

## **WHATLEY LIAISON MEETING**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2019**

**Whatley Quarry Area Office**



### **PRESENT:**

Ian Strachan – Area Operations Manager  
Justin Collis – Whatley Production Manager  
Alex Hemming – Senior Landscape Architect  
Adam Chapman – Senior Geologist  
Dawn Carpenter – Hanson Area Clerk

Jane Butcher – Whatley PC  
John Henderson – Mells PC  
Will Palmer – Whatley Resident

### **APOLOGIES:**

Martin Symons, Richard Francis, Steve West – Mells PC, Trystan Mabbitt – Land & Mineral Resources Manager, Davin Kenwood, Martyn Ford – Somerset CC, Ryan Mockridge - Avon and Somerset Police

Justin made the introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **Minutes of last meeting**

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

### **Operational Overview**

This remains unchanged from the report at July'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.

Current production stands at 5,454,250t

Hinkley Point C ran at 3 to 5 trains per week generally on Mon, Wed and Friday. This has tailed off and will cease on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec to 7<sup>th</sup> January for their shut down period.

We will send an invite to Liaison representatives to attend the next Hinkley presentations at Whatley.

14<sup>th</sup> Dec Production will shut down for new screen installation. The quarry will remain open for sales until mid-day on 24<sup>th</sup> and then re-open on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

## **Blasting**

1x blast complaint of vibration on 14/11 by Mrs Williamson.

970m straight line from firing position L7 East. T 0.804, V 0.938, L 1.080. Planning 9ppv  
AOP 120.5dB(L)

Cloudy weather but seems to be a fault running that way as one experienced before from a lower southern face

There are currently 3 blasts per week and although it has been discussed that the number may increase, this has not yet been necessary.

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.

Justin confirmed that the road sweeper is operating continually and there is also a “beam “sweeper , in operation several times a week and this goes to the local villages as well as the site.

Jane asked if the road signs could be cleaned – Justin will contact Highways to request this

## **Rail**

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

Track maintenance completed and greasers continue to be checked and are still fully functional. New VTG (silver) wagons have replaced HTA coal wagons as part of an MRL upgrade. The HTA wagons are being phased out, the new wagons are quieter. Ian confirmed that the majority of noise from the rail is caused by the wagons as opposed to the tracks.

Whatley generally runs 12 trains a day, at various times though out the day and night.

## **Transport**

1x complaint 3 weeks ago, were a vehicle turned and damaged part of a wall in Mells just before cross roads. No vehicle index or times. Paul Evans visited the complaintive and she was happy with the visit and was not chasing Hanson in any way. Unfortunately she was unable to give the time of day, otherwise the camera on the lorry could be checked.

Road sales to Hinckley have reduced significantly, due to product being transported by Rail.

## **Asham and Westdown**

Rave took place in Westdown Quarry at the end of the summer. Police were called but unsupportive. All resolved on site by Justin who evicted them peacefully and arranged security at Hanson cost. Since that, a meeting was held with Inspector Mark Nicholson and Sgt Rachel Clark.

Letter written to Whatley Parish (Joy Brook) by Justin. This was in reply to questioning from them about the rave. No further communication received.

Some periodic activity with motorcycles but at reduced levels, historically Sunday mid-morning / lunchtime. Justin continues to monitor and engage.

New signs ready to be installed post consultation with Police, Rights of Way on site. Task officer very pleased with the work Hanson do to secure its premises. New fencing has been erected at a cost of £30k.

Ecological surveys are ongoing with Wood plc.

The Bat grill has been fitted, some bats have been tagged and their behaviour monitoring. They are now in hibernation until spring.

Dormice have been found and Otters, but there are no reptiles.

A meeting will be held with Natural England early next year to discuss the site.

Recent coppicing event took place as part of an ongoing partnership with the Somerset Wildlife Trust and there are a further 3 planned this winter, 21 December, 11 January and 29 February.

Information about events is available on our website:

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

## **Planning**

No news as yet, but we expect the strategy to gather pace early next year. Currently we are still exploring options.

The industry has experienced a massive dip in the market recently, which is being blamed on the Brexit uncertainty.

It was agreed that a meeting would be held with the Liaison group before any announcement re future planning applications, was made public.

## **Any Other Business**

A new Operations Manager for Whatley is due to start in January

Road Adoption is still on-going.

Jane asked about plans for the Contractors Area and particularly the lighting which is very bright. Justin will contact her and survey it at night. Alex will look at planting some ever-green trees to screen the area.

A planning application re the "Regularisation of the Contractors Area" has been received by Mells Parish Council but not Whatley. Devon County Council are dealing with this, as they are covering all mineral planning as Somerset do not have any staff in this role.

Ian / Justin confirmed that Hanson have funding available to support local projects - please submit any requests to Justin Collis.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 17:30