

## **Neil Crump, Quarries Report for PC Meeting – 18 July 2022**

*Please note that Neil will be absent from the meeting and has already sent his apologies.*

### **HALECOMBE QUARRY**

#### **Dave Mattick briefing:**

Dave has written Neil a briefing document on past quarry activities as well as providing a copy of the S106 – a document that supported the planning decision to deepen the quarry.

Dave and Neil are planning to meet on Wed 12<sup>th</sup> July over lunch to run through the briefing.

## **Direct liaison (2-hour meeting) handover with Neil, David Sparkes, Vaughan Gray and Jack Cartwright - Thurs 30th June 2022**

#### **David Sparkes handover:**

Neil is extremely grateful to David Sparkes for his kind handover. David is grateful to relinquish the role and focus on his Rangers work around the village. David is happy for Neil to ask him further questions, he does not want to come to further meetings and considers himself stepped down from the role.

David Sparkes organised a handover meeting for me with Vaughan Gray (retiring General Foreman) and Vaughan's replacement in the role of community liaison, Jack Cartwright (Quarry Supervisor).

#### **History:**

Vaughan shared experiences of past engagement with the village. Including challenging times with planning applications.

Traffic control policy (no loaded vehicles through Mells, Chantry, LoM,, Coleford, Limekiln), Tarmac lorry trackers, as well as weigh-limiting lobbying by 12 villages (including Maiden Bradley and Chapmanslade) were also discussed.

Vaughan and Jack are committed to ensuring good relations with LoM.

I thanked them for all the kind support that they have given and will continue to offer – they really appreciated this.

#### **Information on the site:**

Neil and David had a tour of the asphalt lab and were given information on the ULTILOW warm mix asphalt now being created (see flyer attached). From 1 July 2002, all Tarmac delivered base and binder asphalt materials default to this format. This means that bitumen, requiring higher heats of up to 190 °C is replaced with a 'foam' binder at lower temperatures (as low as 100 °C). This supports Tarmac's net zero ambitions.

Neil was promised a tour into the quarry by Vaughan as part of the Village Fare activities.

### **Supporting our village:**

In addition to the established Community Fund, the quarry team work with LoM and other villages directly (including Coleford). This activity sits under a Tarmac-wide programme to contribute 30,000 hours each year to the local community around their UK sites. With this they are able to provide time and skills. They are typically not able to give additional money to support initiatives.

The exceptions, where they annually allocate budget are for the LoM school (including Xmas presents for the children) and support of the Village Fair (where they have a stand and organise visits to the Halecombe quarry).

To obtain the skills / hours contribution for projects, we need to outline our request in an email to Vaughan and Jack. They then secure sign-off from the site manager / regional managers.

I was encouraged to think about all PC projects that they could support. We simply need to be bold and ask them. The chances are that they will say 'yes'.

NOTE: in a subsequent follow-up call with Vaughan, Neil asked if the quarry might be amenable to the preparation work for the Park Hayes parking project. Vaughan confirmed that this is exactly the type of project that they can easily undertake and well within their skill set. They would do the risk assessment etc, in line with their standard practices.

Neil called Martin to flag that this could be requested and might be a way to save allocated budget to be redeployed on other PC priority areas e.g. use of planning consultant.

### **Supporting the school:**

The quarry has supported the school for many years. Vaughan (post retirement in Dec '22) is hoping, health dependent, on continuing to be a Tarmac ambassador for the school.

School support has included:

- Erection of school equipment
- Maintenance of ground and the pond within the school grounds
- Provision of money for Xmas presents for the school kids
- Provision of the Forest School set-up on the edge of the quarry
- Presentations to the school on safety around and within the quarry
- In addition, Vaughan personally gives the school cakes and sweets at Xmas for them to distribute

In discussion with Vaughan and Jack, a number of topics were raised. This includes upping the safety of children attending the Forest School, with a teacher able to obtain a site radio on each village. This would mean that if there was ever an incident, the quarry team can be raised straightaway and can attend in a matter of minutes following standard protocols that would include one of seven trained first-aiders.

### **Parishioner Leigh Thomas engagement with quarry over rubble on the road:**

Leigh was in contact with a manager who has left the business (now works for Hanson at Whatley). Neil to connect Leigh with Vaughan over email. Neil to then step back.

### **How the village could support the quarry:**

- Removal of now unnecessary plastic tree protectors from across the periphery of the site
  - Neil to raise this in the September 2022 PC meeting – can this be added as an agenda item please?

### **Opening of 'admin' road entrance onto Limekiln Lane:**

- Needs to be completed by quarry by October '22

## **WHATLEY / WESTDOWN QUARRY**

### **Neil attended online Community Liaison Group meeting – 28 June 2022 (17:30 – 19:00)**

The meeting was challenging to participate in because the internet bandwidth from the quarry was poor. So, the people in the room had to turn off the camera to stabilise the audio. It was at times difficult to work out who was speaking or responding.

The meeting was well attended by a range of Hanson staff and included updates on planning, environmental aspects, as well as operational presentations on the impact and measurement of explosions at the quarry.

Neil made contributions in three areas (all of which I have followed-up on and actioned):

- Asking if shooting is allowed in Asham Wood. The answer is 'no'. I flagged that there are areas in the wood that are full of shot gun cartridges (that I constantly litter pick). I asked if they could add signage to remind people that shooting is not allowed, and to inform the public of what to do if shooting is heard. The Senior Landscape Architect, Alexandra Hemmings, has followed up with me on email and asked me to mark on a map where the shot gun cartridges are found and where I would suggest putting signage, which they are currently putting together.
- There was a presentation from Alexandra on the removal of Ash in areas of dieback and removal of dangerous invasive species which they undertake as default on all their land. I flagged the existence of Giant Hogweed in the Hanson-owned field to the east of the village, near the footpath approach to the quarry. I was asked to mark up on a map where this was and send it to Alexandra so they could deal with it. The school had flagged the concern of parents to me on my meeting and follow-up email from Sara Claxton. I have actioned this with Hanson.
- I also flagged extensive littering that occurs on the Northern edge of Asham Wood - again this has been reported to Alexandra.

Following the online meeting, Neil and Andy Bramston (Chantry PC and their quarry liaison person) connected by phone. We are planning to meet in future weeks and discuss working with quarries.