

**Tytherington Quarry  
Community Liaison Group Meeting  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
Meeting Room at Tytherington Quarry**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

- Keith Spooner (KS) Resident
- Hugh Johnson (HJ) Tytherington Parish Council
- John Graham (JG) Alveston Parish Council
- Benj Emerson (BE) Thornbury Town Council
- Paul Chapman (PC) Iron Acton Parish Council
- Mike Brown (MB) Hanson Aggregates, southwest area operations manager
- Jenna Roberts (JR) Hanson Aggregates, Tytherington quarry unit manager
- Michelle Beasley (MMB) Hanson Aggregates, secretariat
- Andy Duncan (AD) Hanson principal landscape manager
- Trystan Mabbitt (TM) Hanson consenting & development manager
- Samantha Stagg (SJS) James Reed public relations (Hanson's PR agency)

**APOLOGIES AND MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- Cllr Jon Lean (JL) South Gloucestershire for Frampton Cotterell Ward
- Simon Ford (SF) South Gloucestershire Council Planning and Minerals Dept
- Neil Higgs (NH) South Gloucestershire Council (EHO)
- Lindsay Saunders (LS) SGC PROW Officer

## **AGENDA FOR TYTHERINGTON QUARRY COMMUNITY LIAISON MEETING**

1. **Welcome and interim Chair introductions** - Chair Mike Brown (MB)
  - Introduction to new members
  - Hanson's on-going approach re liaison meetings
2. **Membership update** – Mike Brown (MB)
3. **Hanson Operational Update** – Jenna Roberts (JR)
  - Logistics (including road and rail).
  - Updates as appropriate re blasting.
  - Update re transport, including rail.
  - New website and contact information.
4. **Feedback**
5. **Land and Mineral Planning update** – Trystan Mabbitt (TM)
6. **Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update** – Andy Duncan (AD)
7. **AOBs**
8. **Date for future meetings**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome and Chair introduction**

MB introduced himself and welcomed attendees to the meeting. MB advised the purpose of the meeting was to engage and interact with the community which is a “Hanson” policy nationwide.

- MB advised on this occasion and at the next planned liaison meeting he would Chair to cement the process and to get the group up and running again. In the future he hopes that a volunteer from one of the councils represented would take on the role of independent Chair.

### **2. Membership update**

- MB ran through the agenda. AD advised that in the past we have had a South Gloucestershire Council representative. SS confirmed SF had been invited but could not attend on this occasion but will in the future.
- MB invited everyone to introduce themselves and advised the idea of the meeting was to exchange information with the community. By sharing information and having balanced discussions the aim is to increase understanding and minimise the impact we have on the community.
- KS asked if this was a new meeting. JR advised we had had liaison meetings in the past, but no minutes were taken. The last meeting being in 2012 just before the quarry was mothballed. The quarry reopened in 2018 and this is the first meeting since its reopening, delayed due to Covid etc. MB added that Hanson have 330 sites in the UK, owned by Heidelberg Materials, broken down into 4 divisions. Cement, Aggregates, Asphalt and Concrete. Aggregates and Cement tend to have liaison meetings due to the size of the sites.
- BE mentioned there would be local elections in May 2023 so the members may change depending on the outcome of the elections.
- MB advised we would like to invite more members e.g., local police officer, careers advisor from local school etc. and would welcome suggestions from members of the group.

### **3. Hanson operational update and 4. Feedback**

- JR said she will have been in her quarry unit manager role for 2 years in February 2023 but due to covid restrictions, has only started meeting nearby residents in the last 6 months.
- JR set out that the quarry is rail connected and its current permitted operating times are 6am – 9pm but crushing usually stops at 5pm. At weekends, crushing is permitted between 7am – 1pm. The asphalt plant can operate 24/7 but tends to operate 6am – 3pm and 10pm – 3am, subject to demand.

- JR provided an update on recent production volumes for Tytherington.

Year	Tonnage
2020	1.38 million
2021	1.8 million
2022	1.45 million YTD plan for 1.8 million

- JR described the plant's operation as having mobile plant rather than fixed plant, with KJ Services running the contract crushing operation. The site currently employs 16 direct staff, (10 aggregate staff and 6 asphalt staff) plus 30 contractors.
- MB advised we also have a LEAD and graduate programme which is very important to Hanson, providing the business's future employees and leaders. Roles range from accounts and IT, to quarry operatives and supervisors. MB recommended that members review and share Hanson's careers website. ([www.hanson-careers.co.uk](http://www.hanson-careers.co.uk))
- HJ asked if KJ Services also do the drilling and blasting. JR replied that they didn't, but she would cover blasting as a separate agenda item.
- JR set out the sales profile of the quarry, explaining that Tytherington operates over 3 levels, with 3 crushing plants, 2 of which makes fills, and one which makes single size of crushed aggregate. The fills are made for road and constructions works, the single size crushed aggregate is used for concrete and asphalt.
- JR advised that blasting is done on a weekly basis, producing an average of 38,000 tonnes.
- KS asked how we discard water and what the natural water level was. JR advised we pump. MB advised it had taken two years to pump water down to level 4.
- JR advised that blasting is specialised and highly regulated. We subcontract to a company called EPC. Vibration and air overpressure is measured for each blast and can be shaped by a number of factors including geology, vibration, air pressure, frequency and even the weather. We have 2 fixed monitoring stations installed at The Slad and West Street and in addition we have also previously carried out remote mobile monitoring in locations at The Slad, West Street, Itchington Lime Kiln Court and the pylons at the back of the quarry on Itchington Road.
- JR advised we are constantly working with EPC and reviewing the data collected to predict the outcome of the next blasts. Blasting permissions maximum Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) is 12mm/s. Tytherington blasting levels range from 1.5mm/s – 6.05mm/s PPV with an average of 3.5mm/s PPV between July and September.
- KS asked, "are you always within those limits"? JR advised Tytherington blasts are always between 1.5mm/s – 6.05mm/s PPV, and that every blast is monitored with all the information stored locally. KS advised sometimes the blasts feel bad and loud. He wanted to check his understanding that all blasts are always lower than the current blasting permissions. JR advised that this is correct.

- MB explained there are stringent regulations (1999 Quarry Regulations) that all quarries must abide by. Hanson could not operate blasting sites without a competent manager who must be appointed in writing, with geotechnical specialists and blast specs completed on every occasion. Blasting is highly regulated, and Hanson is happy to go through this in more detail at a future meeting.
- KS advised there are two things that the residents are most interested in, blasting and dust. He stated he was reassured to hear that all blasts are well within limits but would be interested to understand more about why blasts are experienced differently.
- TM advised that the regulatory limit is the upper limit that a quarry operator would work to, with Hanson always liaising with specialists EPC, so that blasts are well within the permitted levels. KS said he can now get back to the residents and let them know Hanson are well within their limits and in fact much lower than it is permitted.
- JR advised the British Standard re blasts causing damage to property is those with a PPPV more than 50mm/s. Hanson also measures air overpressure which can be responsible for the noise associated with blasts. She added that it's often the noise and air and not vibration that you can feel. Cloud cover can exaggerate blast sound for example.
- JR advised of forthcoming changes to the timing of operations at the rail link. She said Tytherington is currently loading one train consisting of 34 wagons during the day shift, and one during the night shift. This moves @2,500 tonne of material per train which would be the equivalent to 131 road wagons.
- PC asked where the trains were going. JR replied that material will be supplied to Hanson's rail depots mainly in Oxfordshire but also direct to a customer in the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire locality.
- MB advised that supplying material to HS2 by rail has removed many HGV journeys in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area, which has had a positive impact in respect to carbon savings, air quality and overall environment impact. This is something to be proud of with one million tonnes of product going to HS2 by rail from Tytherington to date.
- JR advised that Tytherington would be returning to 2019 operating patterns later in October, due to customer requirements and Network Rail capacity.
- JR advised the new pattern is expected to see 3 x 22 wagon services through the night and 1 x 34 wagon service during the day, equivalent to @7,900 tonnes per day. Loading will take place 6 days per week (until 13:00 on Saturdays). Around 45% of the quarries output is transported by rail, saving more than 100 lorry movements a day, helping to cut carbon emissions.
- KS said Hanson should be applauded for taking that many lorries off the road but said that for residents the situation means going from 1 train being shunted every night to 3 trains.

- JR advised that currently the site can't bring a 34 wagon in, in one go, due to the length of the train on the local level crossings. Consequently, 17 wagons are brought up from Yate and then the locomotive has to go back for the additional 17 to couple up in the Hanson sidings, which means shunting the train to allow for recoupling. (This has been happening once a night and once a day currently) The new timetable will allow for trains with 22 wagons, so this will reduce the need for onsite shunting.
- JR added we won't be propelling the 22 wagons as far up the sidings. KS said shunting at night is an annoyance to the locals, so this is good news.
- JR advised a letter, informing neighbours who live close to the track about the changes, will be distributed tomorrow.
- MB said that if KS and PT experience exceptional noise, please tell us, we want to minimise disturbance to the residents. MB advised there is also a new web page for Tytherington where information will be posted. Web site address is [www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/sites/tytherington-quarry](http://www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/sites/tytherington-quarry). There is also an information line number 0800 160 1321. The minutes to this meeting will be posted here. If JR is ever on holiday there is always a competent person on site.

## **5. Land and mineral planning update**

- JR advised permission had been approved by South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) for new static plant. Hanson's parent company Heidelberg Materials are supportive of multi-million-pound proposals and are expected to make its final investment decision next year.
- JR advised the static plant development project would create 10 direct employee jobs.
- JR said there is a large high voltage substation in the quarry, which currently feeds the village. Hanson is undertaking a large capital project to move the substation from inside the quarry boundary to outside the front gate and is working with National Grid to upgrade the equipment and move it.
- JR advised they were also looking at a new weighbridge and opening a new on-site haul road to minimise hauling, to save fuel and cut carbon. JR said Hanson uses pumps to pump water which are run on diesel, but the company wants to electrify these.
- MB advised that Heidelberg Materials is working on developing low carbon cement. SJS added that Hanson is committed to being a Net Zero company by 2050.
- MB advised the industry used to be able to use red diesel but now must use white. This has pushed up the cost of fuel and, although Hanson was always going to look at electrifying the pumps, this change has pushed the organisation to do it sooner. JR added that the site used to have its own electricity generation but this was removed when the quarry was mothballed.
- HJ asked if the quarry still discharges water off site via the railway. JR explained that the EA permitted dewatering route still goes through the railway line tunnel via a pipeline and the water ends up in Tytherington village, you can see the outflow the culvert along Duck Street.

- HJ asked if with a static plant the site would be able to produce two million tonnes per annum.
- MB advised we would have the capability to produce 2.5 million tonnes per annum, but it would depend on what's happening in the market and with future projects how much would be produced and how much would be transported by rail.
- KS asked Mb asked If Hanson need to apply for planning permission? MB confirmed that this has already been secured from SGC. Construction was planned for 18 months' time, but as there is so much uncertainty in the market due to the economy, such as steel prices, this may change.
- KS asked whether any new plant in Groves End would have dust suppression systems. MB replied "absolutely, our Competence Centre Material (CCM) team in Heidelberg have been consulted as to the best plant designs and features for minimising dust". KS asked if this would get rid of the mobile plant? MB said "yes" which KS deemed to be good news. MB advised KS that he should speak with JR any time he had concerns about anything, including dust.
- KS asked if we could take into consideration wind direction when timing blasting to minimise the dust going in the direction of residents.
- JR advised that the site has a mobile water bowser which takes 30 minutes to refill. This dampens down the quarry, haul road, stockpiles and even sprays at the weighbridge. JR said there had only been one a complaint this year so had hoped the tm were doing a good job on this issue. KS responded saying "you are doing a good job!".
- KS asked if the next meeting we could discuss security. This was agreed by MB.
- MB advised that the last trespasser, had come down the rail line, and this had been reported to Network Rail (NWR). Meetings with NWR are organised and JR will update at the next liaison meeting on progress, and Hanson would be happy to discuss its security arrangements.
- TM set out Hanson's thinking about possible future development at Tytherington quarry, explaining that this is likely to take place in phases. See appendix 1 for further detail on the scope and timing of possible future development.

## **6. Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update**

- AD advised that the Tytherington Parish supported "Tiny Forests" project was a runner up in Hanson's parent company's Quarry Life Award. Led by Earthwatch the Tiny Forest study looked at the feasibility of creating a Tiny Forest for nature recovery and educational purposes in the area. The concept of the study focused on evaluating whether Ash trees lost due to Ash dieback could be replaced by a Tiny Forest.
- Hanson is continuing to work with the Earthwatch charity on the feasibility of finding a suitable location for this, even if the possible Hanson sites highlighted in the initial Quarry Life study are not deemed suitable to take the scheme forward.



- MB added that if any local parish or council representatives aware of any suitable sites to please make contact.
- PC advised Iron Acton Parish Council is seeking help with a woodland as there was a lot needed to be done to bring it back to life. It has approached The Woodland Trust but not yet heard anything back.
- MB advised that Hanson might be able to help using AD's contacts. AD advised that Earthwatch are good at engaging with schools.
- AD advised that this summer, while trying to facilitate the new haul road, that a badger sett was discovered in the middle of Groves End tip. Hanson subsequently applied to Natural England to put up camera traps to gather footage of the badgers. It then built a replacement artificial sett but now, sadly the badgers seem to have vacated the area and are not using either sett. Hanson must wait for a licence from Natural England before closing off the old sett.

*Photos of the new badger sett developed at Tytherington*







## 7. Community Giving update

- MB advised Hanson's approach is to prioritise support for initiatives supporting ....
  - Education, skills and wellbeing
  - Protecting/enhancing the environment and supporting biodiversity and sustainability
  - Promoting the community and heritage of the area
- MB advised that Hanson like to support and help their local communities in line with the above strategy and mostly within a 3-mile radius of the quarry, although requests from outside this will be considered.
- MB advised we are not currently engaged with local schools, but Hanson is keen to pursue this.
- MB said that a funding request had been received from a local football team which is being reviewed. The Tytherington web page (see above) details how Hanson is supporting the community and also where people can make requests.
- MB advised an open day would be planned for late summer 2023 incorporating quarry tours and blasting demonstrations. If anyone has any ideas to maximise the benefit to the community, we would be happy to hear over the next three meetings.
- KS said he felt it was really important to have an open day for the community. He said years ago we could drive in and have a look, now we can't. KS said he felt the earlier the open day was scheduled, the better.
- MB replied that we could review the date for the open day and reiterated Hanson's approach to transparency.
- HJ said feedback from the last open day which was a few years ago was very positive.
- MB said we want to go bigger and better than the last one and really get the community involved. He asked if group members had any ideas or feedback, please give Jenna a call.
- KS asked if at the next meeting, the agenda could cover other aspects such as security for example.
- TM said yes and we could also invite specialist like the blasting company. KS asked if maybe Network Rail would come, MB replied Hanson are having a meeting next week with them about trespassing and will ask then.
- KS asked if another meeting could be organised outside of this meeting for residents to discuss dust and blasting. MB replied that static plant would also be a good topic.
- MB said for the next meeting Hanson would use a series of diagrams to explain the train loading process, particularly of jumbo trains.

## 8. AOBs

- None

### Contact details

Email: [tytheringtonquarryenquiries@hanson.biz](mailto:tytheringtonquarryenquiries@hanson.biz) or call us on our freephone number 0800 160 1321

Tytherington Community Web page is  
[www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/sites/tytherington-quarry](http://www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/sites/tytherington-quarry)

Hanson Careers  
[www.hanson-careers.co.uk](http://www.hanson-careers.co.uk)

### Summary of Actions

- 1) For the next meeting JR to prepare more information on blasting and invite specialist
- 2) JR to add security to agenda for next meeting and update on meeting with Network Rail about trespasser.
- 3) PC to liaise with AD to see if AD's contacts can help with the woodland in Iron Acton.
- 4) JR to review date to bring forward Open Day
- 5) MB to ask Network Rail if they would attend next meeting.
- 6) JR to organise meeting outside of this meeting just for residents to attend.
- 7) JR to prepare diagram for the next meeting to explain the train loading process.

### Proposed dates for next 4 meetings

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 17:30

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 17:30

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 17:30

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 17:30

[ENDS]