

Quarry Liaison Meeting held 6 p.m. 11 Jan 2022

Attendance:

Ryan Thomas (QM Dolyhir), Andrew Sainty (Development manager), John Bright (AQM Gore).
Cllrs Evan Jones, Richard Burden, Kieth Morgan, Michael Jones.

Ryan Thomas chaired the meeting as Cllr Michael Jones joined later, due to technical difficulties.

Management Team

Ryan Thomas explained the considerable change in management structure at the Gore. Lewis Jenkins has moved to another Quarry. Tarmac are in the process of appointing a QM for the Gore; in the meantime John Bright is AQM Gore. Ryan Thomas has moved to Dolyhir as QM. Andrew Sainty is assisting the management team with environmental and land management.

Quarry Works

Gore: Work completed on the Northern Ridge, is now at final upper faces. There is enough access to PSV rock for eighteen months extraction before the need will arise to continue stripping at the Southern end above Hill House. Approval has been agreed by Tarmac to upgrade plant in the Gore, including a new primary crusher. Currently two shifts are operating; there is no restriction on working hours in the Gore but the quarry is mindful of local residents and does not intend to continue beyond 11:30 p.m. on weekdays, no working on weekends. The recently constructed footpath is being used.

Dolyhir: Overburden stripping mainly limestone and shale is nearing completion for current operations. Recently tip work has been undertaken, bed-stone drainage in first field. Currently seeking permissions from Powys CC to divert the existing footpaths to the perimeter agricultural track. Biodiversity monitoring work to be undertaken before more land can be stripped towards Stones Farm. An Ecology report is awaited and an asbestos survey relating to farm building roofs, before demolition. An artificial bat building will be constructed in mitigation of demolition of barns and outbuildings. It was the intention to bring limestone back on stream in the near future, potentially for Autumn.

Complaints Procedure

The Community councillors outlined the need for a more formal and transparent complaints procedure. Members of the local community are not sure of the procedure to complain and to whom complaints should be directed. There does not appear to be a log of complaints and actions which can be easily accessed by members of the community. The community council could, if agreed, be party to a log of complaints and their resulting actions; potentially using the C.C. website to make such information available.

The Quarry team assured Councillors that complaints are logged by them on a central register. However, complaints to the quarry are treated as informal. In principle there was no difficulty with

sharing information concerning complaints. There was discussion about recent blasting complaints relating to Gore operations. An investigation by Powys CC (Carmarthenshire) and an intervention by the MP were mentioned. Currently there is a survey to assess potential damage to an Old Radnor property, the report of which is awaited. New monitoring equipment has been installed, one in the Church car park, which measures the arial shockwave as well as ground vibration. Every blast the quarry undertakes is carefully prepared with regard quantity of explosive and detonation sequencing.

Community Support

Councillors were keen that the immediate community, local to the quarries, should benefit from quarry support; it was felt that support by Tarmac was historically to communities further away and less disrupted by quarrying activity. Community projects will be on the agenda for the next meeting. It was pointed out that St Stephen's was intending to construct kitchen and lavatory facilities, this project currently requiring planning approval. Graveyard maintenance was traditionally undertaken by Tarmac and an annual donation to the graveyard fund. Limestone walling stone resulting from the demolition of Stones farm has been promised for graveyard wall repairs.

Andrew Sainty hoped to fit clearance work in with other upcoming work in Dolyhir brook to improve water flow. The quarry were planning to clear vegetation along the public road through Dolyhir quarry to improve visibility and were consulting with Powys CC about traffic calming measures. The possibility of them trimming hedges on other quarry owned land, bordering either side of the public road to Yandro was raised.

Next Meeting

To be held in June 2022; date to be confirmed.

Draft Minutes written by Richard Burden