

BESTHORPE QUARRY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2015

Present:-

Cllr Mel Shaw	Newark & Sherwood District Council
Cllr Maureen Dobson	Nottinghamshire County Council
Mr Mike Hankin	Nottinghamshire County Council (Planning)
Mr Tim Deal	Lafarge Tarmac (Estate Manager)
Mr Andrew Hindmarsh	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust/ Collingham Village
Mr Charles Langtree	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

1 Attendance and Apologies

Cllr Dobson chaired the meeting.

An agenda had been circulated by Lafarge Tarmac on 9th March.

Apologies received from ; Val Wright, Chris Allen, Dave Coote.

Non Attendees : Sam Gorin, Rosie Scott

Tim Deal apologised that members did not seem to have received the minutes from the September meeting and would send those out immediately.

2 Introductions

Charles Langtree introduced himself, although he would not be attending on long term basis.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Matters arising from minutes of the meeting held in September 2014 were reviewed. It was noted that there had not been any hgv traffic matters or other complaints received regarding the operations. Cllr Dobson praised Mr Coote for his continued action to ensure as far as possible that the vehicle routing to and from the quarry is observed.

4 Quarry Update

Mr Deal confirmed that output was around at a rate of about 115,000 - 120,000 tonnes for the 2014 year. The site is operating at around half of the output compared to when the river barge was operating. The on site bagging plant is helping to maintain steady sales. Output in 2015 is expected to be similar to 2014.

Extraction has continued in phase 7, to the west of the plant site. Contractors are brought in to campaign dig the sand and gravel which is then stocked adjacent to the processing plant and fed for processing as required. Silt disposal is continuing in the lagoon adjoining Northcroft Lane, although it is planned to relocate silt disposal to a new area south of the barge conveyor (subject to new working and restoration scheme being permitted).

Mr Coote continues as the acting Quarry Manager for Besthorpe, as well as having his wider Production Manager role.

5 Update on Planning

Mr Deal confirmed the planning applications to extend the end date of the existing planning permissions to December 2023 for the wharf and December 2022 for the quarry were submitted to Notts CC in December 2014.

Mr Hankin confirmed that the applications have been subject to consultation and Notts CC would be sending a formal Reg 22 Report to the company requesting further information. A meeting between Lafarge Tarmac representatives (geology and restoration) has been held today at County Hall to discuss some fine tuning of the restoration scheme which would help to deliver some additional improvements and meet the requests of the County Ecologist. Some further species survey work (badgers, reptiles, newts) is being undertaken

Mr Langtree confirmed that the submitted restoration plan was a big improvement on the approved scheme and welcomed the company's approach to making further improvements. The Trust have also made a number of comments on the scheme. Water level controls to help create shallow islands and loafing areas have proved to be an important part of the existing nature reserve.

Mr Deal confirmed the company were intending to replace the official southern diverted footpath (which is now not included in the restoration scheme following discussion with the Wildlife Trust) with a formal route through the centre of the quarry. There would still be two linking permissive routes. Mr Langtree confirmed the Trust were happy with the permissive route running to the east of Carlton Ferry Lane providing there was a wet barrier to prevent incursion into prospective ground nesting areas.

Cllr Dobson asked if the restoration costs were down to the company. Mr Deal confirmed that was the case and the company are making an accountancy provision on a per tonne basis for all of the restoration works.

Mr Hindmarsh thought that a couple of public viewing hides off Carlton Ferry Lane would be beneficial. These are not in the restoration scheme, and he proposed to approach developers in Collingham village to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the hides.

6 Any Other Business

Mr Deal updated members about the prospective global Joint Venture between Lafarge and Holcim. That venture looks like going ahead, which will result in Lafarge Tarmac being sold to a new owner. The identity of the preferred purchaser has been announced as CRH, who are an Irish based company with world wide cement and aggregates operations. The sale is likely to occur in the first half of 2015, but as it would be the sale of the whole company in the UK as a "going concern" it would not likely result in major structural change.

Mr Hindmarsh advised members about the Trust's work to create greater access around the Mons Pool (Heronry) part of the nature reserve. This would also potentially help with a Sustrans connection. The North west corner of the Mons Pool area is very sensitive and there is a large badger set and important Nightingale nesting areas in the south east corner. Cllr Dobson proposed that Nigel Glynn would be the best point of contact to advance discussions with landowners adjoining the Mons Pool area, and he would be approached in the next couple of weeks at the Langford Quarry Liaison meeting.

Mr Hindmarsh advised that the horse grazing was still being undertaken around the edges of the silt lagoon and the restored margin to Carlton Ferry Lane. Mr Deal was unaware of this and did not think that this was a formal or agreed activity. Mr Deal would investigate.

Cllr Mel Shaw confirmed this would be his last meeting as he was stepping down as Councillor at the forthcoming May elections. On behalf of the committee members Mr Deal thanked Cllr Shaw for his contribution to the committee over the years

7 **Date of Next Meeting**

This is to be held at Trinity Hall, Besthorpe on Tuesday 15th September 2015, commencing at 2.00pm.

Notes taken by Tim Deal – Estate Manager