

Minutes of the Banavie Quarry Liaison Group Meeting 17th August 2010, Banavie Quarry – 6.00pm

Attendees –

Bob Gordon – Ennstone Thistle – Support Services Director (Chairperson of the Liaison Committee)

Ronnie Maclean – Resident

Gerald McIntyre – Resident

Stephen Fair – Highland Council, Planning Department

Neil Forbes – Ennstone Thistle – Regional Director

Colin Morison - Ennstone Thistle - Regional Production Manager

Andy Sutherland – Ennstone Thistle – Quarry Supervisor

Councillor Bill Clark

1 Apologies -

Jim Tolmie - Highland Council, TEC Services

Russell Leaper – Resident

Chris Strong – Highland Council – TEC Services

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes agreed.

3 Quarry Up-date

a) Environmental Works – Bob Gordon advised that at present there are no outstanding issues to be complied with.

b) Transport Code of Practice – General comment that Ennstone vehicles were adhering to the COP but there were still the odd private individuals that chanced their luck. These culprits will be spoken to by Ennstone staff to resolve.

Bob Gordon advised that the road markings on the road entrance up to the quarry was due to be refreshed as required under planning condition 5 and that this would be carried out in due course.

c) Quarry Development – At present the mobile crushing team is in at the quarry and will be there for at least another 4 weeks.

The quarry development it self has now an established working face developed in the floor as per design and that at present the Company anticipate that there will be a further 3 blasts this year.

d) Future work load – Bob Gordon wished to thank all the residents with regard to their cooperation recently over the night shift operations in April, supplying asphalt materials to the essential road works at Fort William. Due to this cooperation the works were carried out ahead of schedule and in the most efficient manner.

Bob Gordon also advised that Scotland Transerve had enquired about the next stage of road improvements in the Fort William where again they were considering night shift operations. These works were programmed to get done in September 2010 over a 15 night period. These works have been advertised in the local press and that the Company had again been approached about using Banavie Quarry for the supply of materials. Bob Gordon advised that the Company would again be applying for dispensation of normal working hours to supply this material and that they would contact the residents as previously notifying them of our intentions and that we proposed to carry out the same procedures as previously done ie specified hours of operation, only supplying materials to Scotland Transerve, haulage controlled by the Company etc.

Concern raised that this was another request and the question was asked how many more this year. Bob Gordon advised that the Company had this conversation with Scotland Transerve and confirmed that there would not be any other scheduled night shift operation this financial year.

Residents of the committee advised that they wished Stephen Fair to note their concerns but if the Company carried out the operations on the same basis as previously done that they would accept the request.

Neil Forbes advised that the Council had placed in order of some 13000 tonnes of asphalt materials over the period September and October and that these supplies would be carried out during normal working hours

4 Review of complaints rec'd:

Concerns were raised about the last blast at the quarry and the effect on houses, despite the resultant vibration being well with in the permitted limits in the planning consent, it was felt that this was a particularly large blast compared with previous blasts.

Bob Gordon advised that the limits set in the planning conditions are the tried and tested limits and guidance set out by the regulatory bodies following extensive tests that showed that these limits specified have shown that they do not cause structural damage to properties. In addition to this the Company had discussed with the drilling contractor the

concerns raised from residents and will continue to work with the contractor to minimise the impact as much as possible. Stephen Fair also advised that for additional comfort residents could seek advice from an external consultant if required.

It was also noted that some residents had not received the blasting notifications and this would be rectified.

5 Comments from the Community

None received

6 Comments from Highland Council:

None received

7 AOB:

It was noted that the road sweeper employed by the council was still under performing and that the quarry would complain to the Council.

Stephen Fair advised the group that he was leaving his position at the Fort William Office in the near future and that Susan Poole would be looking after matters in the immediate future until a replacement was put in place. It was also proposed that due to the planning resources that it would be more appropriate that a planning representative to attend one of the liaison meetings but would be available if any immediate issues were raised that needed a quick response. The group also discussed the regularity of the meetings and it was agreed to trial 3 meetings a year with a view to having the meetings at 4.00pm rather than the evening.

Bob Gordon to write to the Planning Department to advise of this proposal and their acceptance.

8 Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 7th December 2010 - 4.00pm at Banavie Quarry