

Minutes of the Banavie Quarry Liaison Group Meeting 20th October 2015, Banavie Quarry – 4.00pm

Attendees –

Adrian Howe – West General Manager (Chairperson of the Liaison Committee)

David Strachan - Area Production Manager

Graeme Platt – Banavie Site Manager

Susan Macmillan – Highland Council, Planning Department

Russell Leaper – Resident

Mark Smith - Highland Council, TEC Services

Gerald McIntyre – Resident

Ronnie Maclean – Resident

1. Apologies –

There were no apologies received

2. Minutes of the last meeting

There were no minutes of the previous meeting available due to Bob Gordon having now left the business.

Adrian Howe introduced David Strachan as the Companies new Area Production Manager for the West and Graeme Platt as the new Site Manager for Banavie Quarry.

He also apologised for the inordinate length of time since the last meeting – attributable to changes in personnel and some long term sickness.

3. Quarry Up-date

a) Environmental Works – Adrian Howe advised that the hydro seeding of the back faces had been unsuccessful. The company believe that the resultant rock face was too steep to support the growth of vegetation. Unfortunately, there is insufficient ground available within the boundary to take further material off to slacken the angle of the batter. The options are currently being examined to see if further land could be made available to take another blast off. The companies services Director, Gavin Mennie, will respond to the planning department directly with proposals.

b) Transport Code of Practice – AH confirmed that the transport code of practice was reissued recently and that following replacement of some of the transport fleet, vehicle ID numbers were being reissued. There was a discussion on vehicles speeding and what could be done to improve the situation. AH said the company would write to our regular haulage companies to re iterate the requirements of the code of practice and similarly with other companies that deliver regularly to the site. It was suggested that the company should be more proactive by monitoring and recording vehicle registrations and speeds. AH said this may not be practical but would look to see if there was an alternative to the SID sign that would provide more information.

c) Quarry Development – AH advised that the site was reasonably busy and that the crushing plant and a blast may well be required before Christmas, or at the latest, early in the New Year. AH also advised that as per the approved planning and quarry

development plans, there would be a drive in the New Year to break through from the front of the quarry into the current water hole behind. The new entrance area would be screened by the existing trees and vegetation.

d) Future work load –

AH advised that the Current night work would be finished by the end of the week and that the Company were not aware of any future night work requirements before the end of the year. There were no big jobs on the horizon for the site but a steady workload of smaller works for the remainder of the year.

4 Review of complaints rec'd:

The Company had received several complaints since the last meeting:-

There was a complaint from the last blast in April regarding vibration and a general feeling that the blast siren was not audible. RM asked if the siren had been moved and if a test of the siren could be undertaken. AH responded that the vibration level of the last blast was well within permitted levels. He also stated that the siren had not been moved. He agreed to undertake a siren test in the coming weeks.

AH confirmed that the company had received a visit from SEPA and the Environmental Health department who were responding to a complaint from the public regarding noise and Dust. The complainant was not substantiated.

There were several complaints received regarding speeding vehicles on the access road. The Company had responded to the complainants directly and AH again reiterated the Companies commitment to try and resolve the issues.

5 Comments from the Community

There was a feeling from the committee that not everyone was receiving the blast notifications. The suggestion was made that it could be done by e-mail and that a note to that effect could be sent out with the community Newsletter. AH said that the company delivered the notification to all areas on the list but agreed to include a note on the next notification asking if people would like notification by Email and that GP would set up a group email for those that responded. It was also agreed that the request should appear in the next community newsletter.

RM asked if the hedge next to the hostel could be cut back as it was obscuring the traffic signs. AH responded that the company could not just go along and cut down a neighbour's hedge without permission. SM agreed to look at the situation.

RM also asked if there could be notification of any low loader movements accessing the site. AH agreed to this but did note that the company did not always get the relevant notifications in time.

6 Comments from Highland Council:

No additional comments

7 AOB:

AH suggested an earlier next meeting so that the committee could have a look around the site and see how things had progressed. He also said he would try and arrange a blast for the same day but this was subject to the suppliers drilling and blasting schedule.

8 Date of next meeting:

16TH February 2016 at 14.00hrs.