

**Chipping Sodbury Quarry
Community Liaison Group Meeting
25th September 2025
Meeting Room at Chipping Sodbury quarry**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

John Ford (JF)	Yate Town Council
Gary Meyers (GA)	SGC Partnership and delivery officer
Alistair Gregson (AG)	Chipping Sodbury Town Council
Louise Buckle (LB)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
Richard McD (RM)	Chipping Sodbury Chamber of Commerce
James Brown (JB)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Chipping Sodbury Quarry Unit Manager
Alexandra Hemming (AH)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Senior Landscape Architect
Michelle Beasley (MMB)	Heidelberg Materials UK secretariat
Samantha Stagg (SSJR)	James Reed PR

APOLOGIES AND MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rob Sims (RS)	Barnhill residents' representative
Neil Higgs (NH)	SGC Environmental Health Officer (EHO)
Gareth Fielding (GF)	Wickwar Parish Council
Fergal Cummins (FC)	Chipping Sodbury Town Council
Richard Ashton (RA)	SGC Community Spaces Improvements Team Manager
Ben Nutland (BN)	SGC Councillor for Yate North ward
John Davis (JD)	SGC Councillor for Yate Central ward
Adrian Rush (AR)	SGC Councillor for Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge Ward
Karen Hayes (KH)	South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) Public Rights of Way (PROW)
Emma Warlock (EW)	The Friends of Ridge Wood
Bob Evans (BE)	The Friends of Ridge Wood
Julie Reed (JR)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
Dean French (DF)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
James Henniker-Heaton (JHH)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
Chris Connell (CC)	Autumn Book Management Company
Kirsty Crouch (KC)	Autumn Book Management Company
Sarah Sinstead (SS)	Autumn Brook Management Company
Mike Brown (MB)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Southwest Area Operations Manager
Trystan Mabbitt (TM)	Heidelberg Materials UK Consenting & Development Manager
Andy Duncan (AD)	Heidelberg Materials UK Principal Landscape Manager

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction – Chair James Brown (JB)
 - Review of minutes from the last meeting
 - Matters arising from the last minutes
2. HMUK update – James Brown
3. Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update – Alex Hemming (AH)
4. Chipping Sodbury Operational Update – James Brown (JB)
 - Operations and logistics (incl. blasting)
 - Feedback
 - Traffic Management
 - Community Support
5. Land and Mineral Planning update – James Brown (JB)
6. AOBs
7. Date for future meetings

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Chair introduction – James Brown (JB)

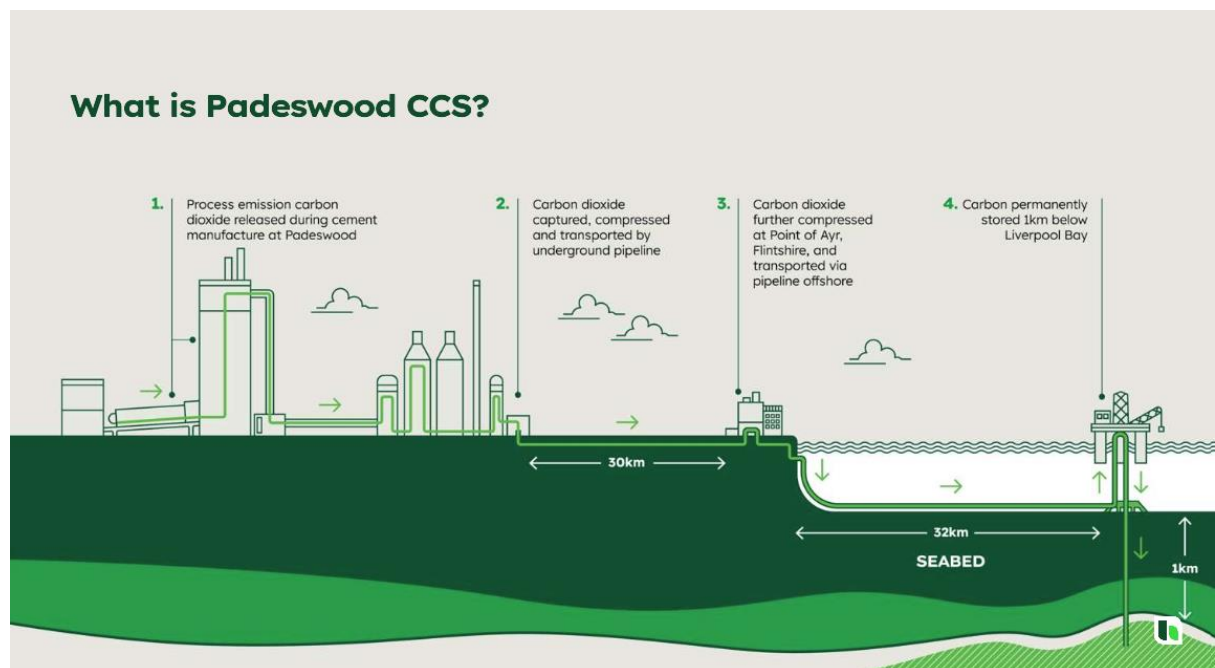
- JB welcomed the group and asked all the attendees to introduce themselves and set out which organisations/groups they were representing.
- JB explained the agenda asked if the group was happy with the content of the draft minutes from the previous meeting. All members said they were happy with the content.
- JB went through the actions from the last meeting.
 - ❖ MMB to add minutes to Chipping Sodbury Quarry community web page. **Complete.**
 - ❖ JB to organise cutting back of hedges of verge at Southfields on Peg Hill. **Complete** – JF advised they would need cutting back again before the spring. LB said there were still a lots of branches dropping on Brinsham Lane.
 - ❖ JB to share details of “smart quarry” at next meeting. **Details in agenda.**
 - ❖ JB to organise road sweeper to clean the road from the churned-up verges. **Complete.**
 - ❖ JB to send KC details of the open day. **Complete.**
 - ❖ AH to get contractor to clear broken trees (from the storm) in Brinsham Lane. **Complete** - LB said there were still lots of branches dropping on Brinsham Lane.
 - ❖ MMB to send liaison group contact details to all members of the group. **Complete.**

2. HMUK Update – James Brown (JB)

- JB advised the group that Heidelberg Materials had received a government funding agreement to build the world’s first fully decarbonised cement production process at its Padeswood plant in Liverpool. He went on to show a short video of the process. The video can be viewed at: [Padeswood CCS | Padeswood CCS](#)
- LB asked where the project idea came from.
- JB explained that cement production is carbon intensive, with a large proportion of emissions coming from the chemical process involved in making cement. This means that significant reductions in emissions cannot be achieved just by using low carbon or renewable energy sources. The only way to produce the cement that the UK needs, without emitting large amounts of carbon, is to capture and

store these emissions before they enter the atmosphere. This is why investment in CCS forms a major part of the company's 2030 strategy to fully decarbonise.

- LB asked if the technology was new to Heidelberg.
- AH said it's more about the location of the Padeswood plant, and being able to capture CO₂. Padeswood is uniquely placed to achieve this and the plant forms part of the HyNet project.
- SS said it really sets out the company as leading the way.
- AH said it was incredible technology and investment.



3. **Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update – Alexandra Hemming (AH)**

- AH said there was not much to update on since the last meeting. She said when we met in February felling before bird nesting season. A lot of ecology work had to be done. We bought and put up bird boxes and had already placed bat boxes, of which some were subject to licence which we obtained from Natural England.
- AH said some reports of anti-social behaviour were received from leaving brash in the woodland, so we arranged for it to be cleared and chipped, which is now all complete.
- AH said not much had been done over the summer due to license restraints or birdnesting but there are still some more trees to fell and possibly some road closures after Christmas needed to facilitate this

- LB said Brinsham Road has a lot of fallen branches, possibly the worst it's been.
- AH said a long dry summer hasn't helped and with all the felling it's made them more susceptible to wind and we would get our contractor to review.
- AH asked the group to report anything they see to Chipping Sodbury Quarry email address: chippingsodburyquarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com
- GM said South Gloucester's management plan was outstanding and wasn't sure if Ridge Wood was included, but he would find out.
- GM said a replanting plan will be confirmed once contact had been made with the felling contractors to ensure all felling work has been completed before they start. He said the path will also be looked at in terms of surface repairs if required. There is 750m of path but may have to split into three areas and do one area per year, as there would not be enough money in the budget to complete all at once. There is no desire to make the path into a metalled track.
- AH said this came from a request from a resident to stone the path, it is being assessed as some areas may not be necessary.
- GM said once we have plans we will update everyone.
- AH said it may be worth getting the woodland assessed next year, looking at regeneration and species.
- LB said the gate at the top of Peg Hill is broken and the one at the top has disappeared.
- AH said the contractors still had a bit of mopping up with the felling and signage and we'll communicate when we know more about timescales.
- JF said a lot of people are complaining about the felling, so would it be possible to get something out publicly to let people know in advance.
- AH said the felling was communicated last time. There was a letter drop, an article in the Gazette and a visit to the care home to speak to residents.
- LB asked if the same species were being planted.
- AH said we are trying to diversify. A lot of the Northern part of the woodland was Ash, resulting in an even aged canopy and few shrubs. We will now diversify the species to make the woodland more resilient and biodiverse.
- AH said Great Crested Newt trials had come to an end after 5 years. There is one dog handler in the UK that uses a dog to sniff out the newts which has been very successful.



4. **Chipping Sodbury Quarry operational update** – James Brown (JB)

- JB advised the group of production volumes and targets for 2025.
- JB advised that sinking into level 4 in Brinsham East had been successful and opening level 5 this year.
- JB said Hampstead sink was nearly finished.
- LB asked when Hampstead will be finished.
- JB said this time next year hope to have it finished, weather permitting.
- JB said the Komatsu 950 excavator was working well and that the whole mobile plant fleet is Komatsu.
- JB explained to the group about “Smart Quarry”. He said Komatsu can now take downloads from all the machines and can talk to each other, making them more efficient. Reducing fuel consumption and CO2.

Blasting


- JB advised there had been 22 blasts this year to date.
- JB showed the group data from vibrograph and explaining the blasting is consistent and within the planning permissions.
- JB said since the last meeting in February he had received 2 complaints regarding blasting.

27th February 2025 – 8th September 2025

Highest: 6.7 mm/s
Lowest: No trigger mm/s
Average: 2.3 mm/s

AOP

Highest: 115 dB
Lowest: 104dB
Average: 110 dB



- LB said you don't normally get complaints for blasting.
- JB said we had been blasting in Hampstead; the resident who made the complaint was under the impression there would be no further blasting in that area. Following a to visit his house, he was happy once I'd explained the process.
- JF said a long time ago all the blasts used to be felt, but now we don't which is very good.

Feedback & Community

- JB shared some information on complaints received by the site since the last meeting.
- RM said he had received just one complaint of dust on the Wickwar Road, outside the entrance of the quarry.
- JB said all trucks go through a wheel wash to prevent dust being carried outside of the quarry.
- JB said the quarry open day on the 14 June was a great success. 858 tickets were sold raising £1716 for Chipping Sodbury Festival. He said the exhibition at the Ridge was interactive and we had great feedback on the day about the quarry bus tour; many people having lived in the area for many years and never knew what was behind the gate.
- JB updated the group on some community engagement projects including schools that had visited the site, a donation of material to Brinsham Play Trail Project, some asphalt for the Ridings pathway and some material for the good times live event.

- AG said the artists and trustees were very grateful for the donation. He asked is anyone had any feedback from anyone about the event having an impact on the area.
- Both JB and LB said there was no impact or disruption as far as they were concerned.



- Applications for community support can be made using the following link: www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/chipping-sodbury-community-page/supporting-the-community.

5. **Land and Mineral Planning update – James Brown (JB) Samantha Stagg (SS)**

- Apologies were given that TM was unable to attend. SS said TM is expected to attend the next meeting and will provide a fuller update.
- SS confirmed that the planning application for the temporary haul road had been refused by South Gloucestershire Council earlier this year. The company's next steps are still under discussion, but if decisions are made ahead of the next meeting we will be in touch with local residents.

Proposed temporary haul road



- SS said TM is continuing to work with SGC to work on the development of its local plan which goes to 2041, with the inclusion of Barnhill quarry for homes and small-scale employment. SGC has finished consulting on its local plan, and it is expected to go to the Inspectorate for review soon.
- LB asked if there had been testing in Brinsham West.
- JB confirmed some vibration testing and static noise monitoring had been carried out.

- LB asked how long it would be before extraction in Brinsham East is finished.
- JB said it would be about a year.
- LB said she would like to know asap about next steps for Brinsham West.

6. **AOBs**

- RM thank JB for the invitation to the group, and advised his remit was the High Street and asked if we could let the staff know there are some great places to eat.
- LB asked if the pump is switched off when it rains heavily or if it was automatic.
- JB confirmed the pumps are manually driven.
- LB asked if she needed to let someone know as earlier in the year it got really high, right up to the garage. Would it be possible not to pump when we have heavy rain.
- JB explained it's a natural fjord but he would look into this.
- LB asked if the haul road decision was going to be appealed and that, if so, requested if residents could have input at a meeting with HM prior to this and/or alternative submissions being made.
- SS reiterated that HM had yet to determine next steps but was committed to keeping residents informed. However, what shape that would take would depend on what HM's approach is re the proposal of the haul road going forward.

Contact details.

Email: chippingsodburyquarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com

Chipping Sodbury Quarry Community Web page
www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/chipping-sodbury-quarry-community-page

Heidelberg Careers Web page
www.careers.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en

Summary of Actions

- ❖ MMB to add minutes to Chipping Sodbury Quarry community web page.
- ❖ JB to organise cutting back of hedges of verge at Southfields on Peg Hill again before spring.
- ❖ GM to find out if the management plan for Ridge Wood was one of the outstanding.
- ❖ JB to investigate pumping during heaving rain.

Proposed dates for next meeting

Thursday 4th December 2025 at 17:00

Thursday 5th March 2026 at 17:00

Thursday 28th May 2026 at 17:00

Thursday 3rd September 2026 at 17:00

[ENDS]