

**Chipping Sodbury Quarry  
Community Liaison Group Meeting  
7<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Meeting Room at Chipping Sodbury quarry**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

- |                        |                                                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| • John Ford (JF)       | Yate Town Council                                       |
| • Emma Warlock (EW)    | The Friends of Ridge Wood                               |
| • Julie Reed (JR)      | Yate Rocks residents' representative                    |
| • Mike Brown (MB)      | Hanson Aggregates, southwest area operations manager    |
| • Joe Edwards (JE)     | Hanson Aggregates, Chipping Sodbury quarry unit manager |
| • Andy Duncan (AD)     | Hanson UK principal landscape manager (standing in for  |
| Alexandra Hemming)     |                                                         |
| • Trystan Mabbitt (TM) | Hanson UK consenting & development manager              |
| • Samantha Stagg (SS)  | James Reed PR                                           |

**APOLOGIES AND MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- |                         |                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Rob Sims (RS)         | Barnhill residents' representative                              |
| • Lindsay Saunders (LS) | South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) Public Rights of Way (PROW) |
| • Neil Higgs (NH)       | SGC Environmental Health Officer (EHO)                          |
| • Richard Ashton (RA)   | SGC Community Spaces Improvements Team Manager                  |
| • Gareth Fielding (GF)  | Wickwar Parish Council                                          |
| • Fergal Cummins (FC)   | Chipping Sodbury Town Council                                   |
| • Ben Nutland (BN)      | SGC Councillor for Yate North ward                              |
| • John Davis (JD)       | SGC Councillor for Yate Central ward                            |
| • Adrian Rush (AR)      | SGC Councillor for Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge ward      |

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and introduction – Interim Chair Mike Brown (MB)
  - Hanson's approach re liaison meetings
  - On-going chairing of group
2. Forthcoming company rebrand - Mike Brown (MB)
3. Hanson Operational Update – Joe Edwards (JE)
  - Operations overview
  - Logistics.
  - Feedback received

4. Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update – Andy Duncan (AD)
5. Land and Mineral Planning update – Trystan Mabbitt (TM)
6. Community Update – Joe Edwards (JE)
7. AOBs
8. Date for future meetings

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome and Chair introduction – Mike Brown (MB)**

- MB introduced himself and welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- Attendees introduced themselves and set out which organisations/groups they were representing.
- MB advised the purpose of these meetings is to form a dialogue with local stakeholders' representatives. Engaging and interacting with the community is a key Hanson UK policy and the company is keen to hear from its 'critical friends'.
- Based on best practice implemented at other Hanson quarries, the new look group for Chipping Sodbury will have an expanded membership and operate on agreed Terms of Reference.
- MB set out that it is Hanson's objective in the medium term to have a Chair appointed from the membership of the Group.
- MB shared the list of invitees and asked if any other representatives should be added.
- JR suggested a representative of the Lidden Garden Village Residents Association

**Action:** SS to invite JR's suggested Autumn Bridge Residents Association contact.

- MB asked if everyone had reviewed the Terms of Reference distributed with the meeting invite and if anyone had any comments or suggested amends.
- There were no amends proposed.
- MB asked that it be minuted that the Terms of Reference were agreed by the Group.

**Action:** Agreed Terms of Reference to be circulated with the minutes and added to the Chipping Sodbury quarry community website page.

- MB provided background information on Hanson's operations. He set out that the company is divided into 5 divisions; aggregates, concrete, cement, asphalt and contracting and, recycling. The company has the market number 1 position for cement and concrete, Number 2 for aggregates and Number 3 for asphalt and contracting. It is seeking to buy the Mick George recycling business with the acquisition currently being reviewed by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).
- MB set out that the company is part of Heidelberg Materials which employs around 51,000 people at almost 3,000 sites in more than 50 countries. Heidelberg Materials has committed to reduce net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne of cement by 30 per cent by

2025 (based on 1990 figures) and will realise its vision of carbon neutral concrete by 2050 at the latest.

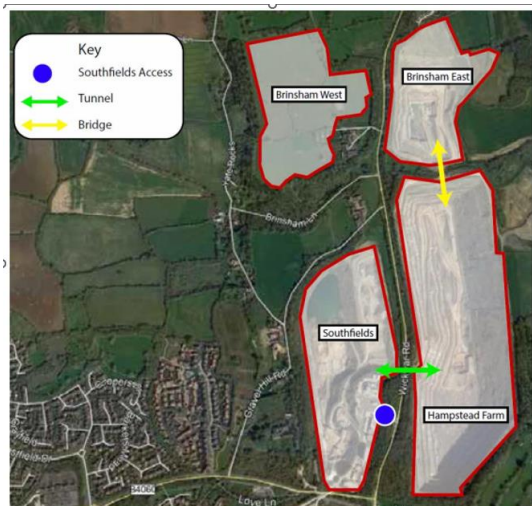
- MB provided information on the company's focus on delivering products and services that enable sustainable construction and meet the requirements of resilient, low carbon construction and the circular economy. He described how Hanson is progressing a range of innovative projects, such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) and using hydrogen as a fuel source in production, to help lead the UK construction industry towards net zero emissions by 2050.
- MB confirmed that parent company Heidelberg Materials' is listed on the German stock exchange.
- AD added that in his capacity as a member of Heidelberg Materials' biodiversity group all sites are developing, under the "Space for Nature" target as one of the Group's 2030 Sustainability commitments, the requirement for all active extraction sites to have minimum 15% of the land under management control dedicated to nature. At urban and relatively recent sites this may be a challenge, but usually easier for more mature and progressively restored sites. However, at Chipping Sodbury quarry the space given over to biodiversity already stands at around 40% of the total landholding area.
- AD added that restoration/reclamation plans for exhausted mineral sites need to mesh with the local area and comply with Heidelberg Group reclamation standards. Initial restoration plans for Chipping Sodbury were developed some time ago and thinking has moved on in the intervening years on some elements. This will be revisited with input from local communities sought in due course.
- MB explained that Hanson was keen to establish dialogue with local schools to increase awareness of the importance of minerals and how they are used, to encourage applications for apprenticeship schemes from those in the local community and to ensure children living close to sites are aware of the dangers trespassing can represent.
- MB added that contact with all Chipping Sodbury and Yate schools had been made ahead of the summer holidays following some local children getting into the quarry. He asked for members of the group to use any local contacts they had with schools to reiterate the message that Hanson was keen to develop relationships and could provide careers support, school visits etc.

## 2. Company rebrand – Mike Brown (MB)

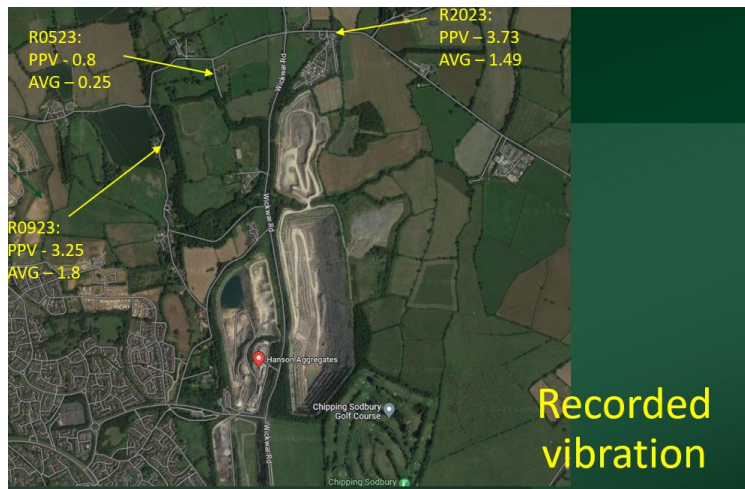
- MB explained that last year Heidelberg Cement announced a global re-brand to Heidelberg Materials.
- MB said that Hanson UK will rebrand to Heidelberg Materials in the UK from October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 – this is part of a global initiative, with all operating territories becoming aligned with the parent company. Everything else stays the same, including the company's commitment to running operations to the highest standards and being a good neighbour.
- MB added that the new branding – which will be rolled out over two years – emphasises the commitment to drive down carbon emissions, pioneer opportunities for a circular economy and unlock benefits through further digitalisation.

## 3. Hanson Operational Update – Joe Edwards (JR)

- JE described the layout of Hanson's Chipping Sodbury quarry complex (see map below), which includes Southfields quarry, Brimsham East, Brinsham West, and Hampstead Farm quarry, Plus Barnhill quarry which is now exhausted and is used for stock piling.



- Mineral extraction is currently taking place in Southfields quarry and Brinsham East. The stockpiles in Barnhill quarry are being intentionally run down and should be cleared by the end of the year. Reserves remain in Hampstead quarry but are subject to geotechnical issues.
- JE set out that volumes year to date (YTD) are on target, with activity in Brinsham East the current focus.
- EW asked how performance is rated, is it just on volume? MB described that limestone from Chipping Sodbury is a premium product – therefore the company doesn't chase volumes. Product is supplied to clients along the M4 corridor. Hanson's Tytherington quarry near Thornbury supplies the M5 corridor going north and is also rail connected, so is an important supplier of aggregate to the South East which has no limestone reserves due to the geology of the area.
- JE set out that the quarry has had 24 blasts so far this year. Quarry blasting is highly regulated with the UK having some of the most stringent regulations and planning permissions. Ground vibration from blasts are measured in Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) with the regulatory limit for blasts at Chipping Sodbury being at 6mm/s PPV at 95% confidence. All blasts YTD have been well within this level with the highest recorded vibration being 3.73mm/s PPV.
- JE described that Air Over Pressure (AOP), which is also monitored, is the energy from a blast you feel. The maximum AOP for a blast at Chipping Sodbury YTD is 112db – equivalent to a door slam.
- JE detailed that blasting at Chipping Sodbury is handled by external specialists, Bam Ritchies. Hanson always have a qualified blasting supervisor on site for blasts, which is a regulatory requirement. In the main this is JE who has the relevant competency to check blasting plans developed by Bam Ritchies.
- Blasts are monitored at a number of locations. JE shared a map detailing these and the highest PPV mm/s recorded. (See map below)



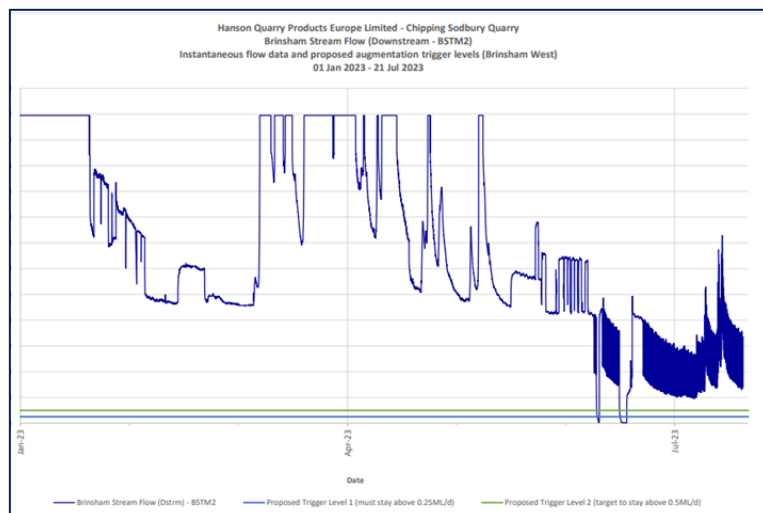
- MB said that blasting specialists had provided well-received introductory presentation to local liaison groups at other sites and proposed arranging this for a future meeting at Chipping Sodbury.

**Action:** Introduction to blasting for non-specialists presentation to be added to future meeting agenda.

- JE set out that Hanson is in discussions with South Gloucestershire Highways with regards to the phasing of the lights on Peg Hill. Control of the lights has been outsourced by the council to a third-party company so adjust timing is difficult to arrange. Hanson's aim is to have the lights adjusted so that traffic is not held up when the site is not operational. The company is also looking at changing access for HGVs.
- MB said that all HGVs drivers (including employed and franchisee) must undergo induction training so that they adhere to Hanson's strict protocols for HGVs.
- MB added that a few had been admonished recently for speeding on Peg Hill and Hanson hopes that this means that this issue won't reoccur.
- JF said that the red lights were a nuisance at night.
- MB said that the lights were still needed to allow for access to the stocks at Barnhill – even though stocks there are being diminished. He added that if JE had any contacts at SGC Highways could he propose an on-site meeting to discuss the issue of the lights as this would be very much appreciated by Hanson.
- JR asked about road closures on the Wickwar Road due to blasting, she wasn't aware of any in recent months. JE said every blast has a defined exclusion zone determined by the blast explosive supervisor. Where blasts are currently taking place on the East side of Brinsham East there is no requirement to close the road.
- MB suggested that details of future blasting areas can be shared at future meetings.

**Action:** Ensure blasting area details shared at future meetings.

- JE set out that Brinsham stream runs through Yate Rocks and then downstream towards Rangeworthy before joining the Frome. Since January of this year Hanson has been required by the Environment Agency (EA) to maintain the flow of the river. This was previously only a planning requirement when operating in West Brinsham is developed in the future. This is somewhat counter intuitive – as the river does run dry during periods of dry weather upstream from the quarry, so it is the quarry that is maintaining the year-round flow at Yate Rocks.
- JE shared a chart (see below) showing the YTD flow of the stream, with the blue and green lines at the bottom indicating the required levels. This indicates that there have been two occasions when flows have dipped below this.



- The first occasion was due to a pump failure which was fixed within a few hours. The second, more recent occasion, was due to a serious cable theft of more than £20,000 worth of cabling. This followed illegal access having been gained to the site gained by a vehicle being ramraided through the security fence.
- MB said site thefts were an increasing issue across Hanson's estate, including of diesel. This has led to the company reviewing security, including at Chipping Sodbury.
- JE said that a lot of work has been spent on ensuring all can be done to maintain flows of Brinsham stream and asked for Yate Rocks residents to continue to flag up any issues if they occur, so they can be resolved soonest.
- JE added that the most recent occurrence had been self-reported to the EA.
- JF asked what would happen to the stream when extraction finishes?
- AD replied that water will seep through downstream of Hampstead Farm but that this would be addressed as part of the restoration plans. It is anticipated that pumping will have to continue for a few years after mineral activity ceases while the restoration work takes place. Environmental aftercare is a key aspect of Hanson's approach, and this will apply to the stream.

#### 4. **Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update** – Andy Duncan (AD)

- AD provided details of plans for the translocation of Great Crested newts which are a protected species. This follows newts establishing a colony on the edge of Hampstead farm. As part of the ongoing monitoring, we are participating in the training of "sniffer dogs" which is a new approach replacing the time-consuming methods previously used.
- AD advised that a Felling Licence is in the course of being obtained to address trees impacted by Ash Dieback disease to ensure safety to road and footpath users adjacent to the site. In addition, some coppicing will be taking place as part of the Habitat Management Plan. This will see some thinning of trees to ensure they have sufficient room to thrive in the long-term, as many areas are still set at their original 2m spacing.
- AD added that implementing the agreed Habitat Management Plan had been somewhat hampered by the imposition of the Tree Preservation Order by SGC last year. TPO consent will be secured to enable necessary management by means the Forestry Commission Felling Licence process in this regard.
- AD added that Hanson is also reviewing the green corridors at Chipping Sodbury to help wildlife connectivity.

## 5. Land and Mineral Planning update – Trystan Mabbitt (TM)

- TM recapped on the planning application for the proposed temporary haul road. (JF and JR have previously attended meetings specifically on this issue.)
- TM set out that the plans had been formulated to tie in with the company's carbon reduction initiatives and minimise impact for near neighbours. The previously granted consents – including a permanent tunnel under the Wickwar Road – were granted some years ago and environmental considerations have moved on considerably since then.
- TM reprised the points made in earlier meetings that the proposals for a temporary haul road would:
  - Reduce the carbon impact over the lifecycle of the project;
  - Remove the need to install an already-consented primary crusher in Brinsham West;
  - Limit nuisance to our near neighbours;
  - Limit disruption to the users of Wickwar Road;
  - Provide substantive biodiversity uplift as a result of being able to bring forward restoration of Brinsham East and Hampstead Farm quarries;
  - Provide operational efficiencies.
- TM said that, based on feedback received and as set out at the last meeting with Yate Rocks residents the proposals had been adjusted:
  - A significant reduction in the width of the proposed haul road to a single lane with passing places – thereby effectively halving the land required to construct the temporary road.
  - Adapting the proposals to a single-track haul road also enables a reduction in the junction width required at the points where the haul road crosses Brinsham Lane and Gravel Hill Road – helping to reduce both visual impact and biodiversity impact.
  - Installation of time-restricted traffic lights and signage etc on Brinsham Lane and on Gravel Hill Road giving priority to traffic on these roads.
  - The provision of a detailed Construction Environment Management Plan, encompassing Biodiversity and Landscape and Ecology Management Plans. These provide details of the mitigation measures that will be put in place to ensure the appropriate management of ecologically valuable features and habitats throughout the temporary haul road's construction and operational phases.
- EW asked about the timescales for the application. TM advised that the statutory time for determination at this stage is 8 weeks, so currently it's beyond that but that discussions are on-going with the council.
- JR said that Yate Rock residents were still very much against the proposal. MB accepted that on some issues, such as this, it will be a case of agreeing to disagree and that the decision rests with SGC at this stage.
- TM pointed out that the council has a requirement for 10 years of mineral reserves of which Brinsham West is a part.
- TM added that importantly Hanson has also clarified its position with regards to operating hours. These would be reduced to weekend working from the (currently permitted) 52 weekends a year to just 12 weeks a year, with no working on either Saturdays or Sundays on a Bank Holiday weekend unless in an emergency.
- This would mean Saturday working would be restricted to just once a month – and Hanson would advise the Mineral Planning Authority (SGC) of this in advance.
- TM added that efficiencies in the ways of working would mean that these amends can be implemented with limited impact on potential volumes. Community considerations have also influenced the decision to amend the proposed operating hours.

- JR asked what week time working would be. TM replied that Hanson would seek to confirm this in writing with and update to SCG as well as in correspondence to be sent out to near neighbours.
- JF asked if stockpiles would have to be built back up in this scenario. JE advised that this would not be the case – the stockpiles are not of the same product configuration/volumes that would come from Brinsham West. MB added that it since moving the onsite asphalt plant to Tytherington it means that the stockpile is no longer required, and it is the firm intention to remove the stockpiles in Barnshill permanently.
- TM added that it would make sense for there to be consistent working hours across all parts of the site at Chipping Sodbury.
- TM reiterated the temporary nature of the haul road and the fact that it is in a cutting with minimal views onto it. Mitigation, including bunds, would mean it would be well screened.
- JR stated that a 10–15-year life didn't feel very temporary to nearby residents who would be impacted.
- EW asked how many people would be employed at Brinsham West. MB advised that there would be 16 people in operational roles, plus 4 in managerial positions.

**Action:** It was agreed that Hanson would write to Yate Rocks residents confirming the proposed hours of operation for Brinsham West.

## 6. Community update – Joe Edwards (JE)

- JE explained that the Chipping Sodbury team had lost a colleague to cancer in 2022 and following a 'Mos for Martin' moustache initiative last November had raised £2,407 for Marie Currie Hospice in his memory.
- JE said that Hanson had recently funded a defibrillator at Chippenham Sports Club. Chipping Sodbury is currently supplying several large projects in the area.
- JE detailed other recent charitable/community giving including;
  - Abbotswood primary school allotment
  - Brandybottom Mine in Pucklechurch
  - Kingsgate park pathways
  - St John's Church Chipping Sodbury – Flower Festival
  - Chipping Sodbury Festival
- MB/SS set out that in the main Hanson focuses on community giving based on;
  - Education, skills, and wellbeing
  - Protecting/enhancing the environment
  - Promoting the community and heritage of the area

Support is prioritised to groups making applications from within the BS37 postcode, particularly those based within a 3km radius of our Chipping Sodbury quarries.

- MB explained that the company can provide materials and/or manpower in terms of employee volunteer days for local projects as well as financial support.
- MB reiterate points made earlier about being keen to develop mutually beneficial opportunities with local schools.



## 7. **AOBs**

- MB detailed the queries received from RS who had sent his apologies. Barnhill residents wanted to ask about:
  - Speeding vehicles leaving Hanson's The Ridge business centre offices.
  - Damaged fencing and signage on Quarry Bank Road adjacent to the playground (JF added his own concerns on this issue re Peg Hill and Wickwar roads)

**Action:** MB to follow up with the site manager at The Ridge and respond to RS. JE to review fencing and signage.

## **Summary of Actions**

1. SS to invite Autumn Bridge Residents Association representative to next meeting.
2. SS to ensure Agreed Terms of Reference to be circulated with the minutes and added to the Chipping Sodbury quarry community website page.
3. MB/JE to arrange a presentation by blasting specialists at a future meeting highlighting key aspects of blasting for non-specialists.
4. JE to share forthcoming blasting area details at future meetings.
5. TM to write to Yate Rocks residents confirming the proposed hours of operation for Brinsham West.
6. MB to follow up with the site manager at The Ridge re vehicle speeding.
7. JE to review fencing and signage.

## **Proposed dates for next meeting**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 17:30  
[ENDS]