

Penderyn Quarry Liaison Group
Minutes of virtual meeting held 22nd July 2021 at 17:00

Attendees: -

- Councillor Graham Thomas (GT) - Chair
- Gareth Purnell (GP) – RCT
- Neil Pilliner (NP) – RCT
- Tom Boothroyd - Brecon Beacons National Park
- Julian Radcliffe (JR) – Hanson UK
- Tracy Nettleton (TN) - Brecon Beacons National Park

Apologies

- Luke Owen (LO) – Hanson UK
- Hugh Towns (HT) - Brecon Beacons National Park

Declaration of Interest

None

General

- GT vacancy for resident will be left vacant until someone comes forward.

Minutes of previous meeting – 29th April 2021

Request made to move and second, they are an accurate record, GP moved, and NP seconded the first half, NP moved, and GP seconded the second half, all agreed.

Matters Arising

1. GT had contacted BBNP regarding planning for the notice board and it had been determined if only quarry related notices were to be posted for public information no planning permission would be required. JR advised that the notice board had been ordered and that there was a seven-week lead time on delivery. Once delivered the notice board would be erected.
2. LO currently working with IT support personnel to include a traffic light system on the community page.

Site Operations

3. JR – Production continues with stone quarried from the lower bench until that area is worked out. Overburden strip is progressing well. Concrete plant volumes had increased with an improvement in the weather. Asphalt plant relatively quiet at present but there is 12-13 weeks of night work scheduled.
4. GT asked if weekend work or overtime could be posted on the community page - LO

Monitoring Visit Reports

GP advised a scheduled inspection was undertaken on the 8th June 2021 relating to the Environmental Permit. The inspection considers certain emissions to air from the Primary Crusher until material leave site. As on previous occasions the Operator continues to comply with a range of Environmental Permit Conditions, a few areas for improvement were noted and not compliant were listed (separate report circulated prior to PQLG meeting). Further inspections will be scheduled in this inspection period to confirm completion of identified improvement works as well as checking ongoing compliance. GP identified improvement measures had dates by which remedial works should be completed. (from the pre-circulated inspection briefing report) Item 1 had been resolved during the visit, Item 2 required works to replace missing sheet on greenhouse, 3 door left open on the roadstone coating plant (RCP) this to be modified to a self-closing door. 4 restoration of effective water treatment at a conveyor transfer point – dealt with immediately. 5 CO checks at all relevant times options being considered. GT thanked GP for his report.

Environmental Issues

7(a). Noise

6. GT advised that one complaint had been received regarding the use of the tannoy system, this had been forwarded to Hanson employees with a view of establishing the use of the tannoy and whether the volume could be adjusted.
Reply to be chased - JR

7(b). Odour / fumes

7. GT, several complaints had been received which had been passed onto the quarry and Local Authority. The issue is recurring and varies in intensity. There had been a sustained level of complaints following the last meeting. GP Cladding associated with the roadstone coating building production house had recently been re-installed and at the time of the meeting the number of complaints may have reduced. In June complaints received indicated issues was more pronounced at times and more nuanced at others. The quarry has confirmed that there have been no changes in circumstances with the roadstone coating plant that would suggest an increased risk of odour emissions, for instance issues which could have been associated with an open doorway have been addressed. GP confirmed that feedback may under report current circumstances and the combination of a change in the prevailing winds and how busy the RCP was could both be a factor in the level of complaints GP has undertaken proactive monitoring at Penderyn Village (including early morning occasions) but at present it has not been possible to observe significant odours. Informed that the roadstone coating plant is exploring the use of alternative fuels with a feasibility study scheduled to be completed in October and GP was awaiting feedback from this. If anyone experiences any adverse odour, please let RCT know as proactive and reactive observation will continue to further understand the situation. However, whilst effort can be made to tackle the risk of adverse odour from the Regulated Facility it should be noted that it would not be possible to require the prevention of all odour risks completely. In June complaints received indicated issues was more pronounced at times and more nuanced at others, there have been no changes in circumstances. Issues which could have been associated with an open doorway have been addressed.

Feedback is not the same degree of incidents (residents). I have undertaken proactive monitoring but had not experienced anything untoward personally. GT suggested that the combination of a change in the prevailing winds and how busy the RCP was could both be a factor in the level of complaints. The RCP is exploring the use of alternative fuels the feasibility study is scheduled to be completed in October and GT was awaiting feedback from this. If anyone experiences any adverse odour, please let RCT know. Whilst the cladding had been completed there are a number of potential sources of odour but it should be noted that it would not be possible to remove odour completely.

7.c) Dust

8. GP Dust and particulate matter control measures from certain aspects of the site are controlled by Conditions of the Environmental Permit. There has been a sustained period of dry weather which can present challenges in the control of particulate matter, this is however not unusual and certainly foreseeable, and the operator should take appropriate measures to ensure compliance. During the recent inspection of the Regulated Facility, GP and noted water measures being used in accordance with the set Conditions. It was noted that the entrance road had dried in places but, at that time, there were no visible emissions of particulate matter. Advice was if this could be a risk and the operator should consider running the sprays all the time rather than on timer when weather conditions require.

9. GP there were a number of emissions visible from the RCP, with active measures to control and reduce certain particulate matter emissions. There were fumes from the loading of roadstone product which, at the time of inspection, were not continuous. The Environmental Permit does not prohibit these per se, but it is noted that there should be no visible particulate matter emissions or fume beyond the Regulated Facility boundary. The issue of fume is not unusual, and site are trying to address, changing mixes, minimizing clean outs, and training operators being some.

10. GT what additional controls could be implemented to further reduce visible emissions of fume. GP control the amount of water in the back of vehicles as excessive water can lead to increased levels of fume and steam. The driver puts water on a vehicle body so controls are reliant on the driver so closer supervision may be considered if considered an issue. If necessary, drop heights could be reviewed and/or the enclosure of drop out areas can also be considered. Previously it has been identified that particular risks may occur when production changes product and this can involve high risk dry materials. The Operator has put in place procedures and instruction to manage this risk and, at the time of inspection no adverse visible emissions were observed crossing the Regulated Facility boundary. GP operator could consider proactive monitoring at properties (for odour and/or dust) which could help to demonstrate to residents that operator is taking action. GT it depends on whether residents are prepared to be identified. JR offer the option to residents to work with Hanson, TN supported this suggestion we could use Laura Simkin as a liaison if necessary.

7(d). Lighting

11. No issues raised

7(e). Blasting

13 TN, 2 complaints have been received HT wrote a report on these. The PPV in the first complaint was 2.29mm/s² (limit 6mm/s with 95% confidence with a maximum of 10mm/s) which is well within the limit. The second blast did not trigger, communicated these results to the complainants. GT what was the PPV, TN 2.29mm/s.

14. TB different perceptions some people are more sensitive, blasts should be below 120dB one of the blasts was 112dB which could be a factor. Opencast sites close to communities have similar issues with AOP.

7(f). Water

15. VB had identified an issue with occasional discoloration of the stream and was working with LO and JR to identify source.

8. Highways Matters

16. GT No direct complaints received, engaging with RCT and the quarry to create a cleaning schedule. RCT sweeping down past Woodland Park and down to Ty Newydd the full carriageway width and they will be cleaning signs and the footpath too.

17. JR advised that he had met with Nick Harries and agreed a programme moving forward.

9. Community Engagement

18. Nothing to report

Any other Business

19. None

Date and Time of the next meeting

21st October 2021 @ 17:00 on Zoom, GP to provide invite