

BENT FARM QUARRY LIAISON MEETING

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON

**TUESDAY 5th APRIL 2022
AT BENT FARM QUARRY**

Attendees:	C Evans	Astbury Parish Council
	N Sharman	Astbury Parish Council
	B Jelf	Astbury Parish Council
	L Wardlaw	Cheshire East Council
	R Sutton	Local Resident
	P Redstone	Cheshire East Council
	L Williams	Sibelco
	T Green	Sibelco
	M Davies	Sibelco
	D Walton	Sibelco

New members introduced.

The meeting was chaired by B Jelf (BJ). It was agreed that BJ would act as chairperson going forward.
P Redstone (Cheshire East Council) arrived 18.50.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Wells, Mr S Fern, Councillor J. Wray.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (3rd August 2021)

These were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 BJ raised issue of road signage which isn't in place.
- 3.2 L Wardlaw confirmed that the Council have not approved the signage. M Davies (MD) confirmed that construction is continuing but the road crossing is not operational.
- 3.3 EW asked about the appearance of the signage and if Sibelco had any input. L Williams and D Walton (DW) confirmed appearance is dealt with by Cheshire Highways.
- 3.4 BJ asked about the Bent Farm Quarry application approval. Confirmed approved by Cheshire East on 2nd February 2022.

4. Operational Update

T Green (TG) provided an update via PowerPoint presentation with L Williams, MD and DW contributing.

TG outlined the sand extraction area in Bent Farm Quarry and the final phase of soils and overburden stripping to access minerals. This included the removal of the small woodland copse separating the Bibbey 2 and Bibbey 1 quarries. The clearance took place in Autumn 2021 with the overburden team removing material to expose final sand workings in late March 2022.

TG provided an overview of Bent Farm Quarry West (BFQW), detailing the stripping of overburden and stockpiling to allow sand extraction in phase 1. Confirmed the conveyor installation and that we are around 1 month away from first sand extraction.

TG outlined the upgrade of the substation to power the conveyor system and the installation of the structures to form the conveyor route for BFQW sand.

BJ asked whether the tunnel installation programme ran to plan. TG confirmed it went to plan. A few issues with weather and timing of works but generally a well-executed job.

BJ asked if we will work the quarries simultaneously. MD confirmed they will be campaigned separately with Bibbey being campaigned for a number of days before the extraction team move to Holford and work that deposit. MD confirmed that the mineral quality is slightly different so the Holford deposit will predominantly go to industrial applications. The Bibbey mineral will be predominantly used in the foundry industry.

L Williams provided an update on the new extension into BFQW. He ran through the phasing plans to show the advancement of the quarry over time.

BJ and L Wardlaw raised the issue of dewatering and whether it will cause flooding downstream due to the new housing developments.

DW and L Williams confirmed that housing developers should have accounted for Sibelco's existing discharge regime. There is no change from the existing approved scenario in terms of water discharge from the site.

Discussion on tree removal in Bibbey 1 – views in from Wallhill Lane and residents now able to see the working face. DW explained that as the land is technically 'restored' the landowner had asked for the tree screen to be removed. Sibelco consider it should have been done at the end of the quarry life but have to account for the expectations of their landlord.

It was requested that a copy of the powerpoint is circulated to members. L Williams took an action to circulate.

L Williams provided an update on the new signage installed along the A34 and through Congleton to direct HGVs to the site without shortcutting through Childs Lane and Wallhill Lane.

Members confirmed that the situation has improved recently. HGVs were still using this route but residents don't believe they are linked to the quarry. BJ confirmed Astbury Parish Council were pleased with the signage and the action taken by Sibelco regarding the haulier who had been using the Lanes.

5. Planning and Environmental Update

L Williams provided an update via PowerPoint presentation. L Williams presented the environmental monitoring update with all readings within the limits set by the planning conditions.

Periodic noise monitoring took place on 6th October 2021. All results within specified levels.

Boot - Quarry

	LOCATION	Grid ref at nearest perimeter to quarry	Grid ref at noise source	Grid Ref at monitoring position	L1 – Noise level at monitoring position	R1 – Distance from monitoring position to noise source	Calculated noise level at source	R2 - Distance from noise source to this location	L2 – Calculated noise level at this location	L2 – Calculated noise level at this location inc -10 dB(A) screening	Permitted noise level
1	Less-a-Tree Cottage	SJ82825 61229	SJ 83409 61494	SJ 83423 61501	68.0	10	96.0	670	31.5	21.5	53
2	Brownlow Farm	SJ83259 61243	SJ 83409 61494	SJ 83423 61501	68.0	10	96.0	340	37.4	27.4	53
3	Bent Farm	SJ83510 62015	SJ 83409 61494	SJ 83423 61501	68.0	10	96.0	480	34.4	24.4	53

Yard - Processing Plant

	LOCATION	Grid ref at nearest perimeter to quarry	Grid ref at noise source (nearest plant - Dry plant)	Grid Ref at monitoring position	L1 – Noise level at monitoring position	R1 – Distance from monitoring position to noise source	Calculated noise level at source	R2 - Distance from noise source to this location	L2 – Calculated noise level at this location	L2 – Calculated noise level at this location inc -10 dB(A) screening	Permitted noise level
1	Less-a-Tree Cottage	SJ82825 61229	SJ 82862 62090	SJ 82877 62091	56.0	100	104.0	960	36.4	26.4	53
2	Brownlow Farm	SJ83259 61243	SJ 82862 62090	SJ 82877 62091	56.0	100	104.0	1020	35.8	25.8	53
3	Bent Farm	SJ83510 62015	SJ 82862 62090	SJ 82877 62091	56.0	100	104.0	660	39.6	29.6	53

6. Council Matters

Cheshire East Council

None raised.

Parish Councils

Astbury Parish Council

BJ discussed the new roundabout on Sandy Lane and flower planting. Would Sibelco get involved. Could something be done for the Platinum Jubilee to plant in a particular style. Would Sibelco assist. MD confirmed happy to get involved subject to seeing a scheme. Requested we are included in the planning and we will get involved as required.

Brereton Parish Council

None raised.

Smallwood Parish Council

None raised.

7. Any Other Business

RS raised ash removal adjacent footpath. Discussed ash dieback.

TG - Oak trees on main road were being photographed. Assumption it is Cheshire East Council Tree Officer.

N Sharman raised Astbury Village Church. Congregation numbers diminishing, maintenance increasing. Trying to diversify the Church reach/appeal to assist with renovations et al. Would Sibelco support when there is more of a plan in place. MD, DW, L Williams confirmed Sibelco would review and seek to assist where possible.

8. Date of next meeting

TBC.