

Quarrying plans put on hold after community backlash

Company behind extraction 'keen to seek views' of homeowners

by Beth Wyatt

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The architect of a campaign which has opposed plans for more gravel extraction in Aldborough Hatch is "very pleased" after the proposals were postponed, but has warned the fight is not over yet.

Ron Jeffries, 81, chairman of the Aldborough Hatch Defence Association (AHDA), spoke to the *Recorder* after Brett Lafarge revealed it was no longer submitting a planning application this year.

The company was set to ask for permission to extract 900,000 tonnes of gravel and sand at Aldborough Hatch Farm, which had led the ADHA to launch the "Enough is Enough" campaign.

Mr Jeffries, of Spearpoint Gardens, said: "I am very pleased it is not happening this year:

"But we don't want the gravel extraction.

"We have won the battle, but we haven't won the war."

Gravel extraction has been going on in Aldborough Hatch for more than 50 years.

The campaign kicked off in July this year after Brett Lafarge



■ Members of the Aldborough Hatch Defence Association and politicians

Picture: Nicholas Smith

revealed plans for extraction opposite the Miller and Carter Restaurant, known locally as the Dick Turpin.

Iford North MP Lee Scott is one of the local politicians who has backed the ADHA.

He said: "It seems they are just putting it off and that concerns me.

"I would be more pleased if they were not doing it at all.

"The campaign has to continue."

A spokesman for Brett Lafarge said an application would not be submitted "until early 2015" for a "variety of reasons".

She added: "We are conscious of the need to seek the views of the

community and, at the appropriate time, we will carry out a consultation programme which will include a public exhibition."

Mr Jeffries added: "We are very grateful for the tremendous support we have had.

"If they do put in an application, they will have us to contend with."