Chipping Sodbury Quarry
Community Liaison Group Meeting
5th March 2026
Board Room at The Ridge

DRAFT 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
Alistair Gregson (AG)	Chipping Sodbury Town Council
Louise Buckle (LB)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
James Brown (JB) (CHAIR)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Chipping Sodbury Quarry Unit Manager
Alexandra Hemming (AH)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Senior Landscape Architect
Jacob Smalley (JS)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Graduate Trainee 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
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
Trystan Mabbitt (TM)	Heidelberg Materials UK Consenting & Development Manager

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Agenda

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

    - Review of minutes from the last meeting
    - Matters arising from the last minutes

2. Chipping Sodbury Operational Update – James Brown (JB)

    - Operations and logistics (incl. blasting)
    - Feedback
    - Traffic Management
    - Community Support

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

4. Land and Mineral Planning update – Samantha Stagg (SS)

5. AOBs

6. Date for future meetings

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MEETING MINUTES

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

- JB welcomed the group and asked if they were 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 previous 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. Work starting in April

  ❖ TM to add information and links to the planning application to the Chipping Sodbury Quarry community page. TM waiting for sign-off to proceed

  ❖ RM to send SS cost and timescale for the 2027 Chipping Sodbury calendar. Will cover in AOB at the end.

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

- JB advised the group of production volumes and targets for 2026.
- 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 structural conveyor work on Conveyor 1 was completed in January which involved shutting the plant off for a week.

Blasting

- JB advised there had been 5 blasts this year to date and had not received any complaints regarding blasting since the last meeting.
- JB showed the group data from the blast monitoring and explained that blasting is consistent and within the planning permissions.

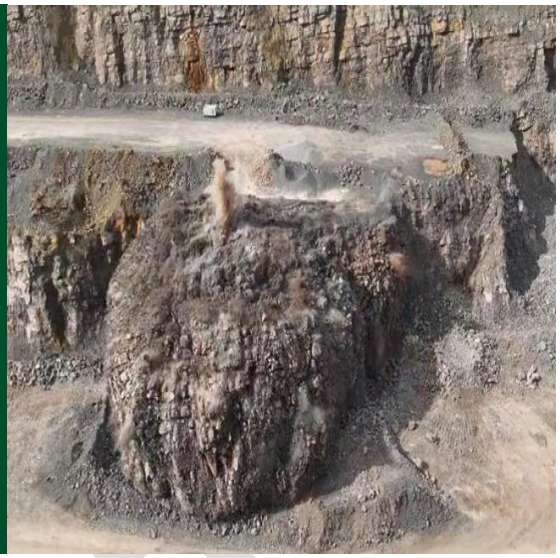
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2026 YTD

Highest: 1.8 mm/s
Lowest: No trigger mm/s
Average: 0.6 mm/s

AOP

Highest: 119 dB
Lowest: 101 dB
Average: 109 dB



Feedback & Community

- JB said since the last meeting, 5 complaints regarding the tree felling across Heidelberg Materials landholding at Chipping Sodbury had been received and 2 residents have been in contact to advise of tree branches encroaching their property.

- JB advised the group the site had an Environmental Health Officer (EHO) visit in which no issues were raised.

- JB said he had hosted two quarry visits this week from Abbotswood Primary School as a part of the children's science lesson.



- JB said the site had committed to sponsoring a golf hole for the local Rotary Club which is fundraising for Southmead Hospital and had also received requested for material from four other groups which were still being considered.

- 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.

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

- AH reported that the tree-felling work in the area is now close to completion, although recent wet weather has slowed progress. The removal of hazardous trees was prioritised to mitigate the risk of them falling and causing harm or damage. Additional tidying along Brinsham Lane to stack brash and cordwood will take place following the felling of the last few trees that required a bat licence. Although operations were hampered by poor ground conditions, further work will be undertaken to rationalise the remaining brash and ensure that both brash and cordwood are stacked neatly.

- LB asked why so much of the shrubs had been cut.

- AH replied that no shrubs were cut, only the hazardous trees.

- LB said it appears that shrubs have also gone.

- AH said only hazardous tree and shrubs that would have been squashed through felling would have been removed.

- LB noted that a number of branches are still falling and asked what action will be taken regarding these.

- AH advised that this will need to be monitored and requested that any new concerns be reported as soon as they are observed. She asked that photos be provided where possible so the team can respond promptly.

- AH explained that complaints have been received regarding verge damage caused by vehicles driving over the edges. Repairs were carried out to the damage caused by the felling contractors however, new damage being caused is by a third party, meaning it is not something the team can enforce or act on.

- AH reported that a small number of trees on Brinsham Lane require felling under the conditions of an updated bat licence, which has now been approved. These trees will be removed under an ecological watching brief to ensure full compliance with the licence and to safeguard protected species.

- AH confirmed that the natural regeneration of the recently felled areas will be monitored, in consultation with the SGC Tree Officer where necessary and in accordance with the conditions of the Felling Licence. Naturally regenerated trees will be fitted with protective shelters to prevent damage from mammal browsing, and species development will be monitored to ensure a healthy mix of long-lived native species. If species diversity or establishment is found to be insufficient, replanting options will be considered. Also, Bird and bat boxes have been installed, and tree veteranisation work has been undertaken as part of the compensatory measures for the tree-felling activities.

- LB asked when the clean-up works are expected to commence.

- AH confirmed that once the team returns to fell the remaining two trees, the clear-up works are expected to begin within the following couple of weeks, subject to suitable weather conditions.

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She also noted that not all of the marked trees will be felled, as some fall outside of the organisation's ownership.

- LB asked whether repairs could be made to the fence to improve security.

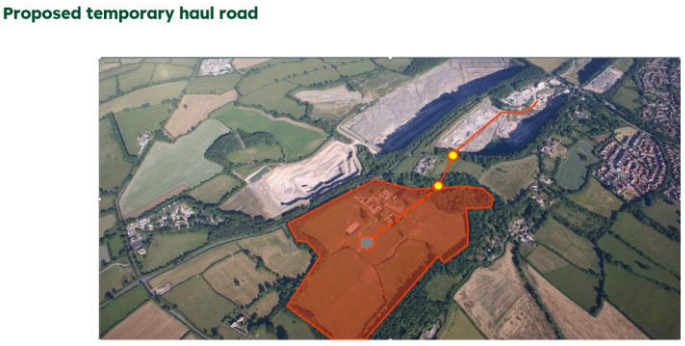
- AH requested that LB send a photograph of the issue so the team can visit the site, assess the situation, and re-establish the boundary where needed.

- AH asked if there was an update on the Ridge Woods management plan.

- GM reported that the council is currently working on eight management plans, all of which are at different stages of development, and that progress is ongoing.

4. **Land and Mineral Planning update – Samantha Stagg (SS)**

- SS reported that TM had sent his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting. TM also asked that it be noted that the company has been advised that its appeal re the temporary haul road application, will now proceed to a public inquiry. No dates for this have been set at this stage.



5. **<u>AOBs</u>**

- RM reported that sponsorship for the 2027 Chipping Sodbury calendar, which he requested at the previous meeting, is no longer required as sales have successfully covered the production costs. However, he noted that the Chipping Sodbury town map—of which 15,000 copies are printed and distributed across service stations, hotels, and other locations—does require financial support. The team is therefore seeking a title sponsor for the map.

- JB advised that the HM team meets monthly to review incoming requests and confirmed that this item will be added to the agenda. An update will be provided once it has been considered.

- AG thanked JB for sponsoring the Christmas trees.

- JB asked whether the plan to install a large Christmas tree in a prominent location on the high street was still going ahead.

- AG explained that the item is scheduled for discussion at the next council meeting. The main issue is providing a power supply to the proposed location for lighting the Christmas tree. He added that they are currently awaiting further information from National Grid.

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

- MB to add minutes to Chipping Sodbury Quarry community web page.
- LB to send AH photos of fence.
- JB to discuss sponsoring Chipping Sodbury map.
- TM to add information and links to the planning application to the Chipping Sodbury quarry community page.

[ENDS]

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