

WHATLEY LIAISON MEETING
21st July 2015
Whatley Quarry Office

PRESENT: Andy Fussell – Hanson Production Manager - Chairperson
Steve West - Mells PC
Jane Butcher - Whatley PC
Rupert Williamson - Mendip DC
David Weeks – Hanson Communications Director.
John Bown- Hanson Lands and Mineral Planner
Alex Pick – Hanson Landscape Architect
Robin Witt – Whatley resident

APOLOGIES: Gary Morgan, David Searle

Andy Fussell introduced himself as the temporary chairperson, David Searle being unavailable for the meeting.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes approved as a record of the October 2014 meeting, but some confusion regarding whether the draft minutes were updated.

Request by the meeting that the minutes are circulated in a more timely manner.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Overview/Complaints

The quarry has received a total of 12 complaints in the categories listed below. Andy Fussell commented that the Quarry had received a number of complaints following the circulation of a flyer regarding noise monitoring. The origin of the flyer is unknown and a copy is provided with these minutes.

Dust	2
Noise	7
Blasting	3

Dust

Jane Butcher asked the meeting if an indication of the operation of the wheel wash could be gauged by the surface of Holwell Road being damp due to water being carried out on the road by the wheels of the lorries. Dust on the Holwell road remains a problem.

Andy Fussell commented that the Company was upgrading the access from the site by installing a “dampening down area” which is a series of water sprays designed to keep the section of the access road from the wheel wash to the public highway wet, reducing the chance of dust being carried out of the site. A road sweeper is utilised on a daily basis for 6 hours Monday to Friday and 4 hours on a Saturday morning.

Andy went on to say that the system for dampening down the dust on the train had been improved increasing the volume of water available, the system being changed from a passive drainage system to a pressurised water spray.

Andy Fussell informed the meeting that dust monitoring is being undertaken by an external contractor providing monthly results. This information is also shared with the District Council and Rupert Williamson commented that the information provided had demonstrated the monitoring was within control limits.

Noise

The Company has received 7 noise complaints since the last meeting, 4 from the same complainant, all of which were investigated.

Andy Fussell informed the meeting that the Company had undertaken 2 independent noise surveys, during the night that one noise survey was being undertaken the Company received a complaint from Mells, the noise consultant was requested to take readings near to Mells post office as the complainant did not confirm their address. The monitoring concluded that noise from the quarry was not evident.

Robin Witt commented that the most intrusive noise came from the Blast siren, Andy Fussell confirmed that the siren was required for safety purposes and used with a strict procedure to inform the workforce when the blast was to take place and when the site was all clear, consequently there is little latitude to change this process.

Blasting

The Company has received 3 blast related complaints since the last meeting, all of which were followed up and additional monitoring undertaken at the property.

David Weeks informed the meeting that he had been involved with the complaint investigation and had visited Mr Payne to discuss the blasting at the quarry and the effects on the local residents.

David Weeks confirmed that an offer of a visit to the quarry had been made to Mr Payne, this to be extended to other members of the parish Council, to explain the blasting process.

A similar offer was made to the meeting regarding the dust suppression techniques and it was agreed that a day at the quarry would be offered to the liaison committee and parish council, probably in August. David Weeks to organise.

Andy Fussell commented that the quarry's top bench had almost reached the western boundary and the quarry was being widened to the maximum extent on the Chantry side of the quarry, this has resulted in the blast orientation changing from an E-W direction to a N-S which had change the blast vibration results, Andy reported that there had been two instances where the 9mm/sec limited had been exceeded during May 2015 and following which the blast design had been modified. No complaint was received following these blasts.

Jane Butcher asked if these blasts were in June as she had felt that a blast in June was particularly noticeable. Andy Fussell confirmed that the large blasts were in May not June.

Andy Informed the meeting that the company, in partnership with their blasting contractors EPC, had decided to install 3 permanent vibration monitors at various receptor points around the quarry.

Output from the site is expected to be approximately 4.8Mt for the calendar year.

Planning/ Lands

John Bown commented that the Company had made an application to the County Authority to sell excess top spoil from the site; the soils have been identified as being surplus to restoration requirements. The application is expected to be determined during August 2015.

The STOR generating facility which was approved in June 2013 is now operational and the mobile generators are available for peak load operation.

The periodic review of the quarry operations remains undetermined and is unlikely to be progressed in the near future.

Alex Pick confirmed that the information boards were not yet in place but were expected by the end of the summer.

Asham and Westdown

Andy Fussell commented that the site trespass had improved from a 4x4 perspective but motorcyclist remained a problem.

An illegal rave had taken place recently and the police monitored the situation and undertook alcohol tests on the drivers leaving the site.

The quarry has requested more funding from the Company to increase security visits at the site as there was a clear correlation between trespass and security presence.

Alex Pick informed the meeting that the 25 yr woodland management plan had been approved by Natural England and was being implemented. This includes active management of the woodland including coppicing and general management.

A bat roost had been identified in Asham, the entrance to which was to be secured by a grid.

Holwell Road

Robin Witt informed the Company of the litter problem along the road between the quarry and the A361, over 40 bags of rubbish had been collected including several bottles of urine; rubbish included general waste and a significant number of brown vending type paper cups.

Meeting agreed that this was unacceptable and that the Quarry had previously warned lorry drivers of the litter problem; toilet facilities are available for the lorry drivers along with rubbish receptors, Andy Fussell to discuss with the quarry management to reduce the discard of rubbish from vehicles.

Other Business

Andy Fussell informed the meeting of the Step in Stone art Project that would be taking place at various disused quarries in the area including Westdown. This will entail various pieces of art being placed at Westdown to the side of the bridleway during the month of August / September along with 2 guided walks

David Weeks advised the meeting that the company were in the process of setting up a web portal for each site that would be accessible from the main Hanson Web site. Site information would be uploaded to the site once complete.

Jayne Butcher requested that minutes of the meeting were circulated to the members of the group quickly after the meeting.

Date of next meeting – 1st December 2015 at 5pm.