

BROOM SOUTH LIAISON GROUP MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, PRIORY HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Attendees:

Central Bedfordshire Council	Mr J Delafield Cllr C Mauldin (Chairman) Cllr G Clarke Cllr L Birt
Southill Parish Council	Cllr N Hickman Cllr R Green
Langford Parish Council	Cllr A Spencer Cllr S Braybrooke
Shefford Parish Council	Mr Mackin
Old Warden Parish Council	Cllr M Studdert-Kennedy
Northill Parish Council	Cllr K Bennett
Southill Estate	Mr M Egar
Lafarge Tarmac Ltd	Mr M Pendock Mr S Treacy Mr R Bonell

1. Introduction

The meeting convened at the new entrance to Broom South Quarry and a tour of the site was conducted. Areas viewed included the perimeter screening bunds, plant site area, temporary mobile processing plant, fresh water and silt settlement lagoons and the phase 1 mineral extraction area. A stockpile of mineral arising from the development of the lagoons was also observed. Archaeological investigations were still ongoing and these were pointed out as were the passing bays being developed to enhance the internal access road.

2. Apologies for Absence

Fiona Syms – Southill Parish Council

3. Funding Applications

Funding applications were considered by the committee in respect of submissions made by:

a) SALGA, Shefford

Sue Warner, Beverley and John Blackham attended to give a short presentation to the group on the application which was for the provision of 3 pieces of

infrastructure for a new community allotments project in Shefford. This included:-

- i) £3,638 to extend the water system
- ii) £4512 for a communal shed
- iii) £1538.73 for 27 compost bins

Following the presentation, SALGA took questions from the group, and then were asked to leave the meeting prior to the vote.

ME sought clarification on whether or not the group had intended for the Landowner to have a vote. The guidance sets out that “*each Parish Council represented on the group will have one vote when deciding on the outcome of applications*”. It does not clarify if the non-Parish Council members of the Group are allowed to vote. The Chairman stated that she considered that it should be just the Parish Councils who have a vote, and this was carried by a vote (4 in favour, 1 against).

Following a discussion on the scope and merits of the application, the Chairman proposed that the group should contribute towards the project in part. This was carried by a vote (5 in favour, 0 against). Following a further discussion, the Chairman then proposed that the group should contribute £1500 towards the cost of the installing the water system (approximately 50% of the cost of the project excluding VAT). This was carried by a vote (5 in favour, 0 against).

b) All Saints Church, Southill

Requested £4970 (50%) towards the cost of safety repairs to mullions and jamb stones of windows and arches within the Church. The applicant did not choose to attend to give a presentation to the group.

Following a discussion, the Chairman proposed that the group should contribute the full amount requested by the applicant. This was carried by a vote (3 in favour, 2 against).

4. Report by Lafarge Tarmac

Whilst a verbal report had been given during the site visit, principle aspects of the development that had occurred were:

Soil stripping works had been ongoing during the spring and summer and these were nearing completion, with all screening bunds developed.

Archaeology – still ongoing, albeit the majority of investigations had been completed.

Access road – highways works creating the entrance and road widening had been completed. Passing bays along the internal access road were in the process of being developed.

A temporary mobile processing plant has been erected, it was anticipated that processing would commence within the next 2 weeks. The larger permitted fixed processing plant is expected to be on site in Spring 2014.

The company confirmed that no sales would occur until planning conditions had been met.

Complaints: a complaint had been made in the summer arising from reversing bleeper noise attributable to mobile plant. The matter had been dealt with but regrettably repeated. Earthmoving works had commenced at an earlier start time than conditioned on 2 occasions during the first 2 weeks. No other complaints.

A request was made for additional dust gauge in Langford. This was accepted, albeit outside of the agreed scheme.

Trespass is an issue on site – RB explained that fencing and signage is to occur on site, in addition to a roaming security patrol outside of operating times.

Vehicle Activated Signs – ST updated the meeting that whilst CBC highways had been put in funds to erect the signs, a technical issue with the model ordered was delaying their placement and use.

5. Report by Central Beds

Implementation of the planning permission – triggered by the commencement of the construction of the new access to the site on 15th April 2013.

Monitoring visits have since been conducted on 13th May 2013 and 21st August 2013. All relevant conditions were being complied with at the time of these visits.

Noise monitoring was last undertaken by LT on 21 May 2013 at the 9 specified locations during a period when soil stripping operations were taking place. The noise levels were observed to be below both the noise levels for temporary operations such as site preparation, soil and overburden stripping. Next noise monitoring due in November.

Fortnightly dust monitoring data received up to 19th August 2013 from the specified 8 locations surrounding the quarry. Background dust monitoring began in October 2012 but was suspended between 12 Nov and 18 Feb due to poor weather and ground conditions. Dust monitoring recommenced on 18 Feb prior to the implementation of the development. The results of dust monitoring indicate that since the development commenced, the limit set by the scheme has not been exceeded. There have been a few issues with missing data caused by mishandling during the laboratory analysis process. LT is in the process of instigating measures to ensure more reliable sampling in the future.

Results of monitoring of groundwater and water levels in the fishing ponds and eastern ditch due. Data is to be submitted quarterly, with an annual interpretative report submitted in January each year.

Planning Update - At the last Broom Quarry liaison meeting LT advised that the development of the silt lagoons will be formed through extraction of sand and gravel. The extracted mineral (130k tonnes) would swamp the plant site

area, therefore LT proposed to bring in mobile plant to process the material over a 32 week period, whilst the fixed plant is being installed and commissioned. The Council has since considered this proposal by way of a non-material amendment application (An NMA is a simplified application procedure by which small changes can be made to a permitted development). In approving the NMA the Council was satisfied that the impact of the mobile plant would not be any greater than the larger fixed plant.

6. Any Other Business

ST advised that his area of responsibility would be changing and that Mike Pendock, who was introduced to the committee would be taking over going forward.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 26th February 2014