
Letter to the Editor

NEW SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Sir, — Quarry operators now face huge challenges in a declining market. We have to contend with a mountain of red tape, onerous planning conditions and rising costs. Add to this, punitive rates, bad debt and theft and it is little wonder many companies now struggle to make a living.

Despite these problems, the MPA proposes a new Community Fund to hand out cash to our neighbours. It is claimed that the money will come from the Aggregates

Levy, even though the levy itself may soon be declared illegal. The BAA is not alone in questioning the wisdom of this idea.

Good operators do not need to bribe their neighbours. My own company has provided new public paths and nature sanctuaries. We have also planted hundreds of trees and we operate a prize-winning fleet of well-maintained vehicles. Localism in action and we are also past winners of the Cooper-Heyman Cup for the quality of our restoration.

There may be a case for community funding by the large multi-nationals which form the main body of the MPA. However, sites worked by former Sand and Gravel Association members have an outstanding record in public

relations, restoration and safe working practices.

Our industry is on the back foot and, sadly, is now largely controlled from overseas. My company has been in sand and gravel for over 75 years, we employ local people and we make a positive contribution to the local economy. Rather than high-profile political grandstanding, we would prefer our larger trade association to concentrate a bit more on the needs of its smaller members.

Yours etc,
ROGER N. CULLIMORE
Chairman,
Moreton C. Cullimore
(Gravels) Ltd,
47 London Rd,
Stroud,
Glos. GL5 2AU