

Westleigh Quarry Complex

The extraction of Limestone continues at Westleigh with 75% of the material produced coming from Rocknell Quarry with the balance supplemented from Westleigh Central. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic sales in 2020 were over 100,000 tonnes less than in the previous year. The sales budget for 2021 is anticipated to be around the same as 2020.

Dewatering operations continue within Westleigh Quarry with water pumped from the quarry void which is either used for dust suppression or taken by a surface drainage channel for discharge into Fenacre stream. The company is in consultation with the Environment Agency regarding a revised water transfer scheme for the Grand Western Canal.

In accordance with the Quarry planning permission and to satisfy the planting and environmental management requirements, in particular, on the periphery of the Quarry site; Aggregate Industries submitted a 'Landscape and Ecological Management Plan' detailing the proposed function and structure/composition of each landscape unit within the site.

Whilst Aggregate Industries continues to receive blasting complaints the monitoring data provided to the planning authority found that recorded levels of vibration measured as peak particle velocity (ppv) were within the quarries permitted as thresholds and deemed acceptable. Dust complaints are also an issue at Westleigh, however, the company has implemented additional dust control measures and dust monitoring this year will determine the effectiveness of these measures.

Relocation of Asphalt production from Westleigh Quarry to the former In-Vessel Composting Facility at Broadpath

A planning application (ref.DCC/4189/2020) for a new Asphalt Plant at Broadpath was submitted to Devon County Council and validated in August 2020. AIUK had remained conscious since the results of the Westleigh Quarry Community Survey carried out in 2014 ranked in first position the relocation of asphalt production out of Westleigh Quarry to a site nearer to the A38. The relocation of asphalt production to Broadpath will eliminate night time lorry movements through Burlescombe Village. AIUK does however emphasise that, subject to the grant of an acceptable planning permission, asphalt production from the new plant would not take place until 2022 at the earliest.

There has been overwhelming support from local residents in Burlescombe and surrounding villages for the proposal. The application currently awaits determination, however, Devon County Council are proposing to take the application to their Planning Committee on the 21st April 2021 where a decision will be made.

Cllr Trevelyan April 2021

Quarry Liaison Committee.