

**Batts Combe Quarry**  
**Community Liaison Group Meeting**  
**6<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**Meeting Room at Batts Combe Quarry**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • Cllr Ben Ferguson (BF) CHAIR | Somerset County Council                                     |
| • Cllr Pauline Ham (PH)        | Somerset County Council                                     |
| • Cllr Mike Taylor (MT)        | Axbridge Town Council                                       |
| • Nick Hoof (NH)               | Resident  |
| • Nathan Chard (NC)            | Avon & Somerset Police                                      |
| • Sally Devlin (SD)            | Careers – Kings of Wessex Academy                           |
| • Simon Parkes (SP) (CHAIR)    | Heidelberg Materials UK, Batts Combe Quarry<br>Unit Manager |
| • Michelle Beasley (MB)        | Heidelberg Materials UK, Secretariat                        |
| • Caroline Gould (CG)          | Heidelberg Materials UK, Batts Combe Quarry<br>Operative    |
| • Alex Hemming (AH)            | Heidelberg Materials UK, Senior Landscape<br>Architect      |
| • Ben Ayers (BA)               | Heidelberg Materials UK, Land & Mineral<br>Resource Manager |

**GUESTS:**

- |                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Richard Oliver   | DVSA                          |
| • Ian Healy        | BAM – Blasting specialist     |
| • Richard Hemmings | Resident                      |
| • Dolly Pavey      | Resident                      |
| • Tessa Munt       | MP for Wells and Mendip Hills |

**APOLOGIES AND MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Jim Hardcastle (JH)    | Mendip Hills AONB   |
| • Martin Stoyles (MS)    | EHO Office Sedgemoor District Council                       |
| • Cllr Paul Fineran (PF) | Cheddar Parish Council                                      |
| • James Hynes (JRH)      | Heidelberg Materials UK, Land & Mineral<br>Estates Surveyor |
| • Ruth Amundson (RA)     | Somerset County Council Planning                            |

## **AGENDA FOR BATTS COMBE QUARRY COMMUNITY LIAISON MEETING**

1. Welcome and Chair introductions – Chair Cllr Ben Ferguson (BF)
  - Membership Update
  - Review of minutes and actions from last meeting
2. Landscape and biodiversity update – Alex Hemmings (AH)
3. Batts Combe Site update – Simon Parkes (SP)
  - Blasting specialist presentation – Ian Healy (IH)
  - Quarry development and site update
  - Feedback & Complaints
  - Speed monitoring / Transport
  - Community giving
4. Land and Mineral Planning update – Ben Ayres (BA)
5. Environmental Health update – no attendance
6. Council update – Mike Taylor (MT) Pauline Ham (PH)
7. Local Resident update – Nick Hoof (NH)
8. Police and School update – Sally Devlin (SD) (no attendance from police)
9. AOBs – Richard Oliver (RO)

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome and Chair introduction.**

- BF welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- Membership update – BF asked everyone to introduce themselves. He asked everyone if they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting, and if they had, were they happy for the draft to be finalised. All attendees said they were happy with the minutes from the previous meeting.
- BF went through the actions from the previous liaison meeting.
  1. MB to upload approved minutes from June' meeting to the Batts Combe web page. **Complete**
  2. MB to upload draft minutes from this meeting to the Batts Combe web page. **Complete**
  3. SP to invite blast specialist to next meeting. **Complete**
  4. NH to ask residents if they would like more info on blasting. **Complete**
  5. SP to check if residents can use Batts Combe's speed gun. **Complete – SP said no due to insurance and duty of care reasons, but NH said residents are welcome to go along with him when he is speed monitoring.**
  6. SP to review sheeting data. **Camera inoperative – keep for next meeting.**
  7. SP to add "adequate sheeting" to the agenda at the next transport meeting. **Complete**
  8. PH to advise who to email at Fairlands Middle School about QLA. **Application date now expired.**
  9. PH to speak to Highways at the next council meeting about road repairs/resurfacing. **PH said due to the council budget being used for 2024/2025 tax year, only emergency repairs were being done until 1<sup>st</sup> April where the budget will renew, and the program of repairs will continue. SP added that Somerset Council had contracted HMUK to resurface Warrens Hill in March but had no further details.**
  10. NH to send PH a photo of the blocked ditch causing flooding. **Complete**
  11. MB to send PH link to community giving page. **Complete**
  12. SP to include dust monitoring data in the agenda for the next meeting. **Complete**

### **2. Landscape & Biodiversity update**

- AH said the thermal drone survey for goats and sheep was updated in January in conjunction with Longleat and National Trust so a site wide overview could be gained. She said sheep numbers were up at Batts Combe but goat numbers had fallen.
- AH said a meeting with the stalker occurred today with a view of starting to manage sheep and goat numbers on site. She said she wanted to make NC aware as shooting will be taking place soon on our land, we do not have dates yet, but the stalker will have a letter of intent with him should any concerns be raised to Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
- AH said the information boards for The Perch have arrived and we are waiting for dry weather to get them put up. She said the lower area of bracken and bramble on The Perch have been flailed to keep the grass open.
- AH said the upper area of rank rough grass on The Perch is due to be cut and collected. Collecting the material will help to remove fertility from the soil and improve the wildflower grassland habitats.

- AH said a 200m stretch of footpath in the western woodlands on The Perch has been coppiced to improve the woodland habitat for dormice and a new consolidated National Dormouse Monitoring program area will be set up in conjunction with local volunteers.



- AH said new dormice boxes to be provided by Reach, a local centre that provide care and opportunities to people with learning difficulties. We are hoping to work with them going forward to supply bird boxes too.
- AH said a dormouse specialist from People's Trust for Endangered Species is coming to site next week to provide a detailed management strategy for woodland management on site to target dormice.
- AH said she had attended Hugh Sexey school to deliver a talk on 'Quarries and the Environment' to 150 year 5 students.
- AH said 7 students from Kings of Wessex school are working with Batts Combe and the Earth Science Centre to create a bug hotel in an area of the quarry.

### **3. Batts Combe (Heidelberg UK) site update**

#### Blasting specialist presentation

- IH introduced himself to the group and said he had come to explain the blasting process to try and put minds at rest and that blasting is done legally and safely.
- IH said BAM, the company he works for carried out 1750 blasts last year and all of them were within the planning consent. He said the perception of the blasts are felt differently by different people, and that buildings radiate vibration.

IH went through the presentation on blasting.

- NH said lots of the buildings around here are old and not built to the same standards they are nowadays. The explosions cause the windows to rattle, things on the shelf move, feels like the house is moving. He said are you saying you can pretty much guarantee there will be no damage.

- IH said yes, it's the perception of the blast. For instance, if it's raining, there is heavy cloud cover, which level in the quarry we are blasting, wind direction. There are lots of conditions that can change the perception of how the blast is felt.
- NH said he felt something has changed recently as he never used to feel the blasts, but in the last few months he does and felt they could possibly be causing damage to his property.
- IH said we monitor all blasts, and the monitoring is normally done close to the quarry as the further it is away, the lower the readings will be. He said we can organise some monitoring at residents' properties.
- BF asked what the monitor was reading.
- IH said it reads air over pressure (AOP) which is measured in decibels and vibration which is measured in peak particle velocity (PPV) in mm/s.
- DP said it has been suggested that my house could be on a particular shelf causing more vibration than my neighbours may feel.
- IH said we can offer long term monitoring which can cover 6 or 7 blasts.
- BF said has monitoring at residents' properties been done in the past.
- SP said yes, several times, the last time being at The Bays in Cheddar a few weeks ago.
- RH asked if blast vibrations are increasing.
- IH said no if anything they are decreasing.
- RH said he feels the blasts more so now than in the past. He said sometimes they are significant and sometimes not.
- SP said how people may experience blasting can depend on which level of the quarry we are blasting. He added that, the quarry has years of blasting data on record, but the team is keen to get more localised data from monitoring at different locations.
- BF said can we get additional monitoring in place as some residents are complaining.
- NH said something has definitely changed in the last 9 months and I'm concerned over time there will be damage to my property.
- SP said buildings do shrink and move naturally over time causing cracks. He said we will look at long term monitoring and check the data.
- IH said he could hire two monitors and place them long term at two properties.
- DP asked what the strength of a blast would be compared to a minor tremor on the Richter scale.
- IH said a blast would barely show on a Richter scale, it would be 0.001.

IH continued with his presentation showing a video of a blast and explaining all the things taken into consideration when designing a blast specification, including noise, dust, vibration which are all regulated by planning conditions.

A general discussion ensued about how high benches are and what number of tonnes of rock is produced by blasts and how it's processed.

- NH asked if AOP dissipates over distance.
- SP said it depends on where you are and where we are firing. For example, a few weeks ago a blast we did lower in the quarry had the highest vibration we have experienced in 5 years, it was still well below the permitted vibration at 6mm/s and we'd didn't receive one complaint and yet some of our lowest vibrations experienced have received complaints.
- IH said with monitoring, we can data track weather, area, wind, and cloud for example to find out why residents experience blasts differently.
- BA said at some sites we have set up a blasting notification service.
- SP said it's something we can set up here. It's a free service where you will get a text or email on Monday to advise if and when we are planning to blast in the coming week. Then another notification an hour before the blast.
- IH said it has been successful at other sites as people are expecting the blast so it's not a surprise and they are not scared.
- NH said he didn't think the blasts scared people; he thinks the concern is about damage to their property.

#### Quarry development and site update

- SP said we are continuing to develop level 5 (southeast corner). He said we have started to take level 5 which is near the primary crusher and the MPA had been notified.
- SP said recently we have been working on level 8 and 9.

#### Dust monitoring

- SP showed the group some data from dust monitoring. He said a third-party company does the monitoring and we get the results every 4-5 weeks. He said the results always come back as "very low". Example below.

Silver Street – 9<sup>th</sup> December 24 – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024Tuttors Hill – 9<sup>th</sup> December 24 – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024Venns Gate – 9<sup>th</sup> December 24 – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Segment	EAC% /Interval	AAC% /Interval	EAC% /Day	AAC% /Day	Dust Impact Risk
00°-15°	0.4	22.5	<0.1	1.7	Very Low
15°-30°	0.3	19.1	<0.1	1.5	Very Low
30°-45°	0.3	18.5	<0.1	1.4	Very Low
45°-60°	0.2	17.3	<0.1	1.3	Very Low
60°-75°	0.6	33.7	<0.1	2.6	Very Low
75°-90°	0.8	38.1	<0.1	2.9	Very Low
90°-105°	0.4	28.7	<0.1	2.2	Very Low
105°-120°	0.6	33.8	<0.1	2.6	Very Low
120°-135°	0.6	33.0	<0.1	2.5	Very Low
135°-150°	0.7	40.1	<0.1	3.1	Very Low
150°-165°	0.9	45.5	<0.1	3.5	Very Low
165°-180°	0.7	39.6	<0.1	3.0	Very Low
180°-195°	0.7	42.2	<0.1	3.2	Very Low
195°-210°	0.3	20.3	<0.1	1.6	Very Low
210°-225°	0.2	14.2	<0.1	1.1	Very Low
225°-240°	<0.1	8.6	<0.1	0.7	Very Low
240°-255°	0.3	20.8	<0.1	1.6	Very Low
255°-270°	0.4	28.2	<0.1	2.2	Very Low
270°-285°	0.4	25.0	<0.1	1.9	Very Low
285°-300°	0.9	33.1	<0.1	2.5	Very Low
300°-315°	0.7	31.9	<0.1	2.5	Very Low
315°-330°	0.4	26.9	<0.1	2.1	Very Low
330°-345°	0.5	30.5	<0.1	2.3	Very Low
345°-360°	0.4	26.2	<0.1	2.0	Very Low

Segment	EAC% /Interval	AAC% /Interval	EAC% /Day	AAC% /Day	Dust Impact Risk
00°-15°	0.3	19.8	<0.1	1.5	Very Low
15°-30°	0.2	17.0	<0.1	1.3	Very Low
30°-45°	0.2	16.8	<0.1	1.3	Very Low
45°-60°	0.4	20.3	<0.1	1.6	Very Low
60°-75°	0.4	24.5	<0.1	1.9	Very Low
75°-90°	0.4	27.6	<0.1	2.1	Very Low
90°-105°	0.4	29.2	<0.1	2.2	Very Low
105°-120°	0.4	31.1	<0.1	2.4	Very Low
120°-135°	0.3	26.7	<0.1	2.1	Very Low
135°-150°	0.2	18.2	<0.1	1.4	Very Low
150°-165°	0.2	16.7	<0.1	1.3	Very Low
165°-180°	0.2	18.0	<0.1	1.4	Very Low
180°-195°	0.3	20.8	<0.1	1.6	Very Low
195°-210°	0.1	11.6	<0.1	0.9	Very Low
210°-225°	<0.1	9.6	<0.1	0.7	Very Low
225°-240°	0.2	15.1	<0.1	1.2	Very Low
240°-255°	0.2	18.7	<0.1	1.4	Very Low
255°-270°	0.2	18.7	<0.1	1.4	Very Low
270°-285°	0.4	22.7	<0.1	1.7	Very Low
285°-300°	0.2	14.0	<0.1	1.1	Very Low
300°-315°	0.2	18.6	<0.1	1.4	Very Low
315°-330°	0.4	25.3	<0.1	1.9	Very Low
330°-345°	0.4	26.8	<0.1	2.1	Very Low
345°-360°	0.3	23.1	<0.1	1.8	Very Low

Segment	EAC% /Interval	AAC% /Interval	EAC% /Day	AAC% /Day	Dust Impact Risk
00°-15°	0.5	24.0	<0.1	1.8	Very Low
15°-30°	0.4	20.5	<0.1	1.6	Very Low
30°-45°	0.4	20.2	<0.1	1.6	Very Low
45°-60°	0.4	27.3	<0.1	2.1	Very Low
60°-75°	0.3	25.0	<0.1	1.9	Very Low
75°-90°	0.3	26.5	<0.1	2.0	Very Low
90°-105°	0.4	34.7	<0.1	2.7	Very Low
105°-120°	0.5	38.6	<0.1	3.0	Very Low
120°-135°	0.4	31.5	<0.1	2.4	Very Low
135°-150°	0.4	29.4	<0.1	2.3	Very Low
150°-165°	0.5	34.5	<0.1	2.7	Very Low
165°-180°	0.5	30.1	<0.1	2.3	Very Low
180°-195°	0.4	26.8	<0.1	2.1	Very Low
195°-210°	0.2	18.1	<0.1	1.2	Very Low
210°-225°	0.1	11.0	<0.1	0.8	Very Low
225°-240°	<0.1	8.7	<0.1	0.7	Very Low
240°-255°	0.2	12.7	<0.1	1.0	Very Low
255°-270°	0.3	19.0	<0.1	1.5	Very Low
270°-285°	0.2	16.2	<0.1	1.2	Very Low
285°-300°	0.1	10.8	<0.1	0.8	Very Low
300°-315°	0.3	18.7	<0.1	1.4	Very Low
315°-330°	0.6	30.8	<0.1	2.4	Very Low
330°-345°	0.7	32.0	<0.1	2.5	Very Low
345°-360°	0.6	27.5	<0.1	2.1	Very Low

Warrens Hill – 9<sup>th</sup> December 24 – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Segment	EAC% /Interval	AAC% /Interval	EAC% /Day	AAC% /Day	Dust Impact Risk
00°-15°	0.1	11.9	<0.1	0.9	Very Low
15°-30°	<0.1	10.2	<0.1	0.8	Very Low
30°-45°	0.1	12.8	<0.1	1.0	Very Low
45°-60°	0.2	15.1	<0.1	1.2	Very Low
60°-75°	0.1	13.6	<0.1	1.0	Very Low
75°-90°	0.5	33.6	<0.1	2.6	Very Low
90°-105°	0.6	37.4	<0.1	2.9	Very Low
105°-120°	0.5	37.7	<0.1	2.9	Very Low
120°-135°	0.9	43.4	<0.1	3.3	Very Low
135°-150°	0.8	44.3	<0.1	3.4	Very Low
150°-165°	0.7	39.2	<0.1	3.0	Very Low
165°-180°	0.5	33.0	<0.1	2.5	Very Low
180°-195°	0.5	38.3	<0.1	2.9	Very Low
195°-210°	0.2	21.7	<0.1	1.7	Very Low
210°-225°	0.2	21.6	<0.1	1.7	Very Low
225°-240°	0.3	20.7	<0.1	1.6	Very Low
240°-255°	0.4	25.7	<0.1	2.0	Very Low
255°-270°	0.3	22.5	<0.1	1.7	Very Low
270°-285°	0.2	16.8	<0.1	1.3	Very Low
285°-300°	0.3	19.1	<0.1	1.5	Very Low
300°-315°	0.2	14.9	<0.1	1.1	Very Low
315°-330°	0.1	13.6	<0.1	1.0	Very Low
330°-345°	0.2	14.5	<0.1	1.1	Very Low
345°-360°	0.1	13.1	<0.1	1.0	Very Low

## Directional dust assessment matrix

		AAC: dust coverage				
		Level 0: <80%/interval	Level 1: 80 to <95%/interval	Level 2: 95 to <99%/interval	Level 3: 99 to 100%/interval	Level 4: 100% over 45°/interval
EAC: dust soiling	Level 0: <0.5%/day	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Medium
	Level 1: 0.5 to <0.7%/day	Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
	Level 2: 0.7 to <2.0%/day	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High
	Level 3: 2.0 to <5.0%/day	High	High	High	High	Very High
	Level 4: ≥5%/day	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

## Blasting update

- SP said there have been 12 blasts since the last meeting of which the highest PPV recorded was 6.78mm/s and the lowest 1.30mm/s and the highest AOP 115d/b sf lowest AOP 108 d/b.

Date	Shot No	PPV Records	Scaled Distanc	Air Over Pressur	MIC	mic @0.5	Quarry Lev	Easting of Shot	Northing of Shc	Elevation	Location of Vibrograph	gr vib E	gr vib N	distance to vibrograph (m)	Kg of explosive used	Blast Rati	Number of holes	Number of holes charged	Tonnes yield of st	Yield per hole	Burden & Spacing
Wednesday, September 18, 2024	R26-24	2.57	43.1	111	171	13.1	6	346179	155040	150	Unit office	345867	154570	564	4823	6.33	37	34	30545	898.38	4.0 x 4.5
Wednesday, September 25, 2024	R27-24	2.52	54.0	109	138	11.7	5	346330	155004	162	Unit office	345867	154570	635	4477	6.80	47	41	30427	742.12	4.0 x 4.5
Tuesday, October 15, 2024	R28-24	2.35	62.3	110	137	11.7	9	346236	155199	106	Unit office	345867	154570	729	5624	5.6	49	45	31383	697.40	4.0 x 4.5
Thursday, October 31, 2024	R29-24	2.43	60.9	109	137	11.7	8	346288	155145	120	Unit office	345867	154570	713	6460	6.1	56	55	39426	716.84	4.0 x 4.5
Friday, November 1, 2024	R30-24	6.78	71.2	115	67	8.2	N/A	345326	154786	93	Unit office	345867	154570	583	1906	6.6	40	35	12514	357.54	4.0 x 4.0
Tuesday, November 12, 2024	R31-24	1.30	55.3	108	155	12.4	7	346311	155096	134	Unit office	345867	154570	688	4321	5.6	33	31	24267	782.81	4.0 x 4.5
Thursday, November 28, 2024	R32-24	1.93	59.7	109	141	11.9	6	346377	155063	148	Unit office	345867	154570	709	6364	6.2	61	58	38190	675.69	4.0 x 4.5
Thursday, December 5, 2024	R33-24	2.05	47.9	109	164	12.8	5	346314	154990	164	Unit office	345867	154570	613	4663	5.8	38	38	27231	716.61	4.0 x 4.0
Thursday, December 12, 2024	R34-24	2.03	64.5	109	147	12.1	9	346283	155250	106	Unit office	345867	154570	782	9717	6.1	84	76	58939	775.51	4.0 x 4.0

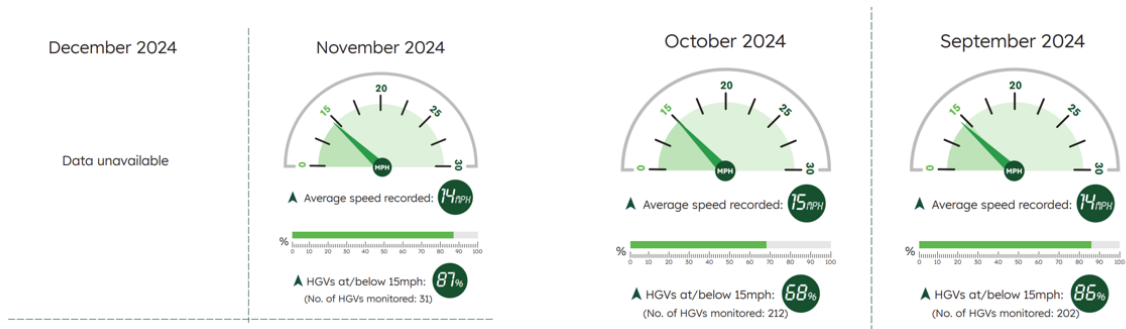
- SP said he had received 4 complaints about blasting since the last meeting.

## Speed monitoring / Transport

- SP showed the group the speed monitoring graphs.
- CG said as you can see from the graphs, the average speed captured is still 15mph or below. She said we performed sheeting checks and speed monitoring at the same time which led to higher speeds as we were sitting outside the quarry gates at a “lower risk” area.

- No data captured in December 2024

### Batts Combe HGV speed monitoring



- NH said the graph shows that over a 3<sup>rd</sup> of the truck were over 15mph.
- CG said the positive of this, they were all within the legal limit. She said we have done a lot of work with our transport department last year.
- SP said I've issued more bans on drivers in the last 12 months than I have in the last 3 years.
- DP said reducing the speed limit has been welcomed, but damage has been caused to properties when lorries are reversing.
- SP said reversing is normally caused by vehicles parked awkwardly and passing laybys being blocked, but we'll continue to work with hauliers.
- CG said the police can speak with car owners who have parked awkwardly but cannot enforce it.
- CG said it when reporting incidents to us, it would really help if you can get footage, as it is key to getting a prosecution, without evidence all we can do is speak with the hauliers.
- SP said we would still like you to keep reporting things you see, and we can use the information to try and influence behaviour.
- NC said you can report it online to 101, upload the footage, and it will go straight to traffic.
- NH said a fellow resident reported an incident, but it did not get supported by the police as the evidence wasn't strong enough.
- NC said he thinks the incident NH was talking about did get sent to traffic.
- NH said it did, but due to lack of evidence, the resident felt the police made them feel like they were lying.
- NC said he would look into it.

### Feedback and complaints

- SP showed the group a list of complaints received since the last meeting.



## Feedback / complaints

Complaints received 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 31st January 2025

30 Complaints received in total to the Batts Combe email address.

- Speeding x 7
- Blasting x 4
- Tractor using mobile phone while driving x 2
- Spilled material x 1
- Unsheeted x 2
- Damage to property by haulier x 1
- Haulier reports of residents being provocative x 6
- Haulier breaking weight limit x 2
- Hauliers arriving early x 2
- Crushing noise at 7am x 1
- Haulier blocking residents drive x 1
- Branch dropped in residents back garden x 1
- Concerns HMUK staff surveying road and marking with white paint outside property x 1

All complaints to be sent to [battscombequarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com](mailto:battscombequarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com) to ensure they are logged and investigated. Texts and emails to personal mobile phones and email addresses may not get actioned or logged.

- NH asked if NC could help with tractor drivers using their mobile phones while driving.
- NC said the issue presently is being incredibly understaffed so no time to do spot checks on traffic. He said if you have video footage, you can upload it and report on-line. He said I have asked the inspector but unfortunately, we currently don't have the resource.

## Community giving

- SP said since the last meeting, Axbridge First visited the quarry as a part of their science lesson and were booked again for 2025. BA said he and AH visit the school with classroom activities as a part of the trip.



- SP said Weare Academy First school had received 6 tonnes of 20mm gravel to create a spiritual garden where students can find a calm reflective space. The material donation came from HMUK packed products, and a local haulier Aldwick Services delivered the material free of charge.

Before



After



- SP said Axbridge TC had a request approved to help clear the community allotments which will use 10 volunteer days and machinery to clear the area plus 20 tonnes of scalplings to make a parking area.
- SP said £250 had been donated to Wedmore Festival to go towards the cost of creating the program.
- SP said Cheddar First School had a request approved for sand, volunteers, and machinery to clear and outside area in preparation to lay some artificial grass which is currently not used due to it being very boggy.
- SP said Axbridge First school were about to make a request for volunteers and material to improve outside spaces.
- SP said 3 students from Kings of Wessex school had been approved for work experience later in the year.
- SD said she was grateful for the monetary donation to pay for a careers banner at the school.



Any request can be made by going to the Batts Combe Community page at [www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/batts-combe-quarry/supporting-the-community](http://www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/batts-combe-quarry/supporting-the-community)

#### **Land and Mineral Planning update**

- BA said he had nothing new to report. He said he had spoken with RA but as yet we still haven't received notice for the periodic review, once received HMUK get 18 months to review the current planning conditions being in line with current and modern practices.

#### **4. Environmental Health update**

- SP said he had recently had a monitoring visit which went well, with just a couple of small actions.

#### **5. Council update**

- PH said due to an expired budget, road repairs will start in April. She said a reorganisation within Somerset Council was still on going and that finances are an issue, with the government recently given permission to increase council tax.
- NH said expired budget, does that mean the financial budget is all used up for the year.
- PH said yes, except for emergency work.

#### **6. Local Resident update**

- NH asked if anything had been done about the state of the road which has been mucky.
- SP said traffic has reduced and he had upped the sweeper hours to 6 hours a day which have been instructed to clean mainly the 3 roads linking the quarry. He said a new sweeper due on 14<sup>th</sup> February.
- NH said has anything been done about the speed at which truck go through the wheel wash and getting a barrier to slow them down.
- SP said he had been liaising with the maintenance team and the barrier solution could be tricky due to not having an electricity source. He said we may have to install speed bumps, but a barrier would be favoured.
- NH said residents had raised 4 properties being hit due to reversing.
- SP said residents had raised any issues direct and the haulage companies had already put right or were in the process of putting right.
- BA said the root cause of reversing trucks is because of vehicles parked where the road was widened for trucks to pass.
- SP said to eliminate reversing in the widened area, we had suggested double yellow lines which the residents opposed to and also looked at the possibility of donating some land to create a car park which the residents also opposed to.

- NH said regarding mobile phone use while driving, how are you dealing with it.
- SP said if there is evidence the driver is banned, with no evidence a stern conversation.
- NH said are the hauliers generally accepting when you pick them on issues like being on the phone while driving.
- CG said it's generally well received, or they say they were not on their phone, they were using their CB.
- NH said can you do anything about the trucks coming in before 6am.
- SP said the garage at the magic roundabout has allowed some trucks to park there and wait as they are regular customers, but some are coming up from Devon or further afield so occasionally may misjudge by a few minutes.
- NH said did you manage to get information on the recent ones I reported.
- CG said yes, we identified them all.
- SP said we have instigated 2 bans recently. He said the camera at the gate had stopped working but would look at getting it repaired asap.
- NH said he reported some fist sized rocks on the road, do you know where they came from.
- SP said we don't know where they came from and it's the haulier's duty to secure their load, however we have done some work on loading trucks.
- NH said to PH, reference the ditch in Warrens Hill that's blocked with what the resident describes as quarry "fines" what is happening to get it cleared as there are concerns it could cause flooding.
- PH asked NH to send her photo's.

## **7. Police and school update**

### **Police update**

- NH said while carrying out speed monitoring in December and January he didn't catch any hauliers going over the 15mph quarry traffic limit.

### **Kings of Wessex update**

- SD said she was excited that some students had been chosen to work with the quarry and the Earth Science Centre to enter the Heidelberg Materials Quarry Life Award. She said the project was to create a "Big Bug Hotel" and she'd love to be able to get the students to attend a liaison meeting.

## **8. AOBs**

### DVSA update

- RO explained they had organised with Batts Combe to carry out 2 days of inspections onsite, early in the morning. He said their initial interest was in tractors with trailers and smaller vehicles.
- RO said he wanted to pass on what he found. He said most were minor, which was advice about the driver and the vehicle. He said there were 2 separate encounters about driving hours, with £1100 issued in fines.
- RO said what we found here is what we would expect to find everywhere we carry out inspections and being able to use this site was ideal due to the lorry park being available for us to use.
- RO said regarding mobile phone use, an HGV licence can be revoked if clear evidence is provided. He went on to say regarding double yellow lines that was mentioned earlier, it's always been an issue to get approval unless there is a parking attendant to enforce it.
- NH asked if RO found tippers to be worse.
- RO said tippers generally suffer more tyre defects due to their type of work.
- DP said we see a lot of tractors and trailers and it seems clear they are not being used for farm work, are there laws for this.
- RO said yes if they are doing haulage work and not farm work. The driver will say they are doing farm work when asked. If they are doing haulage work, they have to have an operator's licence which is issued by the traffic commissioner and has rules for weight limits and age limits of drivers.

### **Summary of Actions**

- MB to upload approved minutes from June' meeting to the Batts Combe web page.
- MB to upload draft minutes from this meeting to the Batts Combe web page.
- SP to review sheeting data.
- SP to organise 2 x long term monitoring at residents' homes for blasting.
- SP to set up blast notification service.
- NC to investigate complaint where resident felt they were not supported by the police.
- SP to get camera working over gate.
- SP to get quote for barrier at wheel wash.
- NH to send photos of the block drain in Warrens Hill.

### **Proposed dates for next 4 meetings**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

[ENDS]