved with the road improvements required.

3.1.3. The Southwell area is a tranquil farming environment and tourist attraction. This will become totally disrupted by the increase in traffic and other mining related activities. The noise pollution would stand out starkly against this tranquil environment. In addition there will be a loss of income due to the negative impact on tourism.

3.1.3.1. What price can be attached to this and how would the community be compensated for this disruption/detraction?

3.1.4. The Southwell area has very low crime statistics.

3.1.4.1. Mining activities both attract and are a source of crime as evidenced by Marikana and numerous other mining operations.

3.1.4.2. As caring members of the community we cannot allow our families safety to be jeopardised.

3.1.4.3. If the mining operations are permitted there will be an increase in crime. Who will be responsible for paying out compensation to the community for the numerous incidents that will follow?

4. I am aware that the greater community is strongly opposed to such an operation. Should this proceed, this operation will generate a significant amount of ill will from the community who in a sense would have had this forced upon them.

4.1. It is most certain that numerous petitions will be conducted.

4.2. The media will be involved.

4.3. The general outcome of the above will have a significant negative impact upon the public image of all the individuals and companies associated with this mining operation.

4.4. There will most likely be a number of civil suits resulting from any number of the above negative impacts and possibly numerous others that are yet to develop.

Together with the greater community, My family and I are most strongly opposed to this proposed mining activity. We will be actively involved in all actions to oppose it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JG Wilhelm', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mr JG Wilhelm
Walsingham, Southwell