

**Chipping Sodbury Quarry
Community Liaison Group Meeting
26th November 2024
Meeting Room at Chipping Sodbury quarry**

DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

John Ford (JF)	Yate Town Council
Emma Warlock (EW)	The Friends of Ridge Wood
Bob Evans (BE)	The Friends of Ridge Wood
Fergal Cummins (FC)	Chipping Sodbury Town Council
Alistair Gregson (AG)	Chipping Sodbury Town Council
Dean French (DF)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
Mike Brown (MB)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Southwest Area Operations Manager
Joe Edwards (JE)	Heidelberg Materials UK, Chipping Sodbury Quarry Unit Manager
Trystan Mabbitt (TM)	Heidelberg Materials UK Consenting & Development Manager
Andy Duncan (AD)	Heidelberg Materials UK Principal Landscape Manager
Michelle Beasley (MMB)	Heidelberg Materials UK secretariat
Samantha Stagg (SS)	James Reed PR

APOLOGIES AND MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rob Sims (RS)	Barnhill residents' representative
Neil Higgs (NH)	SGC Environmental Health Officer (EHO)
Richard Ashton (RA)	SGC Community Spaces Improvements Team Manager
Gareth Fielding (GF)	Wickwar Parish Council
Ben Nutland (BN)	SGC Councillor for Yate North ward
John Davis (JD)	SGC Councillor for Yate Central ward
Louise Buckle (LB)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
Kirsty Couch (KC)	Autumn Book Management Company
Sarah Sinstead (SS)	Autumn Brook Management Company
Adrian Rush (AR)	SGC Councillor for Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge Ward
Julie Reed (JR)	Yate Rocks residents' representative
Karen Hayes (KH)	South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) Public Rights of Way (PROW)
Samantha Stagg (SS)	James Reed PR

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and introduction – Interim Chair Mike Brown (MB)**
 - **Review of minutes from the last meeting**
 - **Matters arising from the last minutes**
 - **Review of aims and membership of the group**
- 2. Chipping Sodbury Operational Update – Joe Edwards (JE)**
 - **Operations and logistics (incl. blasting)**
 - **Feedback**
 - **Traffic Management**
 - **Community Support**
- 3. Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update – Andy Duncan (AD)**
- 4. Land and Mineral Planning update – Trystan Mabbitt (TM)**
- 5. Community Update – Joe Edwards (JE)**
- 6. AOBs**
- 7. Date for future meetings**

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Chair introduction – Mike Brown (MB)**
 - **MB introduced himself and welcomed all attendees to the meeting.**
 - **Attendees introduced themselves and set out which organisations/groups they were representing.**
 - **MB explained that he was acting chair until a new chair is appointed, he said at other HMUK sites it's been one of the local county councillors that usually take on the role.**
 - **MB said this would be JE's last meeting as he was moving to Cumbria to a HMUK quarry.**
 - **MB explained the process of the minutes, that they are published in draft until the next meeting where the group approves.**
 - **MB asked if the group was happy with the content of the draft minutes from the previous meeting. All members said they were happy with the content.**
 - **MB said there were "Terms of Reference" for the liaison meetings of which there are copies on the table if any of the new members would like them. He said we wanted to ensure we are communicating transparently.**
 - **MB went through the actions from the last meeting.**
 - ❖ **JE to email members when he has a date for the trees to be felled.
Will be covered in the main agenda.**
 - ❖ **TM to speak with council about the broken carriage way when he is in discussion with them about the planning application.
Complete.**
 - ❖ **TM to find out how many vehicle movements will be on the proposed haul road as a worst case.
Will be covered in main agenda.**
 - ❖ **AH to get in touch with KC reference biodiversity and planting trees.
Keep as action.**
 - ❖ **TM to add details of noise permission to the minutes and on the website.
Keep as action.**
 - ❖ **SS to write to members to ask if there is a preferred time, they could attend this meeting.
Keep as action, agreed to do after November meeting.**
 - ❖ **FC to find out who at South Gloucester Council to speak to about the traffic lights.
FC will let MB & JE know the contact details.**

- ❖ **KC to give details of the yellow lines to MB to see if Heidelberg Materials can help.**
MB not heard from KC.
 - ❖ **MB to send LB a link to vacancies at The Ridge.**
Complete.
 - ❖ **MMB to add approved minutes from the last meeting to the community web page, and the draft minutes from this meeting.**
Complete.
- **DF asked if this meeting was about communicating only, and not about decisions.**
 - **MB said yes, it's about communications, idea sharing and working together. We are working with local schools and discuss future employment opportunities.**
- 2. Chipping Sodbury Quarry Operational Update – Joe Edwards (JE)**
- **JE advised the group of production volumes for 2024 YTD which showed the site was slightly behind on its target for the year, mainly due to the breaking down of equipment that's affected production.**
 - **JE advised that completion of Brinsham East level 2, plus successfully sinking into level 4 in Brinsham East.**
 - **JE said sinking in level 7 in Hampstead Farm was complete.**
 - **JE said Hampstead tip ramp was 50% complete, releasing additional reserve for 2025.**
 - **JE said there would be investment in a new frontline 95 tonne excavator.**
 - **JE said there was a major plant upgrade due Dec 2024 – March 2025 which would see it move from an old push button system to fully computerised controlling the load out. It would mean loading lorries direct from the plant.**
 - **JE said Barnhill stock yard had been completely emptied of all stock stockpiles and were currently in the process of removing the redundant equipment.**
 - **JE said £750k was being invested in conveyor one.**
 - **MB said Conveyor one had a temporary repair in 2017 after a fire, so the spend it to bring it up to scratch.**
 - **DF asked if the work was to keep the conveyor up to current standards or just maintenance.**
 - **MB said it was purely to keep it maintained.**

- DF asked if there would be any change in noise level.
- MB said no, it's a like for like replacement.

Blasting

- JE advised there had been 21 blasts this year to date which has provide 754,892kt of material. (82512k at Hamstead Farm)
- JE said the Maximum Instantaneous Charge (MIC) was 234kg. The maximum Air over Pressure (AOP) was 127db and the highest recorded vibration (measured as Peak Particle Velocity) was 4.77mm/s PPV.
- JE told the group planning permission states that 95% of the blasts must be below 6mm/s. All blasts have been well within this level on this logarithmic scale.

Date	Shot No	PPV Recorded	Scaled Distance	Air Over Pressure	MIC	mic #0.5	Quarry Level	Easting of Shot	Northing of Shot	Elevation	Location of Vibrograph	gr vib E	gr vib N
29/01/2024	R0124	4.77	32.9	127	205	14.3	BR L3	372671	185221	66.15	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
31/01/2024	R0224	1.22	52.5	122	195	14.0	BR L3	372588	184959	69.1	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
19/02/2024	R0324	1.68	39.6	118	176	13.3	BR L3	372666	185166	68.53	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
14/03/2024	R0424	1.62	44.0	114	220	14.8	BR L3	372575	185040	69.18	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
25/03/2024	R0524	1.97	39.2	123	190	13.8	BR L3	372632	185150	69.39	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
10/04/2024	R0624	3.02	42.9	128	221	14.9	BR L3	372570	185056	69	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
17/04/2024	R0724	2.62	33.1	120	162	12.7	BR L4	372623	185269	52.86	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
07/05/2024	R0824	1.88	41.4	107	182	13.5	BR L3	372572	185135	69	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
07/05/2024	R0924	1.88	43.6	107	203	14.2	BR L3	372574	185072	68.59	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
22/05/2024	R1024	1.8	39.2	116	202	14.2	BR L3	372659	185133	68.27	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
13/06/2024	R1124	2.8	42.2	133	210	14.5	BR L3	372573	185081	69.1	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
01/07/2024	R1224	0	84.7	0	80	8.9	HMPL5	372730	184347	19.95	Rockwood House	372053	184007
05/07/2024	R1324	1.35	40.4	114	203	14.2	BRL3	372662	185115	67.74	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
22/07/2024	R1424	0	#DIV/0!	0	0	0.0	HMPL6	372715	184287	8.7	Rockwood House	372053	184007
29/07/2024	R1524	0	#DIV/0!	0	0	0.0	HMPL6	372719	184242	9.5	Rockwood House	372053	184007
12/08/2024	R1624	2.63	45.6	107	234	15.3	HMPL6	372720	184212	8.6	Rockwood House	372053	184007
19/09/2024	R1724	2.97	39.1	113	229	15.1	BRL3	372591	185100	70.3	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
07/10/2024	R1824	0	78.1	0	195	14.0	BRL3	372577	184963	68.95	Rockwood House	372053	184007
29/10/2024	R1924	0.125	33.8	111	168	13.0	BRL4	372634	185252	52.4	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
08/11/2024	R2024	0	36.6	0	162	12.7	BRL4	372631	185224	52.4	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690
22/11/2024	R2124	0.125	25323.4	104	175	13.2	BRL4	37637	185228	52.6	Maple Ridge farm	372634	185690

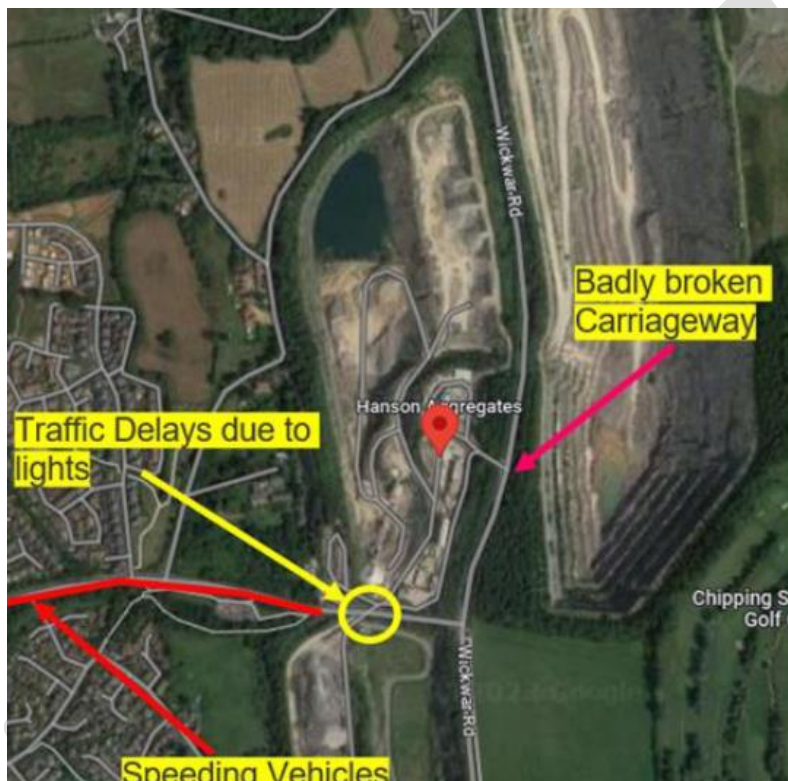
- MB said blasting is highly governed by the quarry regs 1999. He said HMUK employ blasting specialists to carry out the blasts, but JE is still responsible and subject to inspection by the HSE. Our blasting staff are competent to ask questions but not to carry out the blasting.

Traffic management

- JE advised he had emailed the council about Wickwar Road carriageway condition but had not received a response to date.
- JE said he had received one complaint since the last meeting, regarding the alleged speed of an HGV and it entering a weight limit.
- MB said if the community is concerned about driver behaviour, please report it via the Chipping Sodbury Quarry email address below, giving as much information as possible to enable us to investigate. Date, time, reg number and location.

chippingsodburyquarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com

- JF asked if trucks other than those that belong to HMUK use the quarry.
- MB said yes, there were three types, our own employed drivers with our own HGV fleet, then franchise contractors, these own their own fleet but are branded HMUK and the collect customers with their own transport. He said historically we have less control over the collect customers, but we do work together to ensure our standards are upheld. We'll suspend or ban drivers if necessary, so the more specific information we get to investigate the better.



Community

- MB said next year we'll be looking for two higher apprentices in the area, one for Tytherington Quarry and one for here, plus plans for a mobile plant apprentice in the future.
- MB said we attended Chipping Sodbury School careers event on 2nd October 2024 to highlight the types of roles we have in the area. For more information on current opportunities please refer to HMUK's careers page.

www.careers.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/apprenticeships/higher-apprenticeships

HMUK's stand at Chipping Sodbury School careers event



- **JE said planning had started to organise a quarry open day on 14th June 2025 to coincide with Chipping Sodbury Festival.**
 - **MB explained the blast notification text service was now up and running for local people. He said it's a free service which includes a weekly update setting out planned blast times for the week ahead, plus a follow up notification approximately half an hour before each blast takes place.**
 - **FC said he had received a message from someone who had signed up but had not received notifications.**
 - **MB said to pass on details so we can investigate.**
 - **SS said the community web page had also been updated with details on how to register for the service.**
3. **Environmental, landscape and biodiversity update – Andy Duncan (AD)**
- **AD said hazardous tree surveys had been carried out on all of the woodlands across out landholding at Chipping Sodbury, including Ridge Wood, which has identified that many ash trees are affected with ash dieback disease. He said over time, this means that the diseased trees are likely to become brittle and drop branches, and the most affected trees will eventually die and collapse.**

- **AD said working with South Gloucestershire Council (SGC), we have secured a felling licence from the Forestry Commission (FC) and a specialist contractor has started felling the affected trees last month. He said the work is expected to take around eight months.**
- **JF asked how many trees, and did it cover a large area.**
- **AD said it did cover a large area, but only the ones with public access and near roads that could cause injury to the public if left.**
- **MB said there's a lot that happens before the trees are felled, like ecological consultants check the trees for bat interest. If a potential roost is found, they may decide to use a process called "soft felling" in which they will drop a branch and leave it for the bat to escape.**
- **JE said Yate Rocks and operational areas the felling is likely to start in March but we'll put it in writing when the date is confirmed.**
- **AD said he'd had requests from local residents where branches have fell into their gardens and we've arranged to get them removed.**
- **SS said we have letter dropped 350 homes adjacent to Ridge Woods and Jubilee Park advising when the tree felling work was due to start, we also published details in the Chipping Sodbury Gazette, put up laminated posters where the work is taking place, and share information in this group. The next letter drop will be to the Yate Rocks area when the dates are confirmed for work to start near there.**



- **AD said the amount of diseased trees that line the edge of roads is significant and will change the look when complete.**

Quarry Life Ward

- **AD said he had received a proposal for Chipping Sodbury Quarry for the community stream. He said an architect company had been in touch as they**

like to do some work on what the quarry would look like once extraction was complete.

- AD said restoration is a long way off but it would be interesting what to see what they come up with. I've sent them a copy of our approved restoration plan which is for three lakes. Their proposal project is for local schools, housing, trees, grassland and bugs etc. They would like to work with the public to ask what they would like to see at Southfields.
- BE asked what is happening to Barn Hill.
- TM said we are still pumping while working other areas. Outline thinking for the future for Barn Hill was submitted to SGC for consideration as part of its Local Plan development two years ago. This covered a scheme involving infill and subsequent change to residential, similar to the housing scheme next to Waitrose. He said this concept is in the very early stages and SCG's local plan is due to be completed in 2026. If included in the local authority plan, TM outlined that Heidelberg Materials would then have to develop planning proposals and seek feedback via a consultation before making a formal planning application.
- AD asked what time scale it would cover.
- TM said ten years.
- MB said we will update the community of any plans at these liaison meetings.
- TM said we can also signpost on the local plan on the community page now it's up and running.

4. Land and Mineral Planning update – Trystan Mabbitt (TM)

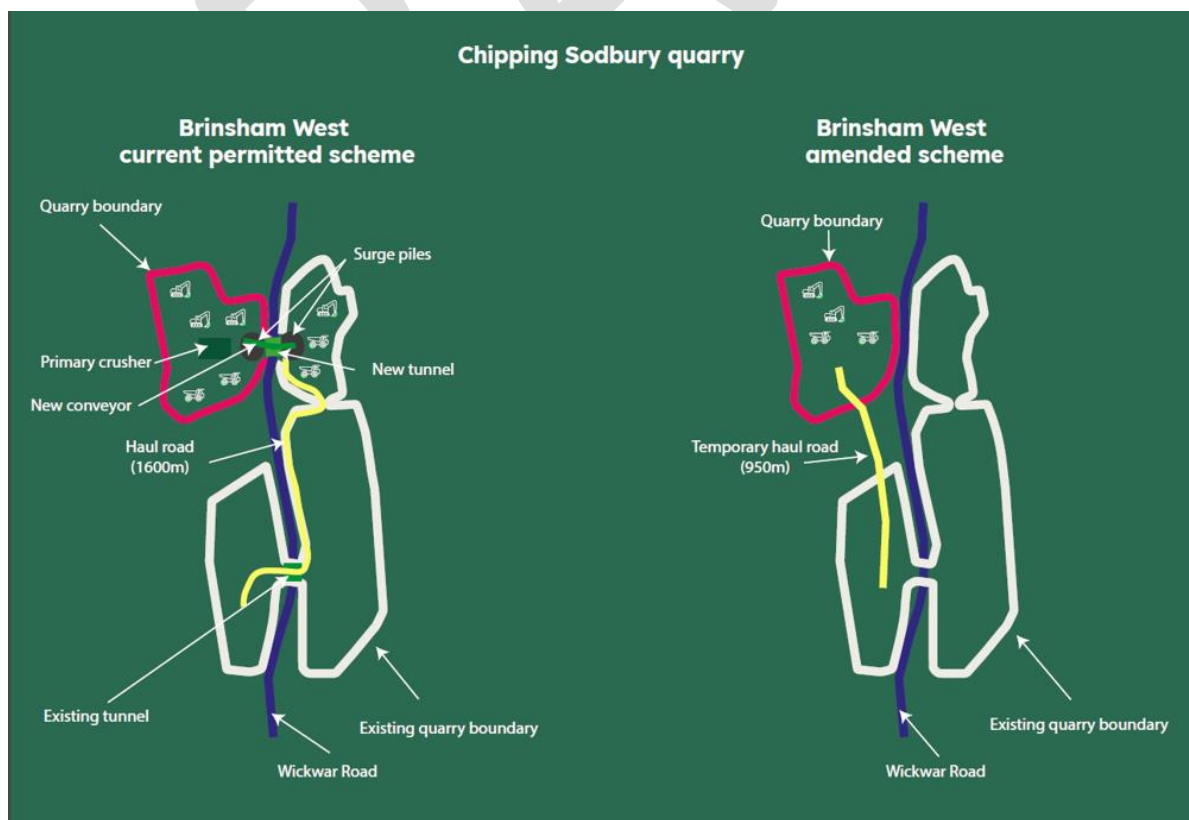
- TM said the planning application had been submitted which had gone out to consultation for the temporary haul road. (See below image)

Proposed temporary haul road



- TM said the original plan was for a tunnel going under the Wickwar Road. That was fifteen years ago and as time has gone on, we were tasked with updating the plan and looking at alternatives.

- **TM said with the revised application adapting the temporary haul roads design so that it is now single lane only, with two passing places. This will reduce its footprint and minimise impacts. He said adjusting the route to both avoid an Ash tree and to better align with the land's natural gradient following feedback from the consultation exercises.**
- **TM went on to say the adaptations of the design of landforms, screen bunding and planting to better reflect the existing landscape character and to help retain views. He said the intent is that the haul road and vehicular movements will be mostly screened by sitting at a lower level -akin to a traditional hollow way.**
- **TM said this will increase the retention of hedgerows and revisions to restoration plans that would see the landscape reinstated, with the regrading of the hollow way to the lands original profile.**
- **TM said we've also looked at what we can do to holistically benefit the community, by reducing weekend work and reducing the working hours during the week by two hours a day. Over the course of a year this will reduce operating hours by 888 hours – equivalent to a 25% reduction which is a significant saving as a result.**
- **TM said the other benefit of the proposed scheme is we will no longer need a primary crusher, nor the associated plant that would be required under the existing scheme, so there will be a CO2 saving as well.**



- **TM said he wanted to emphasise this is a temporary haul road. He said we submitted the proposal at the end of October which hopefully the residents have seen, we did letter drop them to inform them and have uploaded all the documents to the Chipping Sodbury Quarry community page with frequently asked questions.**

www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/chipping-sodbury-community-page/proposals-for-temporary-haul-road



Chipping Sodbury quarry

Brinsham West quarry: current permitted scheme in the operational stage



Brinsham West quarry: proposed amended scheme for temporary haul road in the operational stage



- **DF said in the slide which shows vehicles and machines, the new proposed scheme is beneficial to you.**
- **TM said yes, it does reduce machines required, but also, we wouldn't need a primary crusher, which is in the already permitted scheme and would be located a relatively close distance to residents' properties, so overall it's a balance we've been seeking to achieve.**
- **TM added that the efficiencies the haul road derive would cover a number of aspects including cost, carbon, and operational hours – and it is this last one that would significantly reduce the impact of quarrying on the nearby community (see point about primary crusher above and below).**
- **DF said he felt the benefit of the scheme was savings to HMUK and not a benefit to the community.**
- **MB said the new scheme would benefit the community due to less trucks using the haul road, and importantly removing the need for an on-site primary crusher.**
- **DF asked if the proposed reduction in machines was all in the proposal to SGC.**
- **TM said yes, all of it is in the proposal plus reducing the length of the haul road by over a third.**
- **DF asked if carbon savings were being used as a part of the proposal.**
- **TM advised that they were in the earlier application, and as is usual in these circumstances were not reiterated in the recent revised application given this information and assessment still stands, albeit there will be a betterment to this given the further reduction to the construction required as mentioned previously.**
- **No further clarity has been received from SGC in this area.**
- **TM added that nevertheless the revised scheme would deliver further reductions in the previous carbon comparisons. For example, we've looked at vehicle efficiencies, a traffic light system and done an assessment on a worst-case scenario. This would see the revised haul road scheme using less carbon than the original study submitted as part of the previous application.**
- **JF said there is a lot of opposition, have you thought about compensation to the residents directly affected.**
- **TM said it's not something that's ever been done in his experience, with a planning application of this nature.**

- **AD reminded the group that the planning permission to extract the rock is already approved, the haul road application is just how we go about getting it out.**
- **AG asked when permission was granted for the current planning application.**
- **TM confirmed this was granted in 2015.**
- **AG said so if you've lived in the area for 50 years say, you'll know this was always going to happen.**
- **TM said, that while the proposed haul road may affect some properties in Brinsham West, the already approved primary crusher here would be closer to some properties than the alternative proposed temporary haul road. He added that for Heidelberg Materials its about mitigating the impacts of our operations where we can. The revised haul road scheme would, we believe provide the broadest mitigation for the community. He added that the company has previously invested significantly in the area and that commitment to work with the host community is still very much at the heart of what we do.**
- **MB reiterated that the company seeks to be a responsible operator and play an active role in the communities in which it operates. He added that if liaison group members had ideas for what more we could do in the community around Chipping Sodbury quarry to let us know.**
- **SS said HMUK have received very few requests in this area. Details are on the website at:**
www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/chipping-sodbury-community-page/supporting-the-community
- **DF asked how he could contact the farmer close by.**
- **TM said he had a land agent that deals with the farm.**
- **DF said we had water coming down off his field.**
- **TM said he would contact the land agent to advise.**
- **DF asked which properties received a letter notifying them of the haul road proposal.**
- **SS showed the area on a map.**
- **DF said nothing had been received at Autumn Brook.**
- **MB said they are represented at this meeting and were sent a copy of the letter being door dropped.**
- **FC asked if Autumn Brook was a management company or run by residents.**

- MB said it was his understanding that it was residents on the management company.
- MB said if you think there is someone we haven't written to, let us know.

5. AOBs

- JF said Southfield on Peg Hill hedges need cutting back and possible a shovel and wheelbarrow to tidy the verge.
- JE said he would sort that.
- DF asked if the minutes will be emailed out once complete.
- MB said yes, and they'll be added to the community web page.
- BE said Ridgewood had many unofficial footpaths that had been created by people trampling though making themselves shortcuts. He said would it be possible to get them blocked by some of the felled tree trunks.
- MB said he would get AH to check the formal public right of way.
- JE said there is a tree trunk blocking the river at Yate Rocks, does anyone have any concerns about us moving it to encourage flow.
- DF said that would be good, I don't see a problem with it.
- MB said we'll keep the meeting quarterly for the time being and attached draft dates to the end of the minutes.

Contact details.

Email: chippingsodburyquarry@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com

Chipping Sodbury Quarry Community Web page

www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/sites/chipping-sodbury-quarry-community-page

Heidelberg Careers Web page

www.careers.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en

Summary of Actions

- ❖ AH to get in touch with KC reference biodiversity and planting trees.
- ❖ TM to add details of noise permission to the minutes and on the website.

- ❖ **SS to write to members to ask if there is a preferred time, they could attend this meeting.**
- ❖ **FC to pass on details of person registered to blasting notification who has not received notification.**
- ❖ **TM to contact the land agent of the farmer on behalf of DF to advise about water running off from his field.**
- ❖ **JE to organise cutting back and tidying the verge at Southfields on Peg Hill.**
- ❖ **MMB to email group details of community web page.**
- ❖ **MB to ask AH to check the formal public right of ways for Ridgewood and see if unofficial footpaths can be blocked by felled tree trunks.**

Proposed dates for next meeting

Thursday 27th February 2024 at 17:00

Thursday 5th June 2025 at 17:00

Thursday 4th September 2025 at 17:00

Thursday 4th December 2025 at 17:00

[ENDS]