**Went Valley Aggregates and Recycling Ltd**

**Inaugural Liaison Committee Meeting - Minutes**

**10th of March 2022 2pm**

**Attendees**

Kate Bowden – Clerk to Kirk Smeaton PC

Gillian Ivy – Chair Little Smeaton PC

Stuart Perigo – Planning Officer North Yorks County Council

Russell Meakin - Went Valley Aggregates

Mark Leivers - Avison Young, Agent for Went Valley Aggregates

**Apologies**

Trisha Storey – Chair Kirk Smeaton PC

Liz Barker – Vice Chair Womersly PC

John Carlon – Agent for Went Valley Aggregates

Merlin Ash – Natural England

Ellen Milner - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

**Minutes**

Following introductions, SP outlined the legal requirements for the Liaison Committee as set out in the s106 legal agreement signed in October, 2021 attached to the planning permission for Area 8 Extension to the existing quarry.

The committee is required to meet every three months, unless otherwise agreed by the committee and a minimum of twice per year. It was agreed that meeting every three months would be appropriate for the foreseeable future.

The Terms of Reference that were circulated prior to the meeting via email by John Carlon were approved.

The committee approved the appointment of Trisha Storey as Chair to the committee.

SP explained the current position in respect of the planning permission for Area 8, that information have been submitted in respect of satisfying predevelopment conditions. There have been requests for additional information, which has been submitted, in relation to ecological matters. The Wildlife Trust and Natural England have until 16 March to respond to the latest submissions. The planning authority has until 31 March 2022 to determine the submissions to allow the mineral development to commence.

The approval of the submitted information is the first step, NYCC will then need to ensure that all matters approved have been properly implemented. The formal discharge of a planning condition only happens once it has been fully satisfied - and many of these will only be once the site has been finally restored.

SP explained that the latest s106 was an addition to prior legal agreements, which also included the requirement for a liaison committee. This committee could therefore extend its remit to consider all aspects at the quarry, not just those related to the Area 8 extension.

SP requested that NYCC kept informed of any issues that may arise at the site, even where contact has been made directly with the operator. ML agreed but asked that any complaints should be made directly to the operator, copied to NYCC, to enable action to be taken at the earliest opportunity.

Regarding future meetings, ML expressed a preference to keep meetings to the same day of the week. It was agreed that future meetings will take place on Wednesdays where possible.

The next meeting was suggested for the w/c 13th June. Due to holiday issues, **Monday 13th June 2pm** was proposed as the next committee date.

Future dates for the rest of 2022 for the diary are suggested as:

Wednesday 7th September

Wednesday 7th December

Meetings to commence at 2pm, then you the site offices at the quarry (unless otherwise agreed)

SP mentioned that a technical steering group to review ecology and restoration matters associated with Area 8 is to be set up in line with the requirements of the s106. This will comprise Went Valley Aggregates, Natural England, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, plus any other parties as may be invited. The minutes and recommendations of this group will be reported to the liaison committee.

The requirements for advance planting on a strip of Area 8 was discussed. It was noted that due to concerns of planting potentially overshadowing the adjacent SSSI, a gap in the planting was required to be left. The planting proposals have yet to be formally approved and it was noted that we are nearing the end of the appropriate tree planting season (March).

A discussion was had regarding the unofficial layby is that have been established to the entry and exit roads at the junction of the A1. It was noted that Went Valley Aggregates have in the past offered to assist with remedial works, but these have been rejected by the Highways Department.

Concern had been raised regarding mud on the public highway in the section of road opposite the quarry. RM mentioned that much of the issue with relating to standing water due to poor drainage of the road. He offered to get new drains to enable water to drain away. **KB agreed to liaise with the Highways Department on this matter.**

SP stated that whilst the use of a road sweeper to clean the public highway was standard practice by quarry operators, this should only be used as a last resort and that measures should be in place to avoid the tracking of mud onto the public highway under normal operating conditions.

Improved signage to make vehicles aware of the quarry access was discussed. RM offered to fund new signs but previously the Highways Department had objected to new signage. **SP agreed to raise this matter with his colleagues in the Highways Department.**

End of meeting 3.10pm

Mark Leivers

Avison Young