

MINUTES OF LANGFORD QUARRY LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 2nd September 2015
4.00pm at RSPB Offices, Langford Quarry

L20G9

Present:

Councillor M Dobson	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr C Allen	Collingham Parish Council
Mr W Jackson	Collingham Resident
Mr M Copleston	RSPB – Regional Manager
Mr J Harris	RSPB – Langford Reserve Manager
Mr D Coote	Tarmac – District Production Manager
Mr K Mawby	Tarmac – Quarry Manager
Mr T Deal	Tarmac – Estate Manager
Mr D Aldridge (Site Visit only)	Winthorpe Parish Council
Mr M Everett -	Trent Valley IDB

ITEM

1.0 Councillor Dobson chaired the meeting.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES:

Mr Coote introduced Kevin Mawby who has taken up the post of Quarry Manager, having transferred from the company's Bestwood Quarry.

Apologies were received from : Patricia Richards, Tim Musson, Mike Hankin, David Sissons

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the previous meeting of April 2015 were accepted as an accurate record.

4.0 QUARRY UPDATE REPORT – CORPORATE CHANGES

Mr Deal confirmed the sale of Lafarge Tarmac to an Irish based company ,CRH (Cement & Roadstone Holdings), had been completed as part of the Lafarge / Holcim global merger. As of 1st August 2015 the company is trading as "Tarmac".

The sale is of the UK business operations of Lafarge Tarmac, and other than a new trading name and corporate logo, there should be little change in running day to day business.

5.0 QUARRY UPDATE REPORT – MAIN QUARRY

Mr Coote updated members on operations at Langford Quarry.

Production has been in the Trinity land adjacent to the plant site since April and should last until October. With the other mineral now available in the eastern extension areas there is about 240,000 tonnes available to work before needing to start extracting in the southern area (expected around April 2016).

Production has been going well with no complaints received. Output rates are similar to 2014.

Phase 3 restoration works is underway, with about 50% targeted for completion in 2015. Tarmac and RSPB are working closely together on the ground to deliver the desired finished earthworks for the optimum reed bed requirements. Water control is the main objective to enable those restoration works to be completed.

6.0 QUARRY UPDATE REPORT – EXTENSION PERMISSION

Mr Deal updated members.

Notts CC Officers have approved conditional schemes very quickly to enable the planning permission to be implemented in April.

Soil stripping and archaeology watching/ recording has been completed on the two eastern extension areas. There has been more archaeological work than expected, although there have been few notable finds/ artefacts.

The new bailey bridge and footpath tunnel are now fully installed. CF Construction – a Collingham based company – carried out the works. Soil stripping commenced on Tuesday 1st September.

The approach taken in 2014 to allow perimeter hedge rows to grow in height along Holme Lane has been beneficial to screen the new working area. Internal hedgerows will also be allowed to grow.

A separate archaeology watching brief applies to the southern area as there are not expected to be extensive occupation remains, although there will be sampling of the former river channels crossing the site.

RSPB are providing technical support regarding walk over surveys ahead of internal hedge removal.

Tree planting block 1 is established (and will be checked over this winter for replacement of failures). Tree planting block 2 will be planted this coming winter.

7.0 RSPB NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr Copleston explained he has taken on a Regional role for RSPB. He updated members:

Joe Harris has taken on the position of Langford Reserve Manager with Jenny Wallace as the Reserve Warden.

The annual review has been undertaken with Tarmac, and the annual report through to October 2015 is in preparation. This forms part of the planning aftercare reporting.

RSPB have now confirmed the management plan for the next 5 years.

Around 12,500 reeds have been planted out in 2015, with even more planned for 2016. These are grown in the poly tunnels on site. The reeds are a vital component to establishing the high quality habitat within the wetland reserve created from the mineral working.

Grass cutting and hedge panting around the reserve has also been undertaken.

Volunteer member numbers is increasing, and visitor numbers also going up (approach is still not to advertise the site so that visitors are predominantly local).

A number of important breeding birds have been recorded on site in 2015 (Cuckoos, Water Rail, Avocett, Little Ringed Plover). There have been 3 resident adult Bitterns, although n breeding on site yet.

A stakeholder day is being arranged by RSPB, which will be attended by Senior Management group from Tarmac (including some “volunteer” ground work).

Cllr Dobson advised she has invited senior members of Notts CC to visit the Langford Lowfields Reserve to illustrate what can be achieved in conjunction with well planned and operated mineral extraction.

8.0 SLUICE OUTFALL TO RIVER TRENT FROM NATURE RESERVE

Mr Coote confirmed that the design for the sluice had been completed but has had to be put out to tender again because of the scale of the likely cost. The work is now programmed to take place in mid 2016. The sluice outfall is important for both RSPB and for Tarmac to effectively manage water levels within the quarry and the nature reserve, so both parties will be striving to ensure works are completed in 2016.

9.0 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

Cllr Allen advised that there were no quarry related issues to report. Within Collingham village the Co-Op is opening in October, which will have coffee bar facilities should that be of interest to Tarmac to use for meetings etc.

Cllr Dobson reported that the Kings Head pub had closed in Collingham but there is a prospect that could be developed as a bed and breakfast establishment, which would be a good addition to the village. Mr Coote agreed.

10.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERAL LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION UPDATE

Mr Hankin was not present at the meeting, but Mr Deal confirmed there had been two formal monitoring visits carried out in 2015 by the Notts CC enforcement officer. There are no compliance issues. Some further information needs submitting to the Council, which is in hand.

Mr Deal confirmed that the monitoring visits are viewed by Tarmac as a positive and helpful process to ensure as far as possible that the operations are in compliance with planning conditions.

Mr Coote confirmed that the requirement for a review of lighting at the plant site is in hand. It is likely that the replacement of lighting with infra red cameras will not be adopted as there are practical and safety issues. There is however scope to refine the lighting and improve directional control to reduce off site effects.

11.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINERAL LOCAL PLAN

Cllr Dobson advised that presentation of the draft Mineral Local Plan was being deferred from the 3rd September Environment Committee to 19th November. The Plan will be reported to Full Council Committee on 26th November. This was to allow for further consideration of site allocations, particularly in the Nottingham / Newark area. The Examination in Public by a government inspector is still expected around mid 2016.

12.0 FUTURE QUARRY DEVELOPMENT

Mr Deal confirmed the company are working on producing formal Scoping documents for the Southern and Western extension draft allocation areas for Langford Quarry. The company are planning to have plans on display locally in late November / early December 2015 with a view to a planning application being submitted around spring 2016.

The scheme will consider proposals for advanced tree planting on the western side of the extension area, particularly in the context of Holme village.

The company will look to use the same venues as in 2013 ; Collingham Memorial Hall & Holme Parish Church.

Update from meeting ; Venues booked.

- Collingham Memorial Hall – Wednesday 2nd December 2015 – 4pm – 8pm
- Holme Parish Church – Thursday 3rd December 2015 – 4pm – 8pm

13.0 OTHER BUSINESS

No issues raised by members.

14.0 SITE INSPECTION

Members were given brief site inspection tour of quarry workings and RSPB reserve by Tarmac / RSPB

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18th November 2015 – (ahead of exhibitions on 2nd & 3rd December)
6.00 pm for meeting at RSPB office

Notes taken by Tim Deal – Estate Manager