

Minutes of the Banavie Quarry Liaison Group Meeting 7th May 2008, Banavie Quarry – 6.00pm

Attendees –

Colin Morrison – Ennstone Thistle – Regional Production Manager

Bob Gordon – Ennstone Thistle – Support Services Director

Martin Anderson – Ennstone Thistle – West Area Director

Gerald McIntyre – Resident

Tony Whitelock – Resident

Barbara Gillies – Resident

Russell Leaper – Resident

Duncan McInnes - KCC

Stephen Fair – Highland Council, Planning Department

Chris Strong – Highland Council – TEC Services

1 Apologies

Jim Tolmie - Highland Council, TEC Services

Councillor Bill Clark

2 Minutes of the last meeting

All points to be picked up during the meeting.

3 Quarry Up-date

a) Environmental Works – Bob Gordon gave an update on the status of the on going environmental improvements as follows:-

1 – The old asphalt plant has now been removed. There was a fire on the new plant early in the year which has taken time to refurbish. Part of the refurbishment included new dust extraction equipment

2 – Tree planting on the bund has been established but some will need to be replaced in the autumn. The hydromulching of the quarry back faces is now also planned for the autumn as this is when the restoration blasting of the faces will be completed. This has been delayed due to the output of the quarry being behind on anticipated sales but it is hoped that this would be caught up by October this year.

c) Future work load – Bob Gordon provided an update on anticipated future programme advising that sales have been slow so far this year

but over the next quarter of the year on the A830 Malaig road this would increase as the works programme for this contract was getting into full swing. Although the quarry will be busier the work load will be spread through out the day with more consistent traffic movements being involved rather than more traffic at any given time in the day. Scotland Transerve has works at the Spean Bridge while the Council will have their normal day to day works to cover

d) Quarry Development – As stated in the environmental works the quarry faces on the upper benches will be completed this year and in conjunction with this the quarry floor sinking will also commence within the next few months.

There has been one blast so far this year with the recorded level of vibration well below the planning limit.

It was agreed at the meeting notification of blasting taking place will be advised earlier to residents as some residents had raised concerns that their was too much short notice. Colin Morrison to attend to this matter

4 Review of complaints rec'd:

Bob Gordon had advised that all road users – both internal and external – have received notification from the Company reminding them of the Code of Practice for the use of the road and their continued support for the compliance of the COP following concerns that users may be getting a bit complacent. This is something the Company will review and remind road users on an ongoing basis.

In addition to this the road signs have been made larger and more prominent and Bob Gordon advised that the road markings were to be refreshed and additional SLOW signs to be put down on the road so as to reinforce the message. It was agreed that this would be reported back to the committee on a regular basis by way of monitoring the situation more closely.

In addition to this Bob Gordon was to follow up on a concern from a resident regarding an external HGV not being too pleasant with a resident

Report that some lights from the quarry around the asphalt plant were being left on all night. Colin Morrison to attend to this

Report of a dust complaint recently received and again Colin Morrison to investigate

5 Comments from the Community

Point rose over an earth mound recently placed on the higher part of the quarry and what was happening with it. This mound will remain as part of the screen of the quarry and will be grassed off and blended into the surrounding landscape.

6 Comments from Highland Council:

No Comments

7 AOB:

Tony Whitelock wished to resign from the committee feeling that there was sufficient representation from the village from the area in which he lived and felt it more appropriate that some one possibly from further up the Gairloch Road would be appropriate. This was agreed and a note would go out to residents to see if any one would be interested in joining the committee. This would be sent out with the next blasting notification.

Bob Gordon advised that John Mackenzie had resigned from his position with the company and had been replaced by Martin Anderson. Martin will have the overall day to day responsibility for the Company's West operations which included Banavie Quarry. As John Mackenzie was the Chairman of the Liaison Group it was proposed at the meeting that Bob Gordon would replace John as Chairman and this was seconded and agreed by all.

Request was made by residents in the committee for copies of the Draft local plan from the planning department. Stephen Fair to respond accordingly

8 Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 2nd September 2008 at Banavie Quarry