

**Tytherington Quarry
Community Liaison Group Meeting
27th April 2023
Meeting Room at Tytherington Quarry**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

- Keith Spooner (KS) Resident
- Hugh Johnson (HJ) Tytherington Parish Council
- John Graham (JG) Alveston Parish Council
- Benj Emmerson (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
- Daniel Richards (DR) EPC, Explosives Engineer

APOLOGIES AND MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Simon Ford (SF) South Gloucestershire Council Planning and Minerals Dept
- Neil Higgs (NH) South Gloucestershire Council (EHO)
- Samantha Stagg (SJS) James Reed public relations (Hanson's PR agency)
- Cllr Jon Lean (JL) South Gloucestershire for Frampton Cotterell Ward
- Lindsay Saunders (LS) SGC PROW Officer

AGENDA FOR TYTHERINGTON QUARRY COMMUNITY LIAISON MEETING

1. **Welcome and introduction to new attendees** - Chair Mike Brown (MB)
 - On-going chairing of group
2. **Hanson Operational Update** – Jenna Roberts (JR)
 - Operations and logistics including road and rail.
 - Update re including rail.
 - Site security.
 - Feedback received.
 - Community giving.
3. **Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update** – Andy Duncan (AD)
4. **Land and Mineral Planning update** – Trystan Mabbitt (TM)
5. **Introduction to blasting** – Daniel Richards, Explosives Engineer, EPC
6. **AOBs**
7. **Date for future meetings**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Chair introduction

- MB introduced himself and welcomed attendees to the meeting. He asked if everyone in the room was happy with the draft minutes from January's meeting. BE said there we 2 "m's" in his surname but other than that, all ok. AD mentioned that SF's email address was incorrect.
- MB went through actions from the previous meeting.
 1. Prepare info on blasting – MB said JR would cover this in this meeting
 2. SS to email attendees telephone numbers of Hanson contacts – MB said it was decided not to as the current contact lines should be continued to be used. KS said it is clear on the gate, who should be contacted.
 3. PC to liaise with AD to see if his contacts can help with the woodland in Iron Acton – AD advised he would update in this meeting.

2. Tytherington quarry operational update

- JR advised that Tytherington quarry was producing to target with 55% of the material will be transported by rail, of which 340,000 tonnes have been delivered by rail so far this year.
- JR said level 5 had now opened and we are no longer producing on level 1 (only load and haul), so the plant is moving further down into the quarry.
- JR said the new road is now complete, allowing for more efficient haul, although using it in one direction at present until the traffic lights are installed.
- BE said it was announced that HS2 were pulling back, will that affect you?
- MB replied "no, that's just the northern section, not the London to Birmingham section, which is what we are supplying.

Quarry Blasting

- JR advised of currently blasting on level 0-4. She said the planning limits are that 95% of the time the vibrations are below 9mm/s, the rest below 12mm/s.
- JR showed some detail on lowest and highest mm/s and the air over pressure (AOP) at "The Slad" and "West Street".
- JR said the blast on 3rd April was 10.5mm/s Peak Particle velocity (PPV). It was designed to be 7.8 mm/s PPV. This was a buffer blast and we think this is the reason for the higher mm/s.

- JR said this was above 9mm/s, but well within the maximum permitted 12 mm/s PPV on this logarithmic scale.
- KS asked if the blast was on level 1, JR replied “no it was on level 4/5. She said she didn’t receive any complaints, and we have learned from it. Going forward, we have changed the design of the blast in this area, following this result. Action – report the detail of the next level 4/5 blast.
- KS asked if DR could explain air over pressure later.

The Slad
January – April 2023

Highest: 10.5 mm/s
Lowest: 0.9 mm/s
Average: 4.25 mm/s

AOP

Highest: 138 dB
Lowest: 119 dB
Average: 126 dB

West Street
January – April 2023

Highest: 7.85 mm/s
Lowest: DNT – 0
Average: 2.59 mm/s

AOP

Highest: 120 dB
Lowest: 110 dB
Average: 115 dB

Tytherington ongoing projects update

- JR advised a letter had been sent to residents on 10th March reference the new HV station upgrade work for Tytherington village, and a separate HV station that feeds the quarry.
- JR said the first set of works on the new HV station has now been completed by Hanson, and the next stage will be carried out by Western Power, (now National Grid)
- JR said she was meeting with National Grid next week to discuss the timeline in which they will start work. They want to start on 9th May and will take approximately 3 weeks to complete. Work on the overhead lines will start around mid-June and should be completed by mid-July. She said they do not foresee any issues with supply to the quarry or residents.
- JR advised regular liaison is taking place between Hanson and National Grid. There is no planned interruption to either the quarry’s or households’ supply. If this changes, National Grid will inform all parties.

- BE asked if there would be road work disruption. JR replied “not on this section, but most likely traffic lights. We will know more after the 9th”. MB asked JR to give attendee’s an update when we know details of road disruption, if any.

Rail update

- JR advised that nothing has changed since the last liaison meeting, we are still operating 22 services though the week, and still running 22 and 24 set wagons.
- JR advised Network Rail has possessions daily along the branch line for its on-going maintenance and repair programme.
- JR said she had been advised by Network Rail that they are distributing a letter to residents providing an update on progress and maintenance plans going forward. She also said she had received the letter today.
- KS said he had not yet received the letter, but he had noticed the road has been closed overnight, that goes over the bridge. JR replied she wasn’t aware of that.
- BE said the letter says its for sleeper repairs. JR replied yes, over 500 sleepers to be changed and they are looking to complete in August, which was later than originally planned.
- PC said we’ve seen an increase in Network Rail activity recently.

Site security

- JR advised Hanson is aware of the planning permission put in along our boundary on “The Slad”. Hanson has submitted a rejection notice to the council, as Hanson own part of it.



- KS said its worth noting you have tidied up the boundary, it’s been a tip for a long while, but now its much more presentable. Even though it’s taken some time, you’ve done a good job.

Stakeholder engagement

- JR advised the quarry will be holding a residents only open day on Saturday 16th September of which the times are to be confirmed. We will be inviting EPC our blasting contract and Network Rail to have stands.
- MB said it will be by invite only.

3. Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update

- AD advised the all the works associated with the Natural England badger licence was now completed and the “Badger haul road” construction complete.
- AD advised the replacement artificial badger sett will be monitored periodically in case it does show signs of new occupation, together with monitoring of successful translocation of reptiles to M5 “orchid strip”.
- AD advised national contract is underway with our land agents Savills for the undertaking of hazardous tree inspections. The playground and other Hanson village trees will be re-inspected later this summer when in leaf.
- AD said there had been hedgerow losses in “The Slad” field, which has now been replaced and weed spraying was imminent to control competing vegetation.
- AD said noxious weed spraying on Woodleaze soil stores was imminent.
- AD advised Heidelberg Materials additional 2030 sustainability targets have now been launched, including minimum 15% of each operational site landholding dedicated as a “space for nature”, to include unworked land, temporary habitats within operational areas, and completed final reclamation. Baseline assessments of all sites underway in 2023, rapid assessment of Tytherington currently gets us to 21% “space for nature”.
- MB said 15% is the global standard, but you have already done lots of work.
- AD said the Woodleaze M5 screenbank plantation thinning was underway, which will be completed when the contractor is available, and to tackle the trees in the proximity to the 11KV overhead lines.
- AD advised at Woodleaze, the internal restored benches were being progressively seeded with grass and wildflower, as a part of the long-term interim habitat creation.
- KS asked what was meant by restoration of benches.
- JR explained that when a bench goes to its final face, before we fire the last shot, you would already have edge protection in place, you then put a layer of soil for vegetation to grow and to trap fallen rocks.
- AD advised where Woodleaze is concerned, it’s creating a temporary interim habitat, as eventually it will be under water.
- BE asked if it being under water would affect the “space for nature” percentage.
- AD replied it was a good point, but water is normally good where habitat is concerned.

4. Land and mineral planning update

- TM advised permission for the new static plant has been approved by South Gloucestershire Council last year.
- TM advised parent company Heidelberg Materials were supportive of multi-million-pound proposals and is expected to make the final investment decision next year.
- TM said Hanson are now looking at future extraction and trying to establish what mineral is available. We will give an update, but the reports we've had back so far, almost a third or more is baron in terms of material, we are now in discussions with South Gloucester on how we move forward.
- TM said Groves End has 11 million tonnes of available resource that is unconstrained, whereby Woodleaze has 20 million tonnes but has constraints for operational purposes particularly in form of the existing and proposed plant infrastructure. There are also areas we have not looked at yet. (TM shows MAP on screen) For instance the square in blue on the bottom left of the map.(circled in red), there's circa 3million tonnes of material there, plus another 3 million tonnes in the floor of the quarry should we seek to deepen.



- HJ asked why the corner had been left.
- JR replied that under this section there is half a million tonne of mudstone and 5.5 million tonnes of limestone. Mudstone is a waste product with the current jobs we are doing, so we would have to move it to get to the limestone.
- JR said in level 1 and 2 of the quarry, you can see the mudstone and in the past we have blended it into the material, but with the jobs we have on presently, we are not allowed to do that.
- MB said it was for TM to maximise our reserve, and the operational constraints he referred to earlier were regarding access to the preferred area. We would have to cross the quarry as we retreat to the final part.
- JG asked what mudstone was.

- JR replied mudstone was a low grade limestone, fine grained rock which can act as a clay when processed. HS2 states the products must not contain mudstone. Also. you cannot use in asphalt or concrete as it breaks. It's down to the customer and their preferred specification.
- KS referring to the top right hand part, which is close to the residents, asked what interest do you have in this area.
- JR said that the part we call "The Slad Field". TM said we own it, but not looked at it in terms of mineral extraction. TM to check reserve on "The Slad Field".
- KS asked is Hanson had any plans to sell it, to which TM replied, no.
- TM said there is a proposal on FCC recycling side for a hotel in the local development plan, to include luxury waterside cabins and facilities for water skiing.
- KS asked "so The Slad is owned by Hanson, but leased to the recycling company"?
- MB yes, and they have access rights to the tunnel, although JR advised it is condemned.
- KS said, this scheme for a marina, is it a concept or is there an application?
- TM said it's a leisure facility for seeking to be allocated in the plan, then it would need to be subject to a planning application.

5. Community giving / initiatives

- JR advised it is Hanson approach to prioritise support initiatives for education, skills, and wellbeing. Protecting/enhancing the environment and supporting biodiversity and sustainability. Promoting the community and heritage of the area.
- JR said assistance is prioritised to groups making applications within a three-mile radius of the quarry.
- JR advised of the Tytherington Quarry community page for requesting donations and more information. [Supporting the community | Hanson Communities \(hanson-communities.co.uk\)](http://Supporting the community | Hanson Communities (hanson-communities.co.uk))
- JR advised that the Hanson funded work on Itchington road is now complete. (pictured)



6. Introduction to blasting

- DR explained about blasting in a hard rock quarry. He said its all about breaking up the rock and putting it in a pile. The drill patterns are specifically and carefully engineered to control the heave and vibration.
- DR went on to explain how vibrations are recorded, and factors that influence vibration.
- KS asked about misfires.
- MB said misfires are highly regulated and the HSE must be informed, JR said there is an emergency procedure and protocol that has to be followed.
- KS asked would you always know when you had a misfire and never leave an explosive in the ground.
- JR replied absolutely. We would know as the computer chips report back to us before we fire, if there is a problem. We also do a post-blast inspection to check is all the holes have gone off by the shotfirer. The next step would be if the excavator operator found a toe, or bulk emulsion or burn marks in the rock.
- DR went on to explain monitoring, and how predicting the outcome of the blast are included in the blast spec.
- MB explained there are 3 key people involve. A technical like Dan, a blast designer and a shotfirer.
- DR explained about things that may affect vibration, one being the depth of overburden for instance. Houses built directly on rock would feel vibration more, the deeper the overburden would feel less.
- DR showed a video of a blast.
- JG asked how many tonnes the blast in the video had created.
- JR replied 25,000 tonnes which is a small one for us, as it was near the pylons. We normally blast a 35,000 – 50,000 tonnes section, but have blasted 90,000 tonnes in one shot before.
- MB advised the larger the blast the more economic and that fragmentation is critical. Fly rock (rocks that fly out) are rare.
- JR explained the danger zone and centuries that are put in place to stop pedestrians entering an area while blasting. Siren for 2 minutes before the blast, which we can stop if we need to. After the 2-minute siren the shotfirer detonates 10 seconds later.

7. AOBs

- KS asked for an update on the big decision on investment from Heidelberg.
- MB replied that its on hold due to the economic climate, we have not resubmitted. They are however investing. Their intension is to purchase a recycling company in the midlands, yet to be confirmed. We'll update you in the next meeting.

- BE said he was not standing for election so will not be attending in the future and to contact the clerk at Thornbury Town Council for future attendees.
- MB closed meeting by thanking everyone for their time in attending.

Contact details

Email: 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

Hanson Careers
www.hanson-careers.co.uk

Summary of Actions

- 1) SS to update SF email address
- 2) MMB to make amendment to January approved minutes and upload to community page.
- 3) JR to report monitoring of the next blast on level 4/5.
- 4) JR to give an update to the attendees if and when there will be road disruption due to the HV work being done.
- 5) TM to check reserve at The Slad
- 6) MB to give update on purchase of recycling company at next meeting.
- 7) SS to update BE email address to clerk@thornburytc.
- 8) Update all if there will be road disruptions when the new HV station is upgraded.

Proposed dates for next 4 meetings

Thursday 27th July 2023 17:30
Thursday 26th October 2023 17:30
Thursday 25th January 2024 17:30
Thursday 25th April 2024 17:30

[ENDS]