

Quarry Liaison Meeting held 6 p.m. 26th July 2022

Attendance:

Ryan Thomas (QM Dolyhir), Simon Malki (QM Gore), Alice Radbourne (org. Dolyhir), Cllr Evan Jones (Powys CC), Richard Burden (CC), Evan Jones (CC). There was no official chair but proceedings progressed efficiently with contributions.

Management Team

Ryan Thomas explained another change in management structure at the Gore with Simon Malki now QM; his appointment made at the tail end of Feb. Andrew Sainty has moved to other pastures.

Quarry Works

Dolyhir: Most current work is internally in the quarry resulting in reduced noise on tip-work and local impact. Sales are generally lower due to price increases and lower demand; the volume shifted out of the quarry of high PSV is lower. There have been a few complaints about noise, however, the persistent noise impact due to rock breaking has been addressed; the quarry is operating a later start time in order to alleviate such noise impact. Reversing beepers have been changed to white noise from the high frequency type to reduce annoyance. A noise audit is being undertaken on other plant. In the summer dust control is a major priority and water bowsers are being deployed.

Currently still seeking permissions from Powys CC to divert the existing footpaths to the perimeter agricultural track. Biodiversity monitoring work is still to be undertaken, before more land can be stripped towards Stones Farm. Until ecology reports are received, there will be no demolition of Stones farm - it may be another twelve months. Lime production for agriculture is back on stream since the beginning of July.

Gore: Work is largely inside the quarry resulting in less impact locally. Lower demand has resulted in fewer double shifts; any later shifts finish at 11.30p.m.; there is no working on weekends. The plan for the future is to action stripping at the Southern end above Hill House. Some work on upgrading roads and upper faces on the East side of the Northern reaches. Tarmac have upgraded the crushing plant in the Gore.

NB: Malcolm Lawyer is no longer supporting the Gore and Dolyhir quarries.

Complaints

Gore: one blasting complaint received. At this meeting a complaint that the footpath RB 1391 has been fenced off above The Yatt but has not been officially closed by Powys County Council. The Eight Peaks Challenge published route uses this footpath during the Kington Walking Festival on Saturday 17th September. Request to reopen this path a.s.a.p. was accepted by QM Gore with help to clear some vegetation back to enable competitors to get to the orienteering clipper to be located on the metal gate on the Southern ridge.

Dolyhir: has received several complaints concerning noise (see previous). A complaint also received regarding dust on the public highway from the Dolyhir quarry entrance to the A44 junction.

Community Support

St Stephen's PCC is extremely grateful that the quarry has taken on churchyard maintenance; this is a considerable boost considering mowing is a significant financial outgoing for the Parochial Church Council in the difficult current circumstances. A letter of thanks to Ryan Thomas has been written by the PCC secretary.

Jubilee mugs were very well received; Tarmac support was much appreciated.

Support for Kington Walks casserole evening as supported last year is still awaiting official approval - RT to chase up. The brochure has been produced with Tarmac logos etc.

Limestone walling stone resulting from the demolition of Stones farm has been promised for graveyard wall repairs; will happen in due course.

St Stephen's is intending to construct kitchen and lavatory facilities, this project still requiring planning approval before detailed plans for the project are drawn up. The PCC are seeking support and will submit details when available for consideration.

St Stephen's Tower Clock has read 10 am for some years; the mechanism seems fine but a new winding mechanism is needed to power it.

Trimming hedges on quarry owned land, bordering either side of the public road to Yandro continues to be considered but there are current difficulties to overcome with contractor validation.

Improving the conservation area opposite St Stephen's. A project of benefit to Old Radnor. The scheme is likely to include new stock fencing surrounding, expanding the area with tree planting on the perimeter (part of Queen's canopy?), some tree maintenance of existing oaks and sweet chestnut, a bench with a view across at the Church, a pathway to seating area through an attractive wooden gate.

It was pointed out that there had been discussion in the past of providing a new village hall on land near this area but this had not progressed.

Community Council Website

Needs updating. Ryan Thomas will supply details for publication to Clerk to the Community Council (or indeed there is some information available within these minutes).

Date of Next Meeting

To be held in Nov 2022; date to be confirmed. Draft Minutes written by Richard Burden