

## Whitecleave Liaison Group Meeting

7<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Attendees:** Mike Deaton (MD) Devon County Council  
Charlie Dennis (CD) Teignbridge District Council / Ashburton Town Council  
John Nutley (JN) Teignbridge District Council / Ashburton Town Council  
Graham Smith (GS) Teignbridge District Council  
Janet Jones (JJ) Buckfastleigh Town Council  
Mark Maish (MM) Buckfastleigh Town Council  
Georgina Gilpin (GG) Sam Gilpin Demolition Ltd  
Chloe Pavely (CP) Sam Gilpin Demolition Ltd  
Peter Nuttall (PN) Green Lane Ecology

**Apologies:** Stuart Barker (SB) Devon County Council  
Kathryn Hughes (KH) Buckfastleigh Community Forum

**Agenda:** Item 1 - Introductions and apologies  
Item 2 - Review of last meeting minutes  
Item 3 - Site Operations Update  
Item 4 - Action Log Update via DCC Weekly Logs  
Item 5 - Response from BCF in regard to membership  
Item 6 - Peter Nuttall, Green Lane Ecology re: Bat and surveys  
Item 8 - Actions to be undertaken by any members prior to next meeting  
Item 9 - AOB  
Item 10 - Next meeting date and location

### Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

All attendees were welcomed. Apologies received from Stuart Barker and Kathryn Hughes. John Nutley offered to chair in the absence of Stuart Barker.

### Item 2 – Review of Minutes of Last Meeting

All attendees accepted the minutes. KH emailed her comments through the morning of meeting, JN questioned if anyone had any feedback, general agreement for KH comments to be as a supplement to the minutes.

JN asked GG if she had received any correspondence from KH with regards to the questions about the Buckfastleigh Community Forum. GG confirmed that she has had no response and whilst the membership remains secret it remains unclear how the group meets and publicises its activities. GG stated that the Town Council working party may be more transparent and perhaps should be the conduit of communication for the public and the quarry, KH is a member of both the WP and BCF so would seem a duplication of community information, MM suggested that as the WP was in its infancy this could happen in time. JN agreed.

MM requested change to Item 6. 'SB commented that for KH to continue to insinuate that asbestos is stored on site would be misleading.' The words 'insinuated' should be replaced with 'KH accepts comments' - all agreed.

**Item 6 – Peter Nuttall, Green Lane Ecology re: Bat and surveys  
A change in the running order was agreed.**

PN from Green Lane Ecology informed the meeting that according to recent surveys that the Greater Horseshoe (GHS) bats are still commuting through the quarry as normal. He handed out a graph containing details of GHS bat activity over the last four years. (attached as supplement) Surveys have been taken monthly (twice a month in 2012/13) between May-October for the last 4 years, data shows no significant change, and this shows similar numbers of GHS bats at similar times of year. PN confirmed that as there has been no significant change in the baseline conditions at the quarry, any decrease/increase in bats is purely down to circumstances such as weather, prey availability e.g. 2013 - much warmer summer as a result it saw an increase in the bat population. It is believed they roost at Rock Farm on the edge of Buckfastleigh.

Static bat recorders are placed in the vicinity of the quarry for one week of every survey month and record GHS bats using the quarry on every occasion when weather conditions are suitable for bat activity.

If the baseline conditions do not change at the quarry then any change in GHS bat numbers cannot be attributed to the operations at quarry site whether numbers are up or down. The GHS use the site as part of their commuting route and rarely if at all use the site to forage. Land changes outside the control of the operator could affect the route the bats take and prevent them from using the site as their chosen corridor in the future.

MM requested to know whether there had been a drop in species of bats using the site and PN stated that there hadn't. PN described the difficulty in identifying Myotis bats down to species as their echolocation is very similar and therefore often recorded as Myotis. This is common practice in the field and is not an indicator that there is any drop in species. There are five species of Myotis, three of which have been recorded from the quarry. The site is well utilised by all species and a healthy population has been maintained. It is accepted that 10 – 12 bat species regularly continue to use the quarry site either to commute or forage.

PN stated that the GHS bats will have some tolerance to lighting such as household lights, street lights etc and they have adapted to the A38 bypass over the years, as long as there is no increased artificial illumination of the quarry site then this part of their commuting route will remain usable. PN did raise concerns for the flood lighting at the Sports field in Buckfastleigh as it casts enough light to cast shadows at the turning point in the quarry where the GHS cross over to join the Dean Burn – whilst this could be seen as an issue the bats have adapted to the light conditions and do not seem to be affected by the lighting. PN stated the company had installed 12 bat boxes within suitable trees around the quarry. The roof space in the welfare building has been modified for the benefit of bats with baffles to help stabilise air flow and temperatures within the roof void, and holes in the apex blocked to create a dark space and further reduce air flow. GG asked if there was anything else that could be recommended, PN suggested that the company could install a letterbox type

entrance for GHS & lesser horseshoe bats to fly directly into at the gable end facing north to make it suitable for this species and others recorded from the quarry. There were plenty of entrance points under the ridges of the roof sheeting and speculating bats may in time find the space.

MM stated he will raise concerns at next town council meeting with regards to the Floodlight on the Sports Field. MD requested confirmation on PN's opinion of the lighting from the welfare; PN confirmed that this would have negligible effect on commuting or foraging bats. He confirmed that some species forage around lights where insects have been attracted.

CD asked if anyone from BFC attended the Bat Evening- GG was not made aware of this on the night. Nearly 50 people attended from the locale – adults and children. The feedback was extremely positive.

MM requested that he is shown the area the bats fly through at the turning circle and this was identified after the meeting was concluded. GG identified the area for no parking overnight between the sign and the gate post and confirmed, from seeing them herself on surveys with the ecologists, where they tend to fly through and that they are very low to the ground when traversing the turning circle.

### **Item 3 – Site Operations Update**

GG advised that Kevin Gough from Advance Environmental has been engaged on the noise scheme and would make it available to all parties as soon as possible. GG, DCC and TDC will discuss the content and appropriate actions.

MM questioned if we would be blasting in the quarry anytime soon, GG said that due to the increased revenue from the quarry stone the company was revisiting the possibility of blasting, prior to blasting a blasting scheme would have to be approved by DCC.

With regard to the submitted variation to planning conditions requirement for a visual impact assessment Melanie Croll- Devon County Council requested photos with no leaf cover to be taken and submitted with the assessment. This delays the submission to November at least.

GG stated that crushing and screening had taken place in the quarry void last week moving material from the cleared rock fall. It was confirmed by MD/JN that no complaints were received last week whilst works were undertaken.

### **Item 4 – Action Log Update via DCC Weekly Logs**

MD gave a review of the weekly action logs since the last LLG meeting. GS asked if there had been any recent concerns with regards to noise or dust, MD stated that there had not been any recent concerns and the mitigation in use was adequate.

MM raised concern about the visual impact having machinery at the quarry, specifically the bogie trailer upside-down by the workshop; MD explained that it is not considered to be a breach of planning control and in his view any visual impact very limited.

### **Item 5 – Response from BCF in regard to membership**

GG explained that the Buckfastleigh Community Forum still hasn't responded to her questions, GG is uncomfortable with how the Forum works as there is no advertising for future meetings, MM stated it's advertised via word of mouth, minutes are apparently not kept.

MD suggests that when the Working Party is fully established it would be helpful if any concerns are fed into the liaison group.

**(Item 6 moved/ no item 7)**

### **Item 8 – Actions**

Gilpins to send out minutes and supplement. Gilpins to send out noise scheme when available.

### **Item 9 – AOB**

MD explained the Devon Minerals Pre-Submission Plan is up for consultations until 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015. GS confirmed there have been no mentions/comments to Teignbridge on the Quarry with regards to Environmental issues such as dust/noise etc.

CD noted what a good example of positive business relations between Glendenning and Ashburton community working together and what a shame it's not seen more often between Gilpin Demolition and Buckfastleigh. CD also thanked Gilpins for supporting the Steam Railway with the transport of their engine in both the Ashburton & Newton Abbot Carnivals.

### **Item 10 – Next Meeting Date and Location**

Next meeting was proposed for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 10:00am to be held at Whitecleave Quarry. All attendees agreed this date.