

Hanson Cement Liaison Meeting – Received from Councillor K Payne

At the end of November I attended 2 meetings with Hanson Cement, a quarry restoration visit and the Hanson Cement Liaison Committee on 30th November. Points to note are: -

The restoration of disused areas of the quarry is impressive, the original, stored topsoil has been returned to site, pastureland and a woodland belt is being created, they are just waiting for better weather to plant 24,000 trees in this area. In a second area, the preparation for creation of calcareous grassland and woodland, starts this spring with a view grass seeding in spring 2024 and further tree planting in winter 2024.

Current quarry reserves are less than 10 years now and Hanson are looking to extend their quarry working. A scoping request is being submitted to our Planning department this month if it hasn't been received already. This will provide an outline of what Hanson wants to do and where, plus its impact on the environment and mitigating factors. They continue to carry out surveys into ecology (amphibians, reptiles, bats, badgers, birdlife etc) ground water monitoring, noise and air quality and archeology. An archeological and geophysical survey of one field towards the outskirts of Ketton towards the west of Empingham Road has revealed a small Iron Age or Roman Enclosure and ditches. Leicestershire County Archeologists are organizing trial trenching and recording of finds. Hanson will be holding a public exhibition of their proposed extensions in late spring/summer this year.

The quarry is currently shut for its annual maintenance program and will reopen at the end of this month.

All Emission levels were well within permitted tolerances. There have been 2 noise complaints only, one in August and 1 in November. Hanson are still monitoring these and looking for sources of the noise which may emanate from a conveyor belt.

Later this year, Ketton will be piloting a new Carbon Capture plant which will target capture of 50kg of CO₂ per day. They will need a variation to their Environment Agency permit to do this which they have applied for.

Improvements have been made, they've recently installed a new fueling station and tanks, also the cement bowline has been improved to prevent leaks.

One negative though. Hanson have recently experienced vandalism to their railway track and several arrests have been made which is positive. However, Hanson have installed steel post fencing along the track which creates an eyesore as you approach the village from Stamford and is causing issues to motorists at night with flicker from headlights. This has been raised with Hanson and I'm currently pursuing this through Highways and Planning. Otherwise, both meetings I attended were good, positive experiences.