

**WHATLEY LIAISON MEETING**

**4 July 2017**

**Whatley Quarry Office**

**PRESENT:**

David Searle – Whatley Quarry Unit Manager  
Martin Symons – Whatley Quarry Production Manager  
John Bown – Hanson Lands and Planning Manager  
Dawn Carpenter – Hanson Unit Clerk

Philip Ham – Somerset County Council Ward Member  
Davin Kenwood - Whatley PC  
Steve West – Mells PC  
Rupert Williamson – Environmental Health Mendip DC

Andrew Coomber – Mendip Rail

**APOLOGIES:**

Gary Morgan-Hanson, David Weeks-Hanson, Alex Pick-Hanson, Martin Payne-Whatley PC,  
Phillip Higginbottom-Somerset CC, Martyn Ford – Somerset CC

David Searle welcomed everyone and introduced Andrew Coomber from Mendip Rail.

**Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 meeting were distributed and approved as a true record.

**Operational Overview**

David Searle gave an overview for the year. The top face will be very near completed by the autumn and we have started “sinking”, which will obviously deepen the quarry. Site can sink 4 benches with the current planning conditions.

There were new photos available which he used to explain the future plans. We are currently crushing in excess of 500,000t per month. Sales have slowed and stocks are building up on site. The plan is to reduce front end crushing and increase washing of existing stocks. Hinkley Point are currently taking product from site and this will increase in volume as the project progresses.

The top area has been cleared of Asphalt wrap and Lorries are using the area to park.

The Quarry has recently had an Environmental Audit. All permits and discharge reports were examined. No breaches were found.

## **Blasting**

There has been 1 blasting complaint since the last meeting: David Kemp, a Chantry resident complained about the blast on 6 June, which was at 14:30. There was very low cloud that day. The blast measured 3.28mm/s, our planning allows for 9mm/s.

A complaint was received about the blast today, from Sarah Costello, a Chantry resident. Results will be obtained and sent to her. EPC have been asked to look into it.

Somerset County Council conducted unannounced blast monitoring between 9 May and 15 June. They reported that their results were in line with those of the Quarries' and well within planning limits.

Email received from Martyn Ford of SCC:

**Subject:** Outcome of SCC vibration monitoring, Whatley Quarry

*Good afternoon Dave,*

*Unfortunately I am unable to attend the liaison meeting tonight so I would be grateful if you could update the meeting on the outcome of the vibration monitoring SCC recently undertook.*

*Following on from a number of complaints last year regarding vibration levels it was agreed at recent liaison meetings that SCC would undertake unannounced vibration monitoring. Between 9<sup>th</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 unattended vibration monitoring was undertaken at the Old Chapel, Chantry, this is a property which has previously expressed concerns about vibration levels. This property is not routinely monitored by the quarry but it is close to George Cottage where the quarry operator has erected a fixed monitoring installation. The quarry operators were not informed that this monitoring was being undertaken.*

*The differences in blast separation distance between George Cottage and Old Chapel will depend on blast location but are likely to fall to less than 5% for most blasts and as such results would not be expected to differ greatly. Consequently it is reasonable to compare results from these two locations.*

*The data from our seismograph has been collected and analysed by our acoustics specialist and has been compared to data provided by the quarry operators. In addition*

*to the results obtained by the unit at George Cottage the operator monitored at four other properties during the time our monitor was in situ.*

*Analysis of the data show that all the results for this period indicated levels of vibration ppv well below 9mm/s and therefore would suggest there was no reason to question the compliance of blast designs.*

*Comparisons of results obtained at George Cottage and the Old Chapel indicate greater vibration levels at George Cottage (i.e. where the operator has a fixed monitoring unit) than at similar distances elsewhere. This finding might be explained by, for example, factors such as differences in local geology or differences in the coupling and resonance of the geophone mounting and building element. However this situation would not be a concern in planning terms as any potentially elevated vibration results will lead to a more conservative approach to blast design.*

*Please let me know if anything further is required or any questions arise from this.*

*Kind regards*

*Martyn*

***Martyn Ford***

*Senior Enforcement Officer (Planning, Rights of Way, Gypsies & Traveller*

It was noted that all dates of blasts are reported on our website, two weeks in advance.

## **Noise**

Davin Kenwood reported:

Having heard a noise “like a bucket being banged”, Dave Searle stated this was possibly from the levelling of the loads on the train wagons – he would instruct the guys to stop doing this.

On 25<sup>th</sup> May at around 1:45 – 2:00am, excessive noise was reported to him

## **Dust**

A complaint was received from David Kemp, about a very large dust cloud over Bullenmead, Chantry on 5<sup>th</sup> April during mid-afternoon. There is an issue with dust, and various projects are ongoing, to help combat this.

## **Rail**

Demand for stock movements by Rail continues to be very high. A permanent Night Shift started at the beginning of May.

£6 – 800,000 has been spent on improvements to the Rail track and this has helped to reduce noise for local residents.

Andrew Coomber stated that the replacement of two check curves and various other associated rail improvement projects over the previous two years have costed in the region of £640,000..

## **Transport**

Lorries have been spotted leaving the quarry without sheeting. Registration numbers can be reported to the Quarry and the Hauliers will be contacted.

The condition of the road at the Quarry Exit was again raised. John Bown confirmed that Somerset County Council had not yet adopted it; but that they have a Duty of Care and issues should be directed to them. He also said that it would be illegal for Hanson to try to repair the road. Davin Kenwood reported witnessing a cyclist coming off his bike after hitting the ditch in the road, fortunately the cyclist appeared unhurt. Any incidents should be reported to the Council.

## **Asham and Westdown**

The Shoot finished on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Bikes are still a problem, the entrance used by the Shoot has been blocked, but they are still getting in. We have received a complaint from the Motocross Group, that their tracks are being used by the motor bikes. Access to this area is via the A361 and Hanson do not have any control over that.

Complaints need to be directed to the police via the link below:

[https://secure-web.cisco.com/1zHplztoH6gold1NLyIUWhILW5Iho0I5TvCUsw1L4Ed3d-WI5t05NctP8wymwGdX9wESPglU1Md7sYD0tXkv0tTrn2ysg782gyIT2h8N44or8Gfyi2V0D8Ku03n0iamlroTK48lsOF0V68iWcu2JcNQk7ga0hNxTns6fThrKRAZsWIgflIOa\\_w-fzGpcV9BGdXVfKN5nwYrAmNjaUPyiCLozxCB1gdFc6P-5baN0Sm3uatDGqY0lf5NktgCLgH3KaqaMnnaciQpprHCM8CH6W6rJ6TU1P7EgxbAqL1O4-HIHEBI3u2Qay-xC-awi4AgWBozNYQ2E6XgE5FaZzL2nIA/https%3A%2F%2Fwww.avonandsomerset.police.uk%2Fcontact-us%2Freport-a-crime-or-incident%2F](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1zHplztoH6gold1NLyIUWhILW5Iho0I5TvCUsw1L4Ed3d-WI5t05NctP8wymwGdX9wESPglU1Md7sYD0tXkv0tTrn2ysg782gyIT2h8N44or8Gfyi2V0D8Ku03n0iamlroTK48lsOF0V68iWcu2JcNQk7ga0hNxTns6fThrKRAZsWIgflIOa_w-fzGpcV9BGdXVfKN5nwYrAmNjaUPyiCLozxCB1gdFc6P-5baN0Sm3uatDGqY0lf5NktgCLgH3KaqaMnnaciQpprHCM8CH6W6rJ6TU1P7EgxbAqL1O4-HIHEBI3u2Qay-xC-awi4AgWBozNYQ2E6XgE5FaZzL2nIA/https%3A%2F%2Fwww.avonandsomerset.police.uk%2Fcontact-us%2Freport-a-crime-or-incident%2F)

## **Planning**

There are no current planning applications to report. There are 10 – 15 years of stone left in Whatley

## **Any Other Business**

Davin has been told of a smell like hot plastic coming towards Nunney. This is possibly from the re-crushing of wrap from the Asphalt Plant. Rupert Williamson suggested that if dates could be supplied, the Asphalt Manger could be contacted.

Davin asked if the Quarry had been contacted prior to the Nunney International Horse Trails. Martin confirmed that we hadn't been notified.

John Bown, Hanson Lands and Planning Manager, is retiring and this is his last meeting. Dave thanked him for his contribution and wished him well in him retirement.

Dave Searle thanked everyone for attending the meeting and it was agreed to revert to six monthly meetings in October and April

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 17 October 2017, at 5:30**