

**Chipping Sodbury Quarry  
Community Liaison Group Meeting  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Meeting Room at Chipping Sodbury quarry**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

John Ford (JF)	Yate Town Council
Gary Meyers (GA)	SGC Partnership and delivery officer
Richard McD (RM)	Chipping Sodbury Chamber of Commerce
Andrew Webb (AW)	Chipping Sodbury Chamber of Commerce
James Brown (JB)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Chipping Sodbury Quarry Unit Manager
Trystan Mabbitt (TM)	Heidelberg Materials UK Consenting & Development Manager
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
Alistair Gregson (AG)	Chipping Sodbury Town Council
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
Louise Buckle (LB)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
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
Alexandra Hemming (AH)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Senior Landscape Architect
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 – James Brown (JB)
4. Chipping Sodbury Operational Update – James Brown (JB)
  - Operations and logistics (incl. blasting)
  - Feedback
  - Traffic Management
  - Community Support
5. Land and Mineral Planning update – Trystan Mabbitt (TM)
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 again before spring. **Will be booked in the new year.**
  - ❖ GM to find out if the management plan for Ridge Wood was still outstanding. **Has been received and AH has commented. Time frame for finalizing the plan will be mid next year.**
  - ❖ JB to investigate pumping during heaving rain. **JB said pumping was still in progress and there have been no issues highlighted by residents. He said he believed the incident last year was a rare occurrence given the lack of rain due to a dry summer and so the ground could not absorb the water.**

AW said that in heavy rain, water runs down the road to Yate Rocks which could be dangerous.

JB noted that the feature appeared to be a natural fjord and suggested it may require reporting to the Highway for further assessment.

### **2. Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update – James Brown (JB)**

- JB provided an update on tree felling, noting that hazardous trees not removed last winter due to ecological constraints are now being addressed. Current operations are concentrated around the offices and Ridge Woods. He said following the Christmas break, work will move to highways near the quarry landholding. Any closures or disruptions will be communicated to affected residents in advance, including the planned Brinsham Lane road closure from 26–30 January.
- JB reported that small bird boxes will be installed in the New Year with assistance from staff at The Ridge. Bat boxes will be placed in areas where trees have been felled on Bury Hill Lane. Additional tree veteranisation will also be undertaken to

create wildlife habitats, such as holes and scars in retained trunks for bats and birds.

- JB updated the group on the Ridge Woods management plan, which had been received and commented on by A Hemming and SGC; awaiting feedback from Friends of Ridge Woods. Plan focuses on managing ash dieback and diversifying woodland to ensure resilience for people and wildlife.
- GM reported that 300 trees were planted during National Tree Planting Week in collaboration with the Friends group and other volunteers to restock the woods, with additional planting scheduled for Autumn 2026.
- SS inquired about the species of trees that were planted.
- GM responded that the varieties included Beech, Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Crab Apple, and Hawthorn among others, noting there were ten species in total. He said many of them went in late but the good news is that lots have survived the dry weather.
- GM stated that plans to improve the path's accessibility have been postponed until all tree works are completed. A quotation is currently awaited for replacing the tarmac section back to Greenways.
- JB said the company may also be able to donate some stone for the improvements.

### 3. **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 50% of Hampstead tip ramp had been completed, releasing additional reserve for 2026.
- JB advised the group that the major PLC upgrade to modernise the plant and enable remote operation is ongoing, with works carried out during August and conveyor replacement starting in January.
- JB confirmed that all stockpiles have been cleared from the Barnhill stock yard, and the removal of redundant equipment is currently in progress.

### **Blasting**

- JB advised there had been 28 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 September he had received 1 complaint regarding blasting.

<p>13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025</p> <p>Highest: 6.7 mm/s Lowest: No trigger mm/s Average: 2.4 mm/s</p> <p>AOP</p> <p>Highest: 118 dB Lowest: 98 dB Average: 108 dB</p>	
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- AW asked what time the blasts normally take place, as he's not seen the road closed for some time.
- JB replied normally 12 noon but can vary between 11am and 4pm. He said closing the road has become less frequent the deeper the quarry gets, and that the road has only needed to be closed three times this year out of 28 blasts.

### Feedback & Community

- JB said one complaint had been received since the last meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September, which was about blasting, but he's also received two emails from residents asking when the quarry was closing as it's something they had heard at the open day.
- JB advised the group that the quarry had sponsored 2 Christmas trees for Chipping Sodbury High Street, with a Christmas Wishes banner in situ.



- SS said there is also a discussion for next year about a large prominent tree for the town.
- AW confirmed discussions had taken place regarding a large tree and expressed appreciation to JB for organising the quarry open day in partnership with the Chipping Sodbury Festival. He remarked on being impressed by the significant amount of funds raised for the festival.
- RM noted that the festival committee has disbanded due to a shortage of volunteers, and attendance has been declining year over year. He mentioned that this year's event, supported by the quarry, saw the highest turnout in recent years, but unfortunately, it is likely to have been the last festival.
- JB reminded everyone of the free blast email/text notification service.
- 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](http://www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/chipping-sodbury-community-page/supporting-the-community).

#### 4. **Land and Mineral Planning update – Trystan Mabbitt (TM)**

- TM shared that the planning application for the temporary haul road had been declined and set out the reason for refusal being:

In accordance with the application and accompanying plans, for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development would result in harm to designated and non-designated heritage assets (Little Brinsham Farmhouse and the Holloway), by virtue of changes to the landscape character that contributes to the setting and degradation of environmental conditions resulting from the increased activity associated with the haul road. This harm is not justified against in terms of public benefits to the proposal and is contrary to CS1 and CS9 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy and PSP1, PSP2 and PSP17 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Policies, Sites and Places Plan and the provisions of the NPPF.
2. The haul road, associated engineering works and loss of trees and vegetation would have an adverse and detrimental impact upon the landscape of the area and expand the extent of quarry associated activity into the wider area, contrary to CS1 and CS9 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy and PSP1, PSP2 and PSP3 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Policies, Sites and Places Plan and the provisions of the NPPF.
3. The development would result in the loss of a significant amount of trees and vegetation to the detriment of visual amenity, biodiversity and the environment, contrary to CS1 and CS9 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy and PSP1, PSP2, PSP3 and PSP19 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan:

Policies, Sites and Places Plan and the provisions of the NPPF.

4. The proposals would result in the fragmentation of the SNCI and loss of habitat contrary to CS1 and CS9 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan Core Strategy and PSP3 and PSP19 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Policies, Site and Places Plan and the provisions of the NPPF.

Proposed temporary haul road



- TM said the company had considered the reasons and have decided to appeal the decision and have written to the residents this week to advise them of the decision.
- TM said we will be writing to the inspector and potentially looking at a February hearing. He said there will be a number of stages to go through where we'll be seeking to maximise the mineral reserve and balancing this by considering the environmental impact.
- TM said all the information and links to the planning application will be added to the Chipping Sodbury quarry community page.
- AW asked if there was a good band of stone in the area.
- TM replied yes, and it runs up to the Wickwar quarry.
- AW asked if there were any plans to go into the golf club?
- TM said not in the near future, we have a lot to get on with for the next 10 years but will look into future reserves. He said there is a number of opportunities. For example, there was a plan for housing. We'd be open to discuss with residents any opportunity.
- TM said if you look at our plan for Barn Hill, we developed that 10 years ago and put proposals forward for local development, which we received mixed messages.
- RM asked if the company found Barn Court a viable option, and if so, would you possibly do it again.
- TM said the majority of end-of-life quarries are flooded, but to fill them and use for other restoration is a better use and something we will look at.

## 5. **AOBs**

- RM asked if the quarry would sponsor the 2027 Chipping Sodbury calendar.
- SS asked if RM could get timescale and cost to her for review.

### **Contact details.**

Email: [chippingsodburyquarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com](mailto:chippingsodburyquarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com)

Chipping Sodbury Quarry Community Web page  
[www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/chipping-sodbury-quarry-community-page](http://www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/chipping-sodbury-quarry-community-page)

Heidelberg Careers Web page  
[www.careers.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en](http://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.
- ❖ TM to add information and links to the planning application to the Chipping Sodbury quarry community page.
- ❖ RM to send SS cost and timescale for the 2027 Chipping Sodbury calendar.

### **Proposed dates for next meeting**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 17:00

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 17:00

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026 at 17:00

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2026 at 17:00

[ENDS]