

**Went Valley Aggregates and Recycling Ltd
Liaison Committee Meeting - Minutes**

Wednesday 7 September 2022 2pm

Attendees

Tricia Storey – Chair Kirk Smeaton PC
Kate Bowden – Clerk to Kirk Smeaton PC
Gillian Ivey - Chair Little Smeaton PC
Sam Till – Planning Officer North Yorks County Council
Russell Meakin - Went Valley Aggregates
John Carlon – Agent for Went Valley Aggregates
Mark Leivers - Avison Young, Agent for Went Valley Aggregates

Apologies

None

Minutes

Draft previous minutes were approved.

Matters Arising

A request for update on dust monitoring been undertaken at the site was made. JC confirmed that since 6 April (two weeks before extraction operations commenced) the dust consultancy Dustscan setup dust monitoring gauges and sticky pads around the perimeter of the new extension area. Five months worth of dust monitoring data had been recorded, with pads being changed every two weeks.

Due to the severe drought conditions during the summer and the fact that the land was being cultivated during the first two weeks (which set up a control baseline) high levels of dust were recorded. Soil stripping commenced for the following two weeks and there after general production/ operations started.

Drilling and blasting commenced 13th May - considered to be the date for timings associated with planning conditions.

The results today indicate there has been an increase in dust in the area, but this is anticipated to be associated with the very dry weather. Samples collected have been sent for testing to differentiate between farming and quarrying related dust.

JC commented that all quarries were currently struggling to control dust due to prevailing weather conditions and lack of water.

The ecologist Louise Hill had reported at the Restoration Meeting, that monitoring of plants was being undertaken every two weeks, measuring transects at the edge of the quarry and on Brokerdale Plantation, which provided a control area for comparison purposes.

Dust deposition was noted to be high, but this was due to the lack of rainfall over the period April to July, with only 8 mm of rain recorded.

Louise Hill concluded that plants were in a stressed state due to the drought not due to dust -related issues.

JC confirmed that a report for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and County Council had been prepared and was able to provide copies if requested.

The next meeting for the restoration committee was due to be held on 20 September (TBC) TS or GI to be invited.

Regarding dust control RM confirmed that different dust suppression systems were in operation the crusher and screens have spray bars in place and under normal operating conditions the aggregate produced is kept damp. In high temperatures, however, the aggregate does dry quickly. The sand plant is a wet process.

In the processing area, water sprays/water cannons and a water browser is in use.

Minutes

The only complaint reported to the committee was a “massive plume of smoke” which was agreed did not relate to the quarry.

There had been no noise complaints and it was confirmed that no noise monitoring had taken place to date on advice from the noise consultant.

On vibration, it was confirmed that this was undertaken by R&B Rockdrilling, who also design each blast. Generally all blasts were to take place between 10 AM and 4 PM, usually on a Friday.

Vibration had been measured at 6m/s considered to be “quite slow, but still well within limits”.

RM confirmed that a split face was now being worked i.e. two faces 15 m high, rather than a single 30 m high face, which has allowed for smaller blasts.

RM confirmed that traffic levels were currently much lower than had previously been the case at the quarry.

On archaeology, the initial working area of Area 8 had been stripped and searched under a watching brief. Samples have been taken away for evaluation. The only notable finds were some post holes and remnant hedge lines. A report was currently being prepared for submission to the County Council.

On ecology monitoring was ongoing as previously reported. Leaf cuttings were being taken and will continue until October.

On landscaping, it was noted that the previous landscape architects who had retired not yet been replaced.

A restoration scheme is to be submitted within 18 months of commencement of operations. A tweaking to the landscape schedule had already been completed.

A general discussion was had regarding the overall restoration of the rest of the quarry. It was confirmed that this was ongoing and limestone fines and waste from the quarry has been placed against the southern quarry face ready for the importation of soils.

Fly tipping was discussed as this was an issue which was affecting the area generally. RM confirmed that he would not be able to take the waste due to limitations on the permit but would be happy to view and see able to move the waste to a suitably licensed facility.

It was reported that the PCs had posted information on what's and in their magazine regarding the climbing of the bund and access to the quarry generally. The quarry noted that there had been no further reports, and thanks was made to the assistance of the PCs.

On Highway matters ML reported that the county highways officer Gary Lumb had met on site and the extent of the works was now agreed. Diversions would be required for the works and the quarry was awaiting quotes from contractors. It was intended that the works will be completed in 2022.

GL also confirmed that improved signage warning of the quarry entrance would be erected.

AOB

None

Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed for Wednesday 7th December 2pm. KS noted they would not be able to attend and passed their apologies and GI was to Chair.

End of meeting.

Mark Leivers
Avison Young