

West Deeping Quarry Liaison Meeting Thursday 6th April 2023

Attendees:

Maria Cotton (MC)	Breedon
Maggie Ashcroft (MA)	West Deeping Heritage
Anita Hassall (AH)	Tallington Parish Council
Gareth Williams (GW)	West Deeping Parish Council
Jason Halsey (JH)	Greatford Parish Council
Chris Burgess (CB)	Breedon
Gary Bannister (GB)	Breedon
Phil McComb (PM)	Cemex
David Ward (DW)	West Deeping Parish Council
Cllr A Baxter (AB)	Lincolnshire County Council
Marc Willis (MW)	Planning Manager, Lincolnshire County Council

Apologies:

Philip Britton (Greatford PC)
Gareth Sturges (Breedon)
Bogdan Radu (Breedon)

Planning Update:

Planning application to reduce stand-off on existing quarry – MC confirmed that this was still with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and that it was hoped the application would be heard at planning committee during June.

MW confirmed that the majority of the objections that had been lodged against the application were not relevant to the proposal and were focussed on the MS29 site.

MC updated on the progress being made on the planning application for the land included within MS29. Further drilling to be carried out to ensure a suitable design of the quarry. All ecological surveys had been carried out in the past 12 months and would be updated in the coming months.

Dust monitors have been set up around the boundary of MS29 to provide data to inform the application. MA asked if there was a way to determine if the monitors had been tampered with or moved and MC confirmed that this could be identified and action would be taken if interference with equipment was identified.

DW asked if the stand-off to the west of MS29 could be changed in the future meaning the quarry would come closer to West Deeping, similar to what was being proposed in the existing quarry. MC confirmed that there was no agreement with the landowner of the field between MS29 and the village and it wasn't part of the proposal.

AB and CB discussed the siting of the plant site and MC confirmed that a study was being carried out to determine the most sensible location for the plant, taking into consideration the visual impact and noise aspects.

MC stated that the siting of the plant in the northwest corner of MS29 (immediately adjacent to the main road) would allow for the plant to be dropped down several metres below the adjoining ground level – this would reduce visual impact and any possible noise concerns. It was also pointed out that the plant being located within MS29 would still be further away from the village than the Cemex plant site and their quarry extension that was approved last year with no objections from the local community.

AB asked about Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and MC confirmed that this was high on the agenda for all of the applications being submitted by Breedon. MC further confirmed that Breedon have always been delivering BNG well above the 10% that will be required from November 2023.

CB added that Breedon were members of the Mineral Products Association (MPA) which has a restoration fund as a backup for any members who may need it. Breedon have a substantial restoration provision for all sites.

AB asked if it could be agreed that new plant would be better than the existing. MC confirmed that the plant that was being proposed was smaller, more sustainable and much quieter than the existing plant – it was noted that the existing Breedon plant was decades old.

PM gave an update on the Cemex planning and confirmed that they would be moving into the field south of the plant site (on the junction of King Street) shortly and that they were also looking at the field to the southeast of the plant site.

MA asked about access to view the archaeology on the Cemex site and PM confirmed that there would be an exhibition of some sort, but Cemex do not allow public access to the operational quarry area.

CB mentioned that the archaeology Breedon unearthed at our Black Cat site (Bedfordshire) was remaining at the village hall and whether that was something that could be considered for the West Deeping finds. The work being done by GB at West Deeping is exceptional.

Quarry Operational Update:

GB gave an update on the works currently taking place on site. He confirmed that a big push had been made on the restoration and that most of the area in the south of the quarry (adjacent to the main road) was now restored or close to completion.

Current extraction is continuing parallel to Lodge Farm with approx. 2.5 years of extraction remaining on approved deposits.

PM gave an update on the Cemex operations – there are 10 phases and they are currently working in Phase 9 with restoration up to Phase 8. There's approx. 20 months left to work, possibly 12 months depending on the markets.

JH asked what restoration material was used and MC confirmed that there was no importation of material so all restoration was carried out with onsite soils and overburden. Field drains were then placed on the agricultural land to ensure good drainage. GB clarified that more than a third of the Breedon quarry had been handed back to farmers and it was expected to hand back substantially more during 2023.

AB asked if Breedon offered work experience or apprenticeships. MC confirmed that they did and that people could sign up to apprenticeships via the Breedon website www.breedongroup.com

Mineral Planning Authority Update:

MW provided an update for the group. The two applications submitted for the existing quarry have been pushed back to the June planning committee.

The update on the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) – there has been a delay and the Reg 18 (first version) isn't expected to be released for consultation until the Spring of 2024.

Lots of confusion over the Call for Sites process – this was not open to public consultation and was distributed to all Cllrs and Parish Councils for information only. Unfortunately the wider sharing of this information by individuals has meant that lots of objections have been submitted to LCC.

GW stated that lessons had been learned by all on this matter. MA advised that there were only four PC meetings per annum at West Deeping and the option to call an extraordinary meeting. MW clarified that there would be an opportunity for local residents to have their say in Spring 2024.

Parish Council Updates:

WDPC

GW confirmed there was no further update.

MA advised that there was now an active working group set up to deal with MS29 and that comments of the application progression would be fed back to Breedon via this group.

GW asked about dust and what the process was for monitoring on the current quarry. GB and CB confirmed that the levels of dust were monitored constantly and that Breedon were constantly improving controls to ensure there was no impact from dust outside of the quarry.

MA asked about close receptors such as Molecey Mill. MC confirmed that the monitors were set up on the southern boundary of the existing quarry and that steps would be taken if the readings suggested there was increased levels of dust leaving the site. To date that has not been the case and all readings are low.

MW advised that no complaints had been received by LCC and this should be done if people had concerns.

GW asked about road cleaning. GB updated the group and confirmed that Breedon hire a road sweeper 5 days per week to ensure the roads are kept clear of deleterious material. There may still be staining to the highway, but this is not causing harm. The sweeper runs between the plant site entrance and the King Street junction. MW confirmed that LCC monitor this with the power to take action and that the council were satisfied that there was no debris on the highway. MC highlighted the fact that the A1175 was used by many and that the stretch of road south of Cemex and the current Breedon quarry was used by agricultural machinery that wasn't the responsibility of the quarry operators.

Tallington PC

AH asked about the Tallington Lake lodges that had been constructed on part of the Breedon plant site. MC confirmed that Tarmac (as landowners) had been made aware of the breach, but it didn't seem as though any action had been taken. MC will chase this up with Tarmac again.

Greatford PC

JH stated there was nothing major and stated that most enquiries were regarding HGV traffic through the village. MC and GB both confirmed that no HGVs are allowed to leave the plant site in the direction of Greatford – there are 'No left turn' signs at the gates and notices all over the weighbridge. Breedon are happy to investigate any HGVs coming through the Greatford area and will reconfirm with drivers that this route is not acceptable.

Question was also asked regarding light pollution – GB stated that the only lights on site are sensors for security purposes and that all other lighting is on timers so there should be no lights on outside of operating hours. GB to check and confirm that this is true of the maintenance sheds also.

AOB

Terms of Reference – the document was shared with the group prior to the meeting and will be implemented from the next Liaison meeting.

AB asked if another LCC Cllr was able to attend if he was unable to make it to a meeting. MC confirmed that this was fine.

CB and GB gave an overview of community works that Breedon had taken part in over recent months including providing 6t of gravel for the West Deeping church; sponsored the Deeping Rugby Team (shirts); donated £400+ worth of toys to the local toddlers group (Langtoft); donated in excess of £250 worth of daffodil bulbs for West Deeping.

MC emphasised the fact that Breedon are keen to help out with community initiatives with an offer of supplies, volunteer hours etc. and not just financial help. Any ideas or requests should be sent via email to MC (maria.cotton@breedongroup.com).

Date of next meeting: 5th October 2023