

WHATLEY LIAISON MEETING
17 July 2019
Whatley Quarry Area Office

PRESENT:

Justin Collis – Whatley Production Manager
Alex Hemming – Senior Landscape Architect
Trystan Mabbitt – Land & Mineral Resources Manager
Adam Chapman – Senior Geologist
Dawn Carpenter – Hanson Area Clerk
Dave McGinty – EPC Explosives Supervisor

Jane Butcher – Whatley PC
Will Palmer – Whatley Resident
Steve West – Mells PC

APOLOGIES:

Ian Strachan, Ben Dormer, Martin Symons, Richard Francis

Justin made the introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting, he gave apologies from Ben and Ian who had been called away to deal with an issue in the Quarry

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 17 April 2019 meeting were distributed and approved as a true record.

Operational Overview

This remains unchanged from the report at April's meeting. The sinking is continuing in Level 8 and we will soon be putting in a sump for Level 9. Production and Sales are in line with budget of 5.5mt.

The trains to Hinkley Point C have been delayed due to issues outside our control, but they are due to start next week. We expect to send 3 trains per week initially, rising to 5, depending on demand. However, some other trains have been moved to run from the Hanson site at Tytherington. The timing of the Hinkley trains is between 1pm and 3:30pm.

The Hinkley project was discussed – it is 2 years into a 10 year plan, however, demand for stone will vary considerably during the life of the project. The Hanson site of Batts Combe in Cheddar is also supplying stone for HPC, but all deliveries from that site will be by road. We will send an invite to Liaison representatives to attend the next Hinkley presentations at Whatley.

Blasting

Justin gave details of the 2 complaints received since the last meeting. We have investigated each complaint and there was no breach on either of the dates in question, all blasts have been recorded and are well below our planning parameters. EPC, our blasting experts have contacted each of the complainants. Offers were made to place monitors at each of the properties.

Questions were put to Dave McGinity of EPC. He confirmed that air over pressure can't be controlled, and weather and cloud conditions do have a significant impact. He also said that the size of the blast does not have an impact on the effects felt. Dave confirmed that blasts are changed and modified continually, to try to mitigate the effect felt by the local community.

Our PPV limit is 9, however all local authorities set different levels.

We are 4 blasts away from finishing Level Zero and are currently down to Level 8. We can go down to Level 11, which is sea level. Over the next few months we are planning to have smaller and more frequent blasts.

There is no plan to move the plant and quarry the area under it.

Dates of blasts are reported on our website, a month in advance:

<http://www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/sites/whatley-quarry-community-page>

Noise

No noise complaints have been received since the last meeting.

Dust

No complaints have been received since the last meeting regarding dust.

In addition to the 2 daily road sweepers, there is also now a beam sweeper twice a week (back to black).

The exit wheel wash has been updated and additional sprinklers are also in place. A chemical additive is being considered to spray on the ground, but this may not be feasible given the Hinkley specifications. Dust suppression sprinklers run on site every 15 minutes and a bowser drives around spraying the roads and yard.

The scalplings pile has been lowered and there are plans to grass it over. There is also a possibility that a buyer may be found for the product, possibly HS2. Trystan said he is in the process of putting in a planning application to landscape the top of the site.

Rail

There have not been any complaints about noise from the rail since the last meeting. Will asked about the track greasers and there seemed to be some confusion:

Martin Symons has since confirmed that there are automatic track greasers in place in Whatley Rail Sidings and at Great Elm, these operate by a pressure sensor but there are also sections of the rail track within the Whatley site which are greased manually.

There are currently 6 weeks of track maintenance taking place

Transport

Will commented that the road seem busier with quarry Lorries. However, Justin confirmed that there has been no change in the volume of sales leaving by road from Whatley but with deliveries of Hinkley stone due to be going by rail, the number of Lorries should be reducing from this site.

No other issues were raised regarding Transport.

Asham and Westdown

Repairs have taken place following damage caused by trespassers and anti 4x4 bollards have been fitted. Fencing of the bridleway has deterred trespassers.

Following a survey of hazardous trees in Asham, Vallis and Whatley, these have all been cut down and removed.

In co-operation with Somerset Wildlife Trust, we have now funded and installed a Bat grille in Asham and The Trust will be monitoring activity from it.

The Mendip Rocks events will be taking place from August to October, organised by the Somerset Earth Science Centre – details are available on our site pages or by searching under Mendip Rocks 201

Information about events is available on our website:

<http://www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/sites/whatley-quarry-community-page>

Planning

As previously discussed, the stone left within the Whatley site is diminishing and a project team are currently working on options for the future. They have been looking at the resources available in Haydons Ground and Westdown, but it is in the very early stages and no strategy has been formed yet.

There was a discussion about Haydons ground, the drilling samples have been sent for analysis but the report hasn't been received yet.

Trystan said that we would be looking to hold a community event in the coming months as he felt that early consultation and engagement with the public would be beneficial to all parties.

Any Other Business

The road outside the quarry exit has recently been repaired by the Highways Dept. Negotiations for the road adoption have been moving forward and Hanson have budgeted for this to take place.

Will asked about the effects the quarry had on the water levels in the surrounding area. He said that the water had stopped flowing for 3 days in the area of Wadbury Weir (no date was given) Trystan said that we are putting data together about this and other questions about water.

Lighting issues – Jane said that the situation had improved but this was possibly due to foliage acting to block light from the quarry. She was asked to let us know if conditions deteriorate later in the year.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 27 November 2019, at 5:30**