

## **BENT FARM QUARRY LIAISON MEETING**

### **NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON**

### **TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Attendees:	J Carter	Astbury Parish Council
	S Fern	Brereton Parish Council
	H Baker	Smallwood Parish Council Clerk
	B Jelf	Astbury Parish Council
	A Sutton	Local Resident
	G Wells	Local Resident
	L Williams	Sibelco
	R Davenport	Sibelco
	D Walton	Sibelco

The meeting was chaired by J Carter (JC).

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received by D Muir.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (29<sup>th</sup> October 2019)**

These were accepted as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising**

JC thanked Sibelco for their assistance planting daffodil bulbs on the A34. B Jelf (BJ) highlighted the Wallhill Lane traffic calming measures and it was confirmed this would be discussed later in the agenda. S Fern (SF) noted there was an outstanding action for Sibelco to confirm traffic movements from the last set of minutes. L Williams (LW) indicated that he would provide an email to the liaison group member the following day setting out the figures.

**4. Operational Update**

R Davenport (RD) provided an update via PowerPoint presentation.

RD indicated that they had recently completed an earthworks campaign which lasted 8-10 weeks. Overburden was moved from the last field within the Bent Farm Quarry planning permission area east into restoration. The campaign uncovered around 3 ½ months sand. Another earthworks campaign would take place later in the year.

RD provided an overview of the tailings management system that had been incorporated at the site, explaining that tailings lagoons adjacent to the plant site are dredged using an unmanned

dredger which is controlled on land. The dredged material is sent through three settling lagoons in the extraction area. Here the tailings settle and the clean water is sent back to the plant site. RD outlined that this process is taking place to provide freeboard in the plant site water circuit for tailings associated with future mineral extraction and processing.

JC queried whether the fence line identified on the image shown was the limit of extraction. BJ asked whether this was the original limit as outlined in the planning permission. LW confirmed the fence line was the limit of extraction and there was no change from the original permission in this area. The dig was turning back on itself so that the remaining permitted mineral could be extracted.

BJ questioned why there wasn't a mound on this boundary as was usually the case. RD indicated that this was because the landowner didn't want one.

G Wells (GW) asked was the intention to continue quarrying south towards Child's Lane. He indicated that some time ago he had seen plans showing this to be the case. LW indicated that Sibelco do not have the landowner's agreement to pursue a planning application to extract all the way south to Child's Lane.

## **5. Planning and Environmental Update**

LW provided an update via PowerPoint presentation.

LW re-introduced the Bent Farm Quarry West (BFQW) scheme. He confirmed that planning permission has been granted on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and that Sibelco were working to start extracting mineral by the end of this year. He briefly described the proposals, highlighting there would be two separate quarrying pits; sand would be transported back to the plant site via conveyor underneath Wallhill Lane; and a crossing point would be constructed across Wallhill Lane for mobile plant so they didn't have to travel down this road to access the extraction area. LW indicated that mineral extraction would take place over 8 years before restoration.

JC noted that the 8 years was in line with what was presented at the planning exhibition.

LW highlighted that activities had recently begun on site with advance planting taking place in the north and south of the site and hedgerow 'gapping up' on the perimeter. Vegetation removal had also taken place.

BJ noted that vegetation removal had taken place on Wallhill Lane and asked whether this was where the tunnel would be constructed. RD confirmed this to be the case. JC asked how long the construction would take. RD suggested that it would be around 4 weeks, but that the s278 had yet to be agreed with the Council. LW suggested that works would likely take place over the summer.

D Walton (DW) provided an overview of the time extension for the existing site. He noted that due to the effect of Covid-19 the timings had changed slightly. DW confirmed the following:

- Mineral extraction until 10 November 2025;
- Restoration of Bent Farm Quarry by 10 November 2026; and

- Plant site area will continue to operate under planning permission 19/2173W until 2029 or later (subject to definitive date of implementation) and be restored in accordance with approved plan B01/P09/013.

JC indicated that this coincided with the timings of BFQW. He asked whether the existing restoration scheme was still the target. GW asked whether there was certainty that the plant site would be restored and what would be done with all of the concrete, he queried whether this could turn into a permanent industrial land use. DW confirmed that the plant site would be restored to agricultural land under the site’s planning permission. RD referred to the restoration of the Chelford Quarry plant site and that this would return to agricultural land early this year.

BJ asked about the Ball Mill planning application. RD confirmed that this project had been shelved by Sibelco.

LW provided an update on environmental monitoring via PowerPoint.

Periodic noise monitoring took place on 13th October 2020. All calculated noise levels were calculated to be lower than permitted 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	SJ83420 61539	SJ83415 61541	62.8	10	90.8	670	26.3	16.3	53
2	Brownlow Farm	SJ83259 61243	SJ83420 61539	SJ83415 61541	62.8	10	90.8	340	32.2	22.2	53
3	Bent Farm	SJ83510 62015	SJ83420 61539	SJ83415 61541	62.8	10	90.8	480	29.2	19.2	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	SJ82872 62192	SJ82895 62086	58.9	100	106.9	960	39.3	29.3	53
2	Brownlow Farm	SJ83259 61243	SJ82872 62192	SJ82895 62086	58.9	100	106.9	1020	38.7	28.7	53
3	Bent Farm	SJ83510 62015	SJ82872 62192	SJ82895 62086	58.9	100	106.9	660	42.5	32.5	53

An overview of the sample analysis at Loach Brook was provided. All samples were within tolerances for suspended solids part per million and pH.

Limit	Off site Water Solids	pH
		<= 20.00
	ppm	
16/12/19	7.20	7.9
06/01/20	5.60	7.5
28/01/20	15.80	7.5
30/01/20	15.80	8.2
03/02/20	8.60	8.1
12/02/20	19.80	7.7
18/02/20	6.40	8.4
25/02/20	17.20	8.3
06/03/20	4.80	8.7
16/03/20	17.20	8.6
23/03/20	2.60	8.6
30/03/20	2.60	8.8
07/04/20	1.80	8.7
02/06/20	7.60	8.6
09/06/20	17.60	7.2
17/06/20	3.80	7.9
23/06/20	5.20	7.9
07/07/20	5.60	8.5
14/07/20	8.00	8.1
03/08/20	6.00	7.6
07/08/20	3.40	7.0
10/08/20	5.60	7.8
17/08/20	3.60	8.0
24/08/20	3.00	7.9
02/09/20	8.00	7.8
14/09/20	3.20	7.5
22/10/20	7.40	7.8
16/11/20	5.40	8.3
13/01/21	9.80	7.1
29/01/21	3.20	7.0
02/03/21	6.80	7.6

## 6. Council Matters:

### Cheshire East Council

No representatives present.

### Parish Councils

Astbury Parish Council

JC asked what action had taken place in response to the negative comments on lighting/noise. RD provided an update via PowerPoint on the corrective actions and the ongoing liaison with complainant that had taken place.

JC raised the Wallhill Lane mitigation measures and noted there was uncertainty whether Cheshire East Council had completed the works. He indicated the Congleton Link Road was due

for completion in April this year. He noted that the angle of approach on the Wallhill Lane/A534 had been altered, because of vehicles travelling too fast. RD indicated that kerb had already been damaged. RD highlighted that the speed limit changed to the national speed limit before the junction and that 40mph along the full stretch would have been more beneficial.

Brereton Parish Council

SF raised matters of traffic numbers. LW confirmed this would be resolved following the meeting.

Smallwood Parish Council

H Baker confirmed there were no comments.

**7. Any Other Business**

RD raised the matter of customer collect vehicles travelling through the weight restriction on Wallhill Lane. He noted Sibelco's continued efforts to prevent this from happening including raising the issue with offenders on site and refusing to load them with sand. However, the message from Sibelco doesn't always get to hauliers collecting sand on behalf of customer (i.e. customer collects) because it is not passed on by the customer.

RD asked for direct contact to be made with him when this occurs.

A Sutton (AS) suggested that it's not just associated with Sibelco operations, but a company called Beser that collect from a number of locations in Brownlow. Beser are a pallet company that are based in Stoke-on-Trent.

**8. Date of next meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> August at 5pm. Quarry tour followed by meeting if Covid-19 rules allow.

JC thanks Sibelco for arranging the meeting and highlighted that communication had remained good.