

BATTS COMBE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes 9th September 2021 15:00 – To be confirmed at next meeting

Invited:			
Simon Parkes	SP	Hanson Unit Manager	Simon.parkes@hanson.biz
Shaun Hartland	SH	Hanson Production Supervisor	Shaun.Hartland@hanson.biz
Emma Robbins	ER	Hanson Area Clerk	Emma.Robbins@hanson.biz
Alex Hemming	AH	Hanson Senior Landscape Architect	Alex.hemming@hanson.biz
Dave Coles	MS	Sedgemoor DC Environmental Officer	Dave.Coles@Sedgemoor.gov.uk
Nicola Haynes	NH	Local Resident	nicolagillison@gmail.com
Paul Fineran	PF	Cheddar Parish Council	fineran@recordingsystems.co.uk

Apologies received from:			
Ross Exon	RE	Hanson LEAD Apprentice	Ross.exon@hanson.biz
Nigel Taylor	NT	Somerset County Council/Mendip AONB	NPTaylor@somerset.gov.uk
Darren Plant	DP	Hanson Transport Manager	Darren.Plant@hanson.biz
Liz Scott	LS	Sedgemoor District Councillor	elizabeth.scott@sedgemoor.gov.uk
Graham Goodwin-Pearson	GGP	Sedgemoor District Council	graham@goodwinpearson.org.uk

1. Membership Update

Joe Edwards will be joining Batts Combe Quarry in September.

Emma Robbins has now moved to Whatley Quarry.

Dave Coles is standing in for Martin Stoyles whilst on secondment.

Alex Hemming has returned from Maternity leave

2. Hanson Update/ Hinkley Point

Hinkley Point delivery volumes have dropped since the peak in April/May/June (around 40kt) to around 25kt July/Aug. September has been approx. 3kt per week.

Martin Ford contacted Simon to follow up on the BCQ traffic watch report in great detail.

His main question was re planning for 6.5 Mil tons in 60 months. Actual total was 4.75 Mil tons across all business lines. All info has been sent to him.

Final designs for Highways amends proposal has been received. Happy with the 20 mph signs but not the signage at the end of Hannay road. Don't feel it's obvious enough to stop a lorry coming down the road in time.

Traffic Monitoring was not done in August due to staffing and holidays however it will resume in September when JE arrives to site.

3. Complaints

2 incidents of Lorries travelling the wrong way up Hannay Road.

Some speeding complaints logged in the reporting system, however some people have started to ring site again. There was a new driver who appeared to be going too fast, SH has spoken to them and they seem to be adhering.

There have been lots of stand-in drivers new to site, covering holidays.

Simon has spoken to any early arrivals however this needs to be picked up with hauliers. Possibly create 'Golden Rules' laminated crib sheet.

4. Landscape and Biodiversity – Alex Hemming

AH came back from Maternity leave in May.

There have been a lot of Hazardous tree surveys, as there is a real problem with Ash Dieback within the quarry property.

Have engaged SWT to work on trees that pose an immediate threat and to look at how it will affect the trees in the next 12 months.

Ash dieback is prominent in the Mendips due to ground conditions, and there has been lots of felling because of this.

We are working with Natural England and Forestry commission about the Perch SSI – Can it be left or re-planted.

Natural England are also working on scrub encroachment.

We are also working with First Ecology to check the bats so their habitat isn't affected. They put their profits back into eco projects. They will re-inspect every 6-12 months.

We have donated dormice boxes to surveyors on the Perch.

Phase 2 of the goat fencing has been completed, we just need to get the goats that are trapped on site back out.

5. Land and mineral Planning – Alex Hemming

None at this time.

6. Hanson Transport – Darren Plant

Two external haulier lorry drivers who were placed on a final warning regarding their driving have now been banned from site and no longer work for our customer.

7. Environmental Health Update

SDC permit is still ongoing. The application has been made however nothing has come back to DC yet. He will check where it is in the process.

Had one dust complaint since the last meeting.

EA will be coming to site next week to look at discharge. Batts Combe don't discharge any water out of site, as it's all recycled for dust suppression.

Dust samples had one high reading on the Warrens Hill site, which was unusual and not consistent with the amount of activity on site. The 360 degree measurement showed that the sample came from a direction away from the quarry.

Need to check if the particulate is tested to see if it is dust or vegetation as it is positioned next to a menage. Will follow up with later months.

8. District Council Update

PF received a complaint about aggressive and disturbing behaviour by a lorry driver.

9. Local resident Update

NH had some very positive feedback regarding pleasant lorry drivers allowing pedestrians to get by, some stopping completely to help them feel safe.

Resident on Warrens Hill has been sending in her feedback since we launched the form, totalling 68 incidents since June. These are mostly regarding perceived speeding, convoys and early arrivals. It seems they start speeding once the road opens up, but this is where they go past the CCTV.

Unsheeted lorries is also an issue, as some unsheet whilst driving on the highway and can release stones from the tops. NH wanted to know how this is still an issue after it being mentioned every meeting for the past 2 years.

Locals are very pleased with the 20mph speed limit change. Advised the quarry cannot enforce it, however if anyone has a speeding complaint they can send it to Highways. We will continue to monitor the speed and will speak to drivers who are seen to be over 15mph. Some people have said their complaints haven't had a response. This will be looked at. NH spoke to site about a lorry driving past her house whilst texting. SP will follow this up – NH has reg number.

Site are still trying to encourage driving in a considerate manner, however some new drivers covering absences means the message sometimes isn't heard before they come to site.

10. Parish Council Update

Nothing to update at this time.

11. Contact details

Hanson Batts Combe contact number	01934 742733
Environment Agency hotline	0800 807060
Simon Parkes	07702 817372
Shaun Hartland	07912 775360
Darren Plant	07764 241854

12. Other

Travellers who came to the village in August were regularly coming to site, so we employed a security patrol with Dog to ensure there were no issues. The village had several incidents whilst they were staying so pubs and the supermarket were also closed at times.

Hanson has donated £2500 to the Kings Of Wessex Academy to help create an Employability hub on school premises. This is for students to drop in and seek help with new college applications, university advice, employment beyond 6th form, skills for work etc. The funds were to help with setting it up over the summer and it's now open to students for the time being, however there is a possibility that they might be able to work with the Job Centre and help local people get back into work.

In collaboration with the school Hanson have been invited to take part in the Careers fair in October, to advertise the fact they are a local employer. Batts Combe will be looking to recruit another driver shortly and a new LEAD apprentice for next year.



PF gave an update on the Pump track progress, a re-design will need to go through planning as the initial position had issues. They will start to proceed with work once planning and procurement have all been processed.

SH wanted to let NH know that there will be works going on this Saturday (11th) to clean out the wheel Wash. The Road sweeper will be in early Monday to clean up any mess made.

The Christmas Star collapsed during some high winds, however this has now been fixed, and there will be a giant poppy up there from the 11th November until remembrance day.

13. Proposed date of next meeting

The next meeting is proposed 7th Dec 21 at 3pm.

DRAFT