

MARSH FARM LIAISON GROUP

Report of a site inspection held on 8 August 2013

Attendees:

Cllr John Stedman, Salford Priors Parish Council.
 Cllr Anthony Quiney, Salford Priors Parish Council
 Cllr Joe Harvey, Bidford Parish Council
 Cllr Maurice Howse, Stratford on Avon District Council.
 Mr Matthew Williams, Minerals Planning Officer, Warwickshire County Council
 Mr Shaun Denny, CEMEX
 Mr Nigel Taylor, CEMEX, Quarry Manager
 Mr Chris Beamish, SWEA
 Mr John Fenlon, SWEA
 Mr Alan Granger, Land Agent, Ragley Estate
 Mrs Elizabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to Bidford Parish Council.
 S Harte, Clerk to Salford Priors Parish Council.

Apologies: Cllr Joy Keeley, Bidford Parish Council, Liam Maude, SWEA, John May, CEMEX. Estates & Development Manager Lindsay Wright, Salford Priors Parish Council,

2. Update

Nigel Taylor of CEMEX reported that production had now ceased entirely. There was no longer a quarry, but rather a land site which has been very quiet of late. Only four hundred loads of fill had been delivered over the last month, with just nine last week although there were thirty-six yesterday and forty-four today. A site in Long Marsden was taking loads, and a farm in The Lenches was reputed to be taking loads thus diverting deliveries from Marsh Farm. It was accepted that Marsh Farm Quarry is generally a good site for accepting loads when ground conditions were wet and that is when business increases. Attendees were advised that the land site would steadily fill up.

Maurice Howse offered to investigate the site at Long Marston and John Stedman the Lenches.

3. South End Lakes

At the southerly end of the site the two lakes at the edge of the restored area were satisfactorily maintaining their water levels and the water level had only dropped by approximately twelve inches during the recent hot, dry spell.

4. Lake at Broom Lane

Nigel Taylor briefed the meeting on the restoration works proposed for Broom Lane and advised that contracts had been awarded for the restoration works and the contractor was due to commence work next week. It was expected the works would take six to eight weeks and when finally completed the area would be seeded. Concerns were expressed about the possible water levels of the lake with a low level leading to weed infestation and bog-like conditions, but the meeting was told that the water levels were holding up well, only reducing by about twelve inches during the long spell of hot, dry weather. Members then left in their cars to drive to Broom Lane to inspect the lake and surrounding land.

At the site, Alan Granger advised that Ragley Estate had no objection to leaving the area as a lake, and anyway permission had not been obtained for land fill, but he had expected the lake to be rather smaller than it actually was, to which Nigel Taylor responded that it would in fact increase slightly in size by the time the restoration was completed. Mr Granger suggested that perhaps the lake could be linked in with the nearby footpath and John Stedman accepted this as a possibility but said that maintenance and liability would have to be looked at if this were to happen.

MARSH FARM LIAISON GROUP

There was some discussion as to whether the surrounding land could return to agricultural use but Nigel Taylor advised that when dried out the ground was very rutted, and when wet unsuitable for livestock. There were no plans to seed it. John Stedman stated that he would like to see the land go back into use, as pasture, etc. Firstly, however, proper drainage would need to be put in place. Members agreed that any plans should wait until after the final restoration was completed when the site could be looked at again.

5. Future meetings

Following discussion at the end of the inspection it was agreed that the Salford Priors Parish Clerk should arrange a meeting for March 2014.

S Harte
Clerk