

LANGFORD QUARRY
LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday 18th November 2015 - 6pm at RSPB Offices, Langford Quarry

ATTENDEES

Councillor M Dobson Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr C Allen - Collingham Parish Council
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
Ms P Richards - Holme Parish Meeting
Mr Nigel Glynn - Sustrans
Mr M Hankin - Nottinghamshire County Council Planning

APOLOGIES

Bill Jackson
Tim Musson
Mr Des Aldridge (post meeting)

1. Introductions

- 1.1 Councillor Dobson chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 Members introduced themselves.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- 2.1 The minutes from the previous meeting of September 2015 were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Quarry Update Report – Corporate Changes

- 3.1 Mr Deal confirmed that following the sale of Lafarge Tarmac to the Irish based company, CRH (Cement & Roadstone Holdings) on 1st August 2015 the company is continuing running on a similar day to day business. Livery changes were being made progressively and employees at local level have remained unaffected.

4. Quarry Update Report – Main Quarry

- 4.1 Mr Coote updated members on operations at Langford Quarry.

Production for 2015 expected to be about 460,000 tonnes, similar to 2014.

Extraction in the Trinity area next to plant site to carry on to the year end. Workings to then transfer to Tarmac freehold are before starting in the southern extension area around April/ May 2016.

The market for sales remains to be relatively local around the Newark area, and supporting construction/ road projects in the SE Nottingham area.

Production has been going well with no complaints received.

Phase 3 restoration works is underway, with about 50% targeted for completion in 2015 with the remainder to be done in 2016 2017. 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.

Mr Deal confirmed the archaeological post excavation field work has been commissioned with Trent & Peak, which will be carried out in stages of specialist work over the next 15 months, so that a full final report can be submitted to the County Council in accordance with the planning requirements.

Plant Site lighting – Mr Coote confirmed the work to reduce and redirect the lighting had been recently carried out and has been successful in significantly reducing visibility of lights when viewed from Holme village. Ms Richards confirmed there was a noticeable improvement and thanked the company.

5. Quarry Update Report – Southern Extension Permission

5.1 Mr Deal updated members.

The Bailey Bridge is installed and fully operational. Soils have been stripped and archaeology field work completed on inspecting the former river channel sections. Mineral is exposed ready for start of extraction in April 2016.

Tree planting block 1 is established (survival rate has been good, around 90%, and replacement of failures will be done before end of Feb 2016).

Tree planting block 2 will be planted before end of Feb 2016 as well as hedgerow planting adjoining Sustrans route on eastern side of quarry leading to the bailey bridge.

6. Proposals for further Quarry Extension – Exhibitions Dec 2015

6.1 Mr Deal presented members with the printed Brochure which explained the details of the extension scheme and the two public consultation events (2nd Dec in Collingham and 3rd Dec in Holme). Mr Deal had sent members a pdf copy by e mail in advance of the meeting.

Ms P Richards noticed that the Brochure did not have any times for the consultations. Mr Deal confirmed this would be rectified ahead of the brochures being distributed to houses in Holme, Collingham and Langford on Friday 20th November (The error appears to be from the printers, as the previously emailed pdf version did have the times included).

Mr Deal confirmed the pdf versions would be provided to the Parishes for loading onto web sites. Posters will be displayed on village notice boards. Cllr Dobson recommended providing copies of the Brochure for the Collingham Medical Centre and the Library.

Ms P Richards advised that the Holme church was cold and lighting on the approach path needs to be provided. Mr Coote appreciated comments and agreed that temporary heating and outside lighting was a good idea and the company would arrange that.

Further advanced tree planting – Cllr Dobson asked if Tarmac could carry out more advanced tree planting for benefit of Holme village. Mr Deal confirmed that was the

intention, with a belt of planting proposed on the southern margin of the western working block (subject to owner agreement, this could be done Dec 2016).

Planning timescale - Mr Hankin asked when the planning application would be submitted. Mr Deal advised the intention is for Scoping to be submitted to the County Council in Jan/ Feb 2016 with a planning application in May/ June 2016.

Afteruse Proposals – Ms P Richards raised a general point about after use of the quarry and the need for wider consultation to be undertaken to ensure unintended impacts on adjoining communities did not arise from visitor numbers. Cllr Dobson agreed and confirmed the vision is not to have large scale visitor attractions created. She invited RSPB to elaborate on the work undertaken through stakeholders setting out the vision.

Mr J Harris confirmed that the RSPB “Bigger & Better” document has been published, which brings together the concept vision for the after use of the sand and gravel workings along the Trent valley from Newark to Gainsborough. Mr Harris tabled to document for general discussion and agreed to send members a pdf for information. The document is a first stage to develop further work and input from interested stakeholders, with the idea that the document would help to provide guidance on broad after use objectives to underpin the County Council’s Mineral Local Plan allocations.

Ms P Richards understood this process but voiced concern that there needs to be consultation for local community groups if the document is to be further advanced. The communities require reassurance that after use objectives will deliver benefits and not unforeseen adverse consequences.

7. RSPB Nature Reserve Management Report

7.1 Mr J Harris advised there had been a number of recent organised visits. Smiths of Bletchington (Oxford) had visited to gain ideas about improving their restoration work at their Oxfordshire sand and gravel quarries. The RSPB management team from the Whitesands reserve (Scotland) had visited. Tarmac’s Senior Management team of Directors had visited on a volunteer day to undertake reed planting and see how the reserve was managed.

RSPB’s volunteer force is continuing to grow. Work has been successfully undertaken on: willow scrub control, hedge management, “green haying” (spreading of wild flower seed on bare ground areas).

The RSPB 5 year management plan has recently been updated and the annual report has been finished (which will be provided to Tarmac for submission to the County Council as the formal Aftercare Report for the site).

Bird species have continued to be diverse and otter prints have been recorded widely across the whole reserve, indicating that fish stocks are good, which is an encouraging signal for birds as well.

Ms P Richards asked about emergency access procedures. Mr Coote confirmed that processes are in place for the whole of the quarry, and that improved fencing has been done around the silt lagoons and alongside the Sustrans route heading to the bailey bridge. All contractors must have induction and review Risk Assessments /

Safe Systems of Work. Mr Harris confirmed access to the nature reserve was possible from the fishermans car park at the northern end and through the quarry itself to the RSPB facilities. RSPB staff and volunteers are first aid trained.

Cllr Dobson advised she is still seeking for 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. This would be progressed for 2016.

SUSTRANS Report

Mr N Glynn reported that the Trent Vale cycleway (Newark – Dunham Bridge) has received strong landowner support, and as a result of that Sustrans will be communicating with the parish councils along the route.

Grass verges along the route have been left a bit longer in some places over the summer due to volunteer shortages.

Mr Coote confirmed that Tarmac were happy to help next summer with some seasonal cutting of the cycleway verges in the vicinity of Langford Quarry if that would help Sustrans get on top of things while volunteer force is being strengthened. Mr Glynn thanked Mr Coote for the offer and would get in touch.

8. Sluice Outfall to River Trent from Nature Reserve

- 8.1 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. Parish Council Reports

- 9.1 Cllr Allen advised that there were no quarry related issues to report. Within Collingham village the Co-Op with it's coffee bar facilities is proving very popular.
- 9.2 Ms P Richards advised there were no other issues to report from Holme.
- 9.3 Cllr Dobson reported that there were no reports of quarry related traffic in Collingham.

10. Nottinghamshire Mineral Local Plan

- 10.1 Mr Hankin advised that the draft Mineral Local Plan report was being prepared for presenting to the County Council's Environment & Sustainability Committee on 17th December 2015 (provisional date). If approved by committee the Plan will then need to be reported to Full Council (provisional date 14th January 2016) before final consultation on the proposed plan ahead of an examination by an Inspector later in 2016.

Ms P Richards asked Mr Hankin what the position is regarding planning applications for mineral working in the absence of an adopted Mineral Local Plan. Mr Hankin advised that there is some "vulnerability" while the plan is being adopted as planning applications would in theory be able to exploit a weakness in the Council identifying sites to meet ongoing need. Applications would still have to be considered on their merits and will be required to carry out full environmental assessment. As each phase of the Mineral Plan advances, the plan does hold greater value in plan making decisions.

11. Other Business

11.1 No issues raised by members.

12. Date of Next Meeting

12.1 Wednesday 13th April 2016 (provisional alternative 20th April 2016)
6.00 pm for meeting at RSPB office

Notes taken by Tim Deal – Estate Manager