

BENT FARM QUARRY LIAISON MEETING

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 13th June 2017

Attendees: Mr John Carter (Astbury PC)
Mr Stephen Fern (Brereton PC)
Mrs Helen Baker (Smallwood PC)
Mr A. Sutton (Bent Farm)
Mr Phill Critchlow (Astbury PC)
Mrs Judith Critchlow (Astbury PC)
Mr Michael Hurley (Sibelco)
Ms Maria Cotton (Sibelco)
Mr Tony Green (Sibelco)
Mr Robert Jennings (Sibelco)

The meeting was preceded by a visit to the quarry and restoration areas.

The meeting was chaired by Mr J Carter.

- 1. Apologies**
Cllr R Bailey, Mr R Davenport, Ms. E. Williams.
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (8th November 2016)**
These were accepted as a true record.
- 3. Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
- 4. Quarry Developments
(Including environmental update)**
A Green gave an overview of the current workings.

In February 2017 quarry floor material was excavated followed by overburden removal of clay which was placed onto the eastern slopes as part of the approved site restoration. One hedgerow was removed over the winter, outside of the bird nesting period.

Further topsoil removal is planned for late summer 2017, at which time the peripheral soil screening mound on the south side of the site will be constructed. Mineral extraction continues

in the centre east of the site and the extraction face will progress in a clockwise direction around the southern part of the permitted site.

M Cotton provided a presentation and overview of the environmental monitoring on the site. Noise and dust monitoring locations at the site were outlined. Environmental noise monitoring was conducted on the 7th March 2017. Brownlow Farm received a noise level of 26.4 dB(A), Less-a-Tree Cottage at 22.9dB(A) and Bent Farm at 28.5dB(A). M Cotton noted that all these readings fall very well below the 55 dB(A) limit applicable for sand extraction operations.

M Cotton detailed particulate monitoring at the sand dryer. Dryer stack particulate emissions were tested on the 8th March 2017. The Environmental Health Officer has reduced visits from twice per year to once per year since. The dryer/cooler result is at 44 mg/m³ as compared to the 100 mg/m³ limit, while the dryer LEV is at 8 mg/m³ which falls well below the 50 mg/m³ limit.

M Cotton gave an overview of directional dust monitoring, and explained that a directional dust gauge is installed at the site near to Brownlow Farm. The gauge is collected and analysed on a monthly basis and collects dust from all sources in the four compass directions. All results collated show that all levels fall well below 200mg/m²/day which is the limit considered acceptable. The recent results show figures in the range 20 to 40 mg/m²/day.

M Cotton also gave an overview of water discharge monitoring. All weekly results for 2017 so far have been within limits for suspended solids. The discharge to Loach Brook is water removed from the quarry to allow dry working. The average result for the past 6 months has been 6.3 ppm. Overall, the figures ranged from 2.8 to 11.2 ppm which all fall below the limit of 20 ppm.

5. Planning and Estates Matters

M Hurley provided an update on the recent call for sites for Cheshire East Local Mineral Plan in which Sibelco has put forward a number sites. Cheshire East had previously undertaken a call for sites in 2014 after which little progress on the minerals aspect of the Local Plan appears to have been made. The current call for sites is intended to update the previous Cheshire County Council 1999 Replacement Local Mineral Plan.

M Hurley stated that Sibelco has submitted Holford (opposite Bent Farm site) as a proposal site for silica sand in this round of the Cheshire East call for sites. M Hurley also stated that Somerford and New House adjacent to the A54, to the west of Sandy Lane, has also been submitted as a proposal site.

S Fern asked how the sand would be transported from these proposal sites. M Hurley advised that the sand is proposed to be transferred to the existing Bent Farm processing site from Holford by conveyor (under Wallhill Lane) and would be proposed to be pumped back to the current plant site in a pipeline from the Somerford/New House area.

S Fern also asked if Sibelco had lost any potential proposal sites across the country to non-mineral development. M Hurley responded by saying that the area by the A534 and to the east of Sandy Lane had in effect been lost due to housing development. The company had some limited drilling in part of this area which indicated sand resources are present there.

M Hurley advised that the company is continuing to work up a planning application for the Holford site which may well be submitted during 2018. If approved, there would be an overlap with continuing operations at Bent Farm quarry but there is no expectation of an increase of vehicle movements. The company will also be applying for an extension of time for the current Bent Farm site. This application, which may be submitted in late 2017, would not result in any increase in size of the site or any changes to working hours etc.

J Carter asked if there was a plan to quarry south of the current site where there are more houses. M Hurley advised that there are no current plans to do so.

6. Council Matters:

There were no further items from Smallwood and Brereton councils to discuss.

J Carter (Astbury PC) commented in relation to water level rise to the predicted level after the Bent Farm site is worked out and restored.

M Hurley responded by stating that there will not likely to be any need for artificial control of lake levels with groundwater merely returning to its former level. There is, however, provision in the planning consent for overflow to Loach Brook in the unlikely event that this was required.

7. Any Other Business

M Cotton commented on the recent successful Bent Farm Quarry Open Day on the 10th June, enjoyed by as many as 600 visitors on the day with a very positive response. J Carter commented on how well balanced the day was in terms of being orientated to both children and adults of all ages.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 5.30 pm at the site office.