

Minutes

Subject: **Wolston Fields Quarry Liaison Committee**
 Date: **Tuesday 8th September 2015**
 Location: **Doubleday Room, Ryton Gardens, Wolston Lane, CV8 3LG**

Present: Cllr Heather Timms (Chair)
 Mr Tom Evans (Planning Officer – Warwickshire CC)
 Cllr Geoff Marsh (Ryton On Dunsmore Parish Council)
 Cllr Tim Harvey Smith (Wolston Parish Council)
 Cllr Arthur Parker (Wolston Parish Council)
 Ms Carole Garner (Facilities Manager – Ryton Gardens)
 Mr Andy Stubbs (General Manager - Smiths Concrete)
 Mr John Green (Operations Manager - Smiths Concrete)
 Mr Andy Duncan (Landscape Manager - Smiths Concrete)
 Mr Mark Page (Land and Planning Manager - Smiths Concrete)

Apologies: Ms Julie Court (Finance Director – Ryton Gardens)
 Mr Matthew Williams (Planning Officer – Warwickshire CC)
 Cllr Ian Spiers (Ryton on Dunsmore Parish Council)
 Mr Bob Woodbridge (Principal Geologist – Smiths Concrete)

Distribution: All those above and Mr Ted Beale (Sheldon Bosley)

Minutes taken by: Mark Page

No	Item	Responsible
1.	<p><u>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st April 2015 were unanimously approved.</p>	
2.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>2.1 The soil bund opposite Ryton Gardens is being strimmed and a grass/ wildflower seed mix to be sown in next few weeks. Ryton Gardens were not in a position to supply seed in this instance so Smiths has sourced a supply from Emorsgate Seeds. Some wildflower seed mix to be sown around the edges of the restored Phase 1 area.</p>	

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	<p>2.2 The portaloo (provided for the archaeologists) was relocated on 22nd April.</p> <p>2.3 Smiths contacted the Brandon and Wolston History Group and a number of site visits have been held with them over the summer plus Ryton History group and Ryton Gardens offering an opportunity for Smiths appointed archaeologist., MoLA, to explain the archaeological finds found to date. Over 100 visitors attended the site visits. MoLA will be undertaking a presentation at Ryton village hall on 23rd October 2015. A flyer was distributed in the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><u>OPERATORS UPDATE</u></p> <p>3.1 The Phase 1 area has been fully extracted; approximately 50,000 tonnes of sand and gravel has been won from this phase. This area has been restored and is currently being used as Smiths settlement lagoon. The depth of the lagoon is about 2 metres. The area has been fenced.</p> <p>3.2 Phase 1 soils have now been moved to the roadside bund opposite Ryton Gardens site entrance. The bund is currently being strimmed ready for grass/ wildflower seeding in the next few weeks.</p> <p>3.3 The Phase 2 area immediately north of the Centenary Way has been stripped of soils and overburden, however, there is very little mineral in this area and so the area has been reinstated back to agricultural land. The Centenary Way has been fenced.</p> <p>3.4 The remainder of Phase 2 is currently being worked for mineral in conjunction with Phase 3 and should be restored soon.</p> <p>3.5 Phase 3 has been stripped in part and mineral extraction commenced in this area at the start of July following the completion of the archaeological investigations. About 25,000 tonnes of sand and gravel has been extracted to date, all of which is transported to Bubbenhall quarry for processing before onward sale.</p> <p>3.6 Approximately 100,000 tonnes in total has been extracted to date which is in line where Smiths expected to be. Mineral extraction in Phases 1 to 3 will take about 3 years to complete although there will be a requirement to strip Phase 4 (on the northeast side of the Severn Trent works towards Wolston village) before mineral is</p>	Mr Green

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	<p>exhausted in Phase 3 to ensure continuity of production.</p> <p>3.7 Mr Green confirmed that if anyone is interested in seeing the gravel workings then he is happy to arrange a site visit.</p>	
4.	<p><u>COUNTY COUNCIL'S UPDATE</u></p> <p>4.1 Mr Evans confirmed that the county council had not received any complaints regarding the quarry since the last liaison meeting</p> <p>4.2 The county council undertook a site monitoring visit in June; there were no causes for concern.</p> <p>4.3 Mr Williams had been in contact with the county council Highways team regarding additional signage to control HGV routing but he is awaiting a response. Cllr Timms asked Mr Evans to raise this matter with Mr Williams to see if he can make progress with Highways. Cllr Timms to follow up with Highways also.</p> <p>4.4 Mr Stubbs would like to see signage near the quarry site entrance on Wolston Lane to advise road users of the site entrance. Smiths contractor, John Hughes, has been instructed to report any near misses on the highway to Smiths. There have been no reported incidents to date.</p> <p>4.5 Smiths reiterated their commitment to contribute towards the costs of signage but that further detail is required from the county council before this can be progressed.</p>	Mr Evans/ Cllr Timms
5.	<p><u>OBSERVATION OF THE COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>5.1 Cllr Marsh enquired about HGV routing stating that HGVs are travelling through Ryton albeit these are not Smiths lorries. However, he cautioned there could be the perception locally that they are related to the quarry. It was agreed that Mr Green would supply a list of John Hughes HGVs registration numbers to Cllr Marsh so that any HGV observed travelling through Ryton can be checked against the list. Furthermore Cllr Marsh will provide details of any HGVs using Ryton to Mr Green so that he can confirm they are not related to the quarry.</p>	Mr Green Cllr Marsh

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	<p>5.2 Cllr Marsh asked Smiths for an indication of timescales for commencement of inert tipping at Wolston. Mr Stubbs stated that no tipping had taken place to date, however, Smiths are hopeful tipping will start shortly with the importation of c. 50,000 tonnes of inert fill from the Toll Bar Island project.</p> <p>5.3 Cllr Parker asked how Smiths control the infill materials coming into the site. It was explained that Wolston is earmarked by Smiths to accept inert materials from large construction contracts. The materials to be imported are vetted in terms of their nature/quality at the construction site. Smiths will see a site investigation report which sets out the type of inert fill to be removed from the construction site. Once it arrives at Wolston visual inspections are undertaken and any load which is not inert will be rejected and not be permitted to tip. The inert tipping operation is controlled under a Waste Recovery Permit, issued by the Environment Agency. The Permit contains very detailed conditions controlling the operation. The Environment Agency can visit the site, unannounced, at any time to check compliance.</p> <p>5.4 Cllr Marsh raised the issue of cleanliness of the road. Mr Stubbs said the road immediately by the quarry site entrance is showing signs of staining but is generally clean. A road sweeper is used regularly and Smiths will endeavour to do their best to keep it as clean as possible recognising the need to manage this as appropriate, particularly as we approach the winter.</p> <p>5.5 Ms Garner stated that Ryton Gardens has no concerns with Smiths operation currently.</p>	Smiths
6.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>6.1 Cllr Timms reported that the County Council Mineral Planning Officer will be attending a Forum meeting in Ryton next week to discuss the latest position on the Minerals Plan and potential sites for future mineral extraction.</p> <p>6.2 Mr Page explained that Wolston Fields quarry has about 5 to 6 years life remaining in terms of mineral extraction, which is not that long in quarrying terms. As such, Smiths is starting to look at a range of options for future development(s) to ensure continuity of sand and gravel production following the exhaustion of Wolston Fields quarry. Two local sites are of particular interest to Smiths:</p>	

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	<p data-bbox="424 300 660 331"><u>Coney Grey Farm</u></p> <p data-bbox="424 400 1318 775">This is a county council owned site located off the A423 close to the former Peugeot works. The site was first worked in the 1980s by ARC but it is understood there is c. 300,000 tonnes of sand and gravel remaining to be worked. Smiths are in discussions with the county council to carry out some exploratory drilling investigations to ascertain the quality and quantity of the mineral resource. Drilling is provisionally scheduled to take place at the end of September and will take about 2 weeks to complete. Smiths need to have a better understanding of the geology before deciding on the next step. Any decisions to take the site forward will clearly require the landowners agreement.</p> <p data-bbox="424 844 647 875"><u>Barbellows Farm</u></p> <p data-bbox="424 945 1326 1355">Smiths has recently been approached jointly by two landowners, Mr Long (Barbellows Farm) and Mr Postlethwaite (Ryton Fields Farm) to discuss their mineral prospect. Their land, located on the opposite side of Wolston Lane to the quarry and north of the A45, was drilled previously in the 1980s and it is estimated there could be c, 800,000 tonnes of sand and gravel although some of this lies in an area designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Smiths are hoping to undertake drilling in October to follow on from Coney Grey. Ms Garner mentioned that Ryton Gardens owns a 5 acre field which adjoins this land and queried whether Smiths would wish to drill this area. Mr Page thought it sensible to drill this area at the same time and will liaise with Ms Garner following the meeting.</p>	Mr Page
7.	<p data-bbox="316 1426 676 1458"><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p data-bbox="316 1525 1294 1592">7.1 Tuesday 19th January 2016 at 4.00 pm at Doubleday Room, Ryton Gardens, Wolston Lane, CV8 3LG.</p>	