

**WHATLEY LIAISON MEETING**  
**17 April 2019**  
**Whatley Quarry Area Office**



**PRESENT:**

Ian Strachan – Area Operations Manager  
Ben Dormer – Unit Manager Whatley Quarry  
Keelan McNulty – Graduate Trainee  
Dawn Carpenter – Hanson Area Clerk

Jane Butcher – Whatley PC  
Davin Kenwood – Whatley PC  
Will Palmer – Whatley Resident  
Martin Payne – Whatley PC  
Amanda Ware – Avon and Somerset PCSO  
Ryan Mockridge – Avon and Somerset PCSO  
Steve West – Mells PC

**APOLOGIES:**

Alex Hemming, Trystan Mabbitt, Martin Symons, Phillip Ham, Martyn Ford,

Ian Strachan made the introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting

**Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of 16 October 2018 meeting were distributed and approved as a true record.

**Operational Overview**

The final extraction figure for 2018 was 5.8mt, with this year due to be the same, at around 5.5mt. Ben gave an overview of the development of the quarry. The southern face is being trimmed and the Level 8 sinking will continue in the summer.

We continue to be very busy with sales. Deliveries to Hinkley Point will be moving to rail next month, with the first train scheduled on 7<sup>th</sup> May. We expect to be sending 3 trains a week to HPC, the timings of the trains have not been confirmed but we are expecting them to be around 7:00am.

## **Blasting**

Ben Dormer gave details of the four complaints received regarding blasting, since the last meeting. We have investigated each complaint and there was no breach on any of the dates in question, all blasts have been recorded and are well below our planning parameters. Offers were made to place monitors at the properties. Ben confirmed that each blast was on a different level and varied in size. Weather and cloud conditions do have an impact on the air over pressure readings.

Dates of blasts are reported on our website, two weeks in advance:

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

## **Noise**

On 19<sup>th</sup> February a complaint was received from a Mr Ingram about noise from the quarry. This was investigated and a processing unit was moved to a different location on site.

## **Dust**

No complaints have been received since the last meeting regarding dust, however issues were raised on the night. Davin said that other quarries do not create as much dust as Whatley. He asked about the “mountain” which is visible from the road. It contains scalplings, a saleable product but as there is no buyer at present, this area is currently being grassed over. However, this product should not create dust.

It was confirmed that the road sweeper supplied by Go Plant, is in constant operation on site and the surrounding roads from 6:00am to 5:00pm. There is a wheel wash at the Quarry Exit, the location was discussed with relation to the main road. Bowsers are also used to spray stock piles and the site. Ben said that he will look at dust suppression on site and see what further measures could be taken.

## **Rail**

Demand for stock movements by Rail continues to be very high and will get busier this year as Hinkley Point deliveries move to rail. Davin complained about train noise at night and said this had increased during the last couple of weeks. He asked about the track greasers which had

previously been introduced. He said that this had been successful at reducing noise but that it had started to increase again. Ian Strachan said he would contact Mendip Rail regarding this issue and ask them to attend the next meeting.

## **Transport**

Vehicle movements should be reducing, with trains going to Hinkley Point. Davin asked about Lorries being overloaded and stone falling from them. He was told that all vehicles must pass through the weighbridge before exiting the quarry and would not be permitted to leave if the lorry was over the legal weight. He also mentioned stone on the road by the roundabouts at Nunney Catch and the Ski Slope. He was told that any issues should be reported to the quarry and would be passed on to the transport dept. Vehicle registrations, location and time of day, could be used to identify the driver.

## **Asham and Westdown**

Fencing of the bridleway is taking place and measures have been taken to prevent trespass into other areas of the site.

Pot stones have been put in place to prevent cars from parking and also as a deterrent to fly tipping. Mendip CC have plans to install cameras in an effort to stop fly tipping.

The PCSOs discussed the law around vehicles entering private land and their efforts to prevent motorbikes from entering Asham. They have also been taking the registration numbers of commercial vans parked in the area and sending a letter to the company concerned. A request was made for more pot stones and soil to tidy the area, which we are happy to supply.

Alex Hemming our Landscape Architect, was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following:

### **Asham Wood**

1. As part of our ongoing management plan at Asham we have opened up 3 glades along the stream to increase light levels to the stream and increase the biodiversity and successional habitat of the stream.
2. We have removed the fence from around compartment 10 (on the plateau) now that it has regenerated above deer browsing height. The wire will be reused where possible on the next compartment to be coppiced in the south of the site near Torr Works.
3. We have carried out a one off thinning in the valley side compartment by compartment 10 and the stream to diversify the ages of the trees.

4. Having repaired the valley bottom footpath this winter I am very sad to say that for the first time in about 7 years, 4x4s have got in and undone most of the good work we have done. I have met contractors to discuss the repairs and also to put 4x4 obstacles in place where they are getting in. I would ask that if anyone does see vehicles down there to report it to the police please and try and get number plates, thanks.
5. We have received a Natural England licence to install a bat grille over the old conveyor tunnel in Asham Quarry. The tunnel was used regularly by bats but because of trespass issues, lighting fires etc it has decreased in use. This licence allows us to install concrete block work and a grille across the front to prevent access and protect the roost. We are working with Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Somerset bat group on this project and work commences this week.

#### Whatley

6. We are about to plant 925 native trees and shrubs on the bench restoration on the top 3 benches at the western and southern flanks of the quarry.
7. We should now have poisoned all of the remaining non-native alders from the perimeter plantations. By poisoning them rather than felling we create valuable and rare standing dead wood habitat for invertebrates, birds and bats.

#### Hazardous Trees

8. We have carried out a hazardous tree assessment across Asham, Whatley and Vallis Vale and that work is underway. All trees associated with public access were looked at including roads, rights of way, houses, haul roads etc.

Information about events is available on our website:

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

## Planning

There is 70mt of stone left within Whatley that is easily accessible. A project team are currently working on options for the future.

Exploration drilling has finished in Haydens ground and the samples are currently being analysed. Another option is Westdown, which contains 160mt

No planning applications have been submitted.

## **Any Other Business**

Complaints were made about the condition of the road by the Exit. Davin said that according to Highways, the road is Hanson's responsibility. Ian Strachan said that the money was in the budget but the road still hasn't been adopted by the council. He will consult our Planning Dept. to get more information and report back.

A discussion was held over unsafe road conditions. The PCSO's said that they don't have the authority to take action over complaints regarding potholes or the state of the road. That lies with the Highways Dept.

Davin said he didn't feel that Hanson deal with issues unless the public complain and he asked for a temporary speed limit of 20mph to be place on the hill by the Exit. This will also be referred to our LMR Dept.

The pavements outside the quarry exit need cleaning.

Several complaints were made about noise at night. A contact tel. list was distributed and it was suggested that contact be made at the time, to the night shift supervisor, who could then investigate and locate the source.

Jane had sent a list of questions, prior to the meeting. Ben confirmed that the wheel wash is emptied every two weeks and drivers are forced to go through it. There are two wheel washes on site, so there would be no issue if one was out of action. Site cleaning is monitored.

The lighting in the Contractors Area and the Top Office is a nuisance to local residents at night. New lighting is planned for the contractor's area and Jane asked to be informed when it is fitted.

Martin Payne asked if there could be more, smaller blasts, to minimise the effects on local residents. Ben explained that this would not necessarily make a difference, but that we do try to minimise the impact of the blasts. Martin asked for a report on the blasts, which will be requested from EPC.

Will Palmer asked for a meeting to be held in three months' time, rather than the usual six months

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday July 17 2019, at 5:30**