

**Went Valley Aggregates and Recycling Ltd
Liaison Committee Meeting - Minutes**

Wednesday 7 December 2022 2pm

Attendees

Carl Vitty – Chaired the meeting on behalf of Kirk Smeaton PC
Kate Bowden – Clerk to Kirk Smeaton PC
Sam Till – Planning Officer North Yorks County Council
Robert Lunn - Went Valley Aggregates
John Carlon – Minerals Agent for Went Valley Aggregates
Chris Ballam – Planning Agent for Went Valley Aggregates

1) Apologies

Mark Leivers
Councillor Gillian Ivey
Councillor Tricia Storey

All attendees introduced themselves and a form was passed around for contact details for the future meetings.

2) Minutes

Draft previous minutes were approved after clarification on the dust monitoring.

3) Matters Arising

Matters were discussed that would be addressed at the meeting. RL provided information on the new ownership and that Mr Meakin had no further interest in the site.

4a) - Dust

A request for update on dust monitoring was made by KB. JC confirmed that since 6 April (two weeks before extraction operations commenced) the dust consultancy Dustscan setup dust monitoring gauges and sticky pads around the perimeter of the new extension area. Monitoring has continued until October when monitoring ceased. A report has been prepared for the monitoring in September and October and will be sent to stakeholders.

The new owner of Went Valley Aggregates and Recycling Limited, Mr Lunn has changed the quarrying method for limestone extraction and blasting on site has ceased after the 27th November 2022. RL described the method. The limestone will be excavated in layers from the surface and taken to the crusher and screen in the base of the quarry. The production will be calculated on a daily basis. Comparing the blasted material which usually took down 15,000 tonnes at any one time the new method produced a stock of 4,000 tonnes.

The stone when blasted produced a lot of fines due to the micro fragmentation of the limestone and non-blasted rock lifted along the bedding planes and joint sets in the rock will produce a better product with less fines and consequently less dust. Dust monitoring will be reviewed with the Ecologist advising WVAR based on the first year's monitoring.

It was acknowledged by ST NYCC that the conditions at the quarry were the worst case scenario as the drought conditions had prolonged the dust deposits on the leaves and if there was no measurable deterioration of the plant health attributable to quarrying based on what the ecologist was saying, then to ensure consistency further monitoring would be required under normal conditions next year and this should be discussed with YWT and the County Ecologist.

RL - With the changes to the extraction method and the reduction in dust causing activities the site would be monitored but it would not continue on an indefinite basis as there is no evidence that the deposition of limestone dust caused damage to plants that preferred limestone country.

KB raised the concern and wood anemones in the woodland and the area had been identified by Friends of Brockdale. JC said that Louise Hill had been involved with monitoring the ecology at the quarry site for the past 15 years and would have information on them. RL reminded the attendees that the woodland was owned by the company.

RL was committed to reducing the impact of dust emissions on the site hence the change in extraction methods. Councillor KV acknowledged the work undertaken on dust monitoring and the benefits of the new extraction method and the reduction of fines.

There was a general discussion about the volume of fines produced from the blasted material and if that is reduced due to the removal of limestone by hydraulic excavator.

RL said that the percentage would be lower, and this would be washed to produce sand and grit.

JC commented that prior to the wash plant being commissioned the fines produced were 30 % and some of this had been washed to grit and sand at + 250 micron and the finer material was limestone clay cake that has been used a soil on slopes against the faces.

RL thought that the volume of fines produced from quarrying limestone from now on would be low and JC thought it would be 10% which is standard as losses. The difference would be made up from importing clean excavation waste from housebuilding and logistics development such as the NEXT development at Field Lane in South Elmsall. The clean excavation material will be used in restoration.

KV discussed the sheeting of wagons and enforcement of doing so as there was some limestone crusher run on the slip road to the A1 which RL was having cleaned up at the time. The policing of sheeting was undertaken by the weighbridge where there was a three strikes and out policy. Overall, most drivers adhered to the rule and no wagons left the site without a sheet after inspection of the load. What happened on the public highway could not be enforced by the company.

RL- The problem was tipper body design as a general purpose vehicle as the tipper body was now designed to carry all sorts of material and to reduce weight so most wagons were filled to the sides of the tipper. A few years ago, aggregate wagon tipper bodied were slightly higher so there was some freeboard around the tipper so material rolling off onto the road was uncommon.

4b) Noise

There has been no complaints regarding noise from the site since the last meeting and none have been recorded since operations commenced 18th April 2022 when soil had been stripped. JC commented that the soil bunds around the working area would baffle noise from the surface working of the limestone and with the drilling no longer required that noise source has been omitted. The limestone is soft enough to break out with a hydraulic excavator to create a face to pull rock from and load to a dumper.

4c) Vibration was controlled in the balst design to 6 mm / second peak particle velocity with an upper limit of 12 mm / s PPV. Now that blasting had ceased that source of vibration was no longer at the quarry so the main source of vibration was the machines tracking over the limestone and the backfill which would only be with 20 metres of the machine.

5) Archaeology

The archaeology field work had been completed in the quarry areas 4, 5, 6 and 7 and also in phase 8a of the east side extension. MAP who took over the archaeology work from ARS completed area 6 to the side of the access road, area 7 the strip to the side of the new working area and the latest work was completed in the spring of 2022 on phase 8 A. The record and report for Area 7 had to be prepared by ARS but they required the T&C's signing and the cost would be +£15.000. There had been a discussion between the previous owner, Mr Meakin on the cost of the archaeology work going forward with ARS and they quoted £150k. JC was instructed by RM to find another archaeology group and MAP was successful and have recorded area 6, 7 and 8A. Mr Lunn, Mr Meakin and JC will review the information required for area 7.

Phase 8C 1 down by Thompson's meadow is many years away so the report for phase 8A will be completed and submitted to the Council.

6) Ecology

Monitoring has been undertaken from April 1st to October 7th and a report provided for each month throughout the growing season. Whilst the ecologist recognises that the season has been unusual in that there has been little rain from March to September the deterioration of the plant life has been due to heat and dry weather not limestone dust deposits on leaves. The forthcoming monitoring will be discussed between RL and Louise Hill before next spring before agreeing a programme with NYCC and YWT.

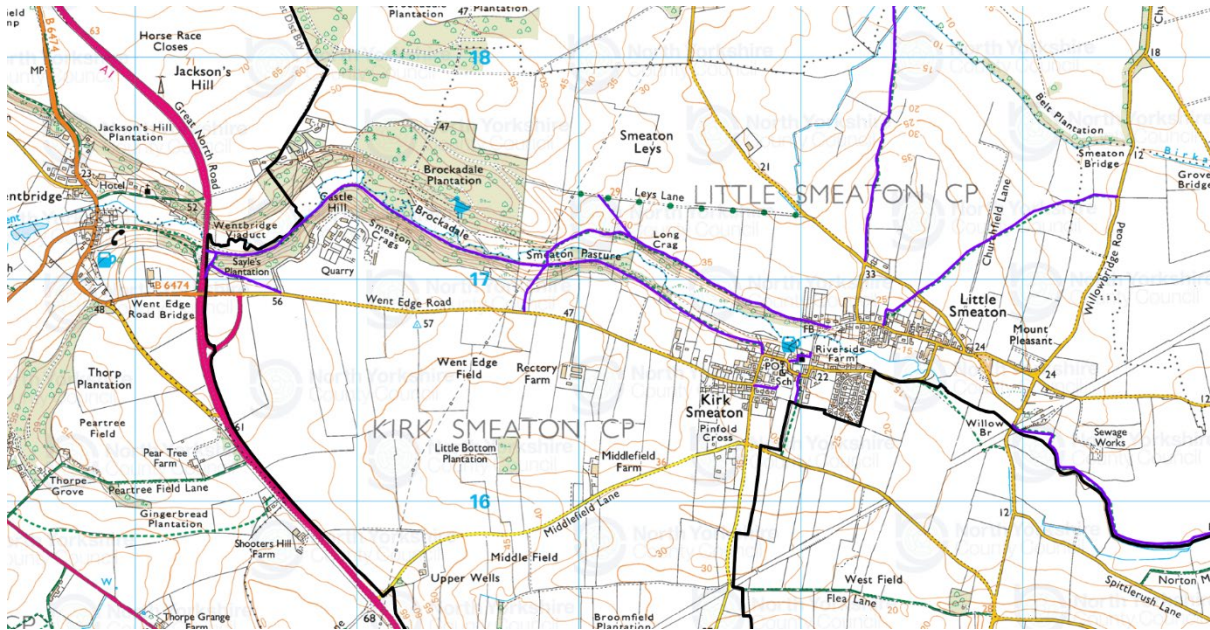
7) Restoration Work

JC described the restoration work that has taken place over the past few years in area 5,6 and 7 as limestone extraction progresses west to the access road and then in area 7 up until February 2020. The fines material has been placed against the face on the south side to support the exposed faces once the limestone has been extracted back to the 30 metres wide standoff to support the B6474 and accommodate the soil stores and landscaped bunds.

Over the past 2 years the material has been shaped up and covered with fines in area 5 and 6 and there is a volume required in area 6 to being that back to restoration levels as a paddock at the original surface level. Area 5 will have a 1 in 4 slope from the surface down to the industrial estate and will be filled with clean excavation waste from developments in the area for housing and commercial activity and then topped off with limestone fines and filter cake from the washing process for aggregate.

WVAR will apply for a standard rules permit 2015 No 39 which will regulate the tipping of material imported to the site to restore areas 5, 6 and 7 on the south side so that more woodland can be planted on that north facing slope. The northside of the quarry will be filled against in area 7 and then follow the extraction in area 8 so that eventually that side, the south facing slope will be planted up with calcareous grassland. WVAR already have a permit to manage waste on site to recycle aggregate so the Environment Agency visit the site regularly.

There was a discussion about the bridle path and the planting along Went Edge Road so that pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists would be off the B6474 from Thompson's meadow to the public footpath across the field to the west of the access road. It was acknowledged that the users would still have to step out onto the B6474 until access could be discussed across Thompson's meadow. See below:



The bridle path was proposed to connect the two footpaths shown in purple and the one from Sayles Plantation is to the side of the access road into the quarry. RL discussed the provision of the first part of the permissive bridle path from Thompson's meadow.

(The relevant drawings are ; M/WE/610/02 for area 8A, M/WE/275/11b and M/WE/275/12.

In area 8 there would have to be some soil placed against the verge to lift the levels and the field is 600 mm below the road.

As areas 5 and 6 were restored the soil bunds would be removed to spread soil over the paddock in area 6 and on the slopes for area 5 so there would be an opportunity to place the permissive bridle path along the B6474 to the footpath at the side of the access road.

8) Road Improvements.

The road improvements were progressing on the resurfacing of the B6474 and discussions were taking place with Highways England for the slip road to the A1 and the County Council on the edging for the road and covering over any pass byes that had been made over the years. KB discussed the drainage of the road and JC referred to the sum of £25k that had been given to NYCC for signage and cutting grips (channels) in the verges to allow water to flow away to the fields and hedges.

ST offered to look through the files for the sum of money paid.

RL offered to dig the channels and reduce the height of the grass verges subject to Highways agreement.

RL asked about a condition survey for the road to ensure that the surface was fit for purpose with HGV's. JC thought there had been a condition survey undertaken and offered to review the files.

RL wanted the surfacing to be done at night so the road could be closed and a diversion in place for the east side A1 slip road until the following morning. Discussions would progress with NYCC Highways over the next three months as it is likely that Highways England will take that long to decide on the diversion routes with Wakefield Council.

9) Update on plant available to suppress dust.

It was proposed to use a spray cannon over the quarry in times of dry weather but that will be reviewed now due to the extraction method involving no blasting.

10 Any Other Business

Councillor CV asked if there was a road sweeper on station to clean the road and RL replied there was and that both wheel washes were now operational so there should be no problems with mud on the road.

The Parish Clerk KB noted that the meeting was most informative and “the best one she had been to “ and could take things back to the Parish Council. Councillor Carl Vitty noted the positives in the meeting and thanked all who had attended and looked forward to working with the new owners.

Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed for 1st March at 2pm.

End of meeting.

John Carlon
Cromwell Wood Estate Company Limited