

**Minutes of the South Wales Regional  
Aggregates Working Party  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

<b><u>Present: -</u></b>	<b><u>Action: -</u></b>
<p>Martin Hooker (Chairman) – Bridgend County Borough Council Steve Bool (Secretary) – Bridgend County Borough Council Mark Frampton (QPA) Hugh Towns (Carmarthenshire County Council) Martin Lucas (Vale of Glamorgan Council) Ruth Amundson (Caerphilly County Borough Council) Chris Morgan (Welsh Assembly Government) Ruth Brown (Brecon Beacons NPA) Keith Warren (RCT) Stuart Williams (Cardiff CC) Malcolm Lawer (QPA) Dennis Canney (Blaenau Gwent CBC) Carol A Williams (Pembs CC/NP) Anthony Wilkes(Environment Agency) Duncan Pollock (QPA) David Harding(BMAPA) Don Cameron(BGS) Tony Gilman(BAA) R.Murray(Torfaen CBC) Martin Davies(Monmouthshire CC) Graham Bishop(WET) Andy Bull(Powys CC) John Cuddy(Cuddy Group) Karen Maddock –Jones (CCW)</p>	
<p><b>1. <u>Apologies</u></b></p> <p>Kevin Seaman (QPA) James Hooker(Newport CC) David Highley(BGS)</p> <p><b>2. <u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b></p> <p>These were agreed as a correct record. An update was given regarding the Freedom of Information/QPA issue.The proposed compromise suggested by the QPA has been determined to be costly by the ODPM and they feel it may also undermine the fundamental principle of the FOI Act.Further discussions are to take place shortly to try and resolve the situation..It was noted that the AMRI survey had still been carried out even though it may be subject to a similar challenge .It was acknowledged that industry had a</p>	

<p>statutory requirement to respond to the survey.</p> <p><b>3. <u>Matters arising</u></b></p> <p>None.</p> <p><b>4. <u>Chairman's report</u></b></p> <p>At the last Technical Secretary's Group meeting the issue of demand forecasting was discussed at length which utilises sophisticated econometric models. It is evident that at present demand is accepted as stable and there is some concern about figures in Wales regarding the intensity of use which appears lower than in England. This issue will be reported to the NCG and dialogue will continue with WAG regarding the issues generated by the MTAN1.</p> <p><b>5. <u>Secretary's report</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft issues paper produced by the NWRRAWP has broadly followed the SWRAWP format although there are particular differences relating to the slate geological resource and limestone exports to the North West in North Wales.</li> <li>• A start has been made on the SWRAWP website which is currently at the draft layout stage. Information and photographs to populate the site are being collected with a view to completion in October, 2005. The generosity of the BAA in funding the provision of the website is acknowledged.</li> <li>• Very little work has been carried out on the Annual Survey 2004 due to the current impasse caused by the FOI issue.</li> <li>• The memorandum of understanding, which has been set up to underpin the RTS Member Forum process, has been signed by only 50% of Members. SB to chase outstanding responses.</li> <li>• MPA's were reminded that there were still a significant number of outstanding responses following the request to provide the list of dormant sites likely/ unlikely to reactivate as set out in the MTAN 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison has been undertaken with WET to achieve an acceptable business plan for the next 4 years. Further discussions are required.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>6. <u>RTS Sub committee</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that the consultation on the Issues paper should be extended to include the unitary authorities (Heads of Planning) and BAA/QPA.</p> <p>The RTS sub com minutes will also be circulated on a regular basis to main SWRAWP members.</p> <p>As reported previously good progress has been made on the setting up of the new SWRAWP website.</p> <p>With regard to SEA, the need for a SEA to be carried out was discussed and it was agreed that MH/SB would check the regulations. Initial views</p>	<p></p> <p><b>SB</b></p> <p><b>MPA officers. SB</b></p> <p><b>SB</b></p> <p><b>SB</b></p>
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<p>seem mixed as to the necessity for one but the spectre of legal challenges could not be ruled out. Could the fact that the RTS is in essence a SEA tool influence the decision?</p>	<p><b>SB/MH</b></p>
<p><b>7. IMAECA research and weightings protocol.</b>  The IMAECA tool has been installed in the WAG offices and is also available to the RAWP secretaries. Separate meetings/viewings of the system have been attended by the EA/CCW and interested authorities. It has been stressed that the tool is not to be used for DC purposes. Issues such as statutory landscape designations and groundwater issues will be considered as part of the normal development control process. If the tool is altered to attribute greater weight to one indicator than another an unbalanced picture will result. The indicators shown in red do not necessarily mean there will be no mineral extraction proposed for that grid square. There was a suggestion that printed examples of the model which illustrate the problem should be circulated to members. It was however decided after some debate to accept a uniform weighting of x1 for all indicators and that the reasoning for this ought to be justified in the WAG protocol. SM to pursue.  It was noted that Penderyn Quarry had been omitted from the active quarry site layer on the GIS system.</p>	<p><b>SM</b> <b>SM</b></p>
<p><b>8. Presentation by Graham Bishop (Welsh Environment Trust)</b>  GB gave a presentation outlining the main objectives of his work to promote the use of construction, demolition and quarry waste, together with secondary aggregates, as a substitute for primary aggregates. The key points identified were that whilst only 30% of the 6.2 mt of c and d waste generated per year was utilised for aggregates it would be difficult to increase this figure. C and d waste has been identified as the main focus for the first year together with the identification of barriers for greater re-use.  QPA identified other factors such as the Aggregates Levy which was exacerbating the quarry waste situation and LA procurement needed to go through a sea change to embrace the concept of using recycled aggregates which were often considered to be sub standard and a risk. Questions were raised about other target issues such as the greater use of Aberthaw pfa and the differences between North and South Wales.  Reference was made to the fact that there appeared to be a natural ceiling of 25% re-use of c and d waste which was related to market forces.  GB was thanked for his informative presentation.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b> <b>GB</b> <b>SB</b></p>
<p><b>9. Development plan update.</b>   <b>Caerphilly</b> - Little change from last report. i.e. Council approval only - not proceeding with UDP to adoption. Preparatory work has begun on the LDP.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>

<p><b>BBNP</b> – A public inquiry has been scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> October,2005.</p> <p><b>Carms</b> – UDP inquiry has taken place-inspectors report anticipated at the end of December,2005.UDP may be abandoned if the SEA target date of June,2006,cannot be met.</p> <p><b>RCT</b> - UDP has been abandoned and LDP is being pursued.SCI has commenced.</p> <p><b>Cardiff</b> – LDP commenced.Delivery agreement likely to be finalised in the autumn.</p> <p><b>Vale</b> – UDP has been adopted but a multi- issue legal challenge has been lodged.The challenge includes objection to the Mineral Protection Zone policy.</p> <p><b>Blaenau Gwent</b> – Further modifications are to be published shortly.</p> <p><b>Bridgend</b> – UDP has been adopted but three High Court challenges have been received. One relates to the land based sand and gravel safeguarding area at Coychurch(one site only)</p> <p><b>Powys</b> – Objections received are trying to be resolved.</p> <p><b>Mons</b>.Adoption of the UDP is anticipated in 2006.</p> <p><b>Torfaen</b>.Work on the LDP has commenced.Delivery agreement is anticipated this year.</p> <p><b>PembsCC/NP</b> The Inspectors report is expected in October,2005.</p> <p><b>10.Consultation paper-MPA fees for monitoring.</b> QPA expressed strong concern about the principle of charging for a regulatory service which should be provided by MPA's as the norm.There is particular opposition for the proposals to introduce a flat fee per permission and additional charging for justifiable complaints.There is inference that rock quarries take longer to monitor than sand and gravel sites whereas the area of the site would seem to be a more relevant determinant.There is also industry concern that the fees paid will not be ring-fenced and the money lost to other MPA services.In Wales,it was noted the WAG had introduced the term "self financing" to overcome this problem. There was concern that the new fees regime may adversely affect the relationships between MPA's and industry and cause detrimental effects.</p> <p><b>11.Marine Aggregates</b></p> <p><i>Nash bank</i>-2010 is the date for the cessation of operations.</p> <p><i>Helwick bank</i>-The current licence expires in October.a new application has been submitted and major objections have been lodged.It is proposed to extract 300k p.a. over 15 years.The area is now a SAC.</p> <p><i>Nobel bank</i>-A public inquiry is due to be held in Sept.,2005,and the inspectors report will be referred to the WAG.</p> <p><i>North Middle Ground</i>-An application has been submitted by Severn sandsto obtain sand for the Newport/Mons market.This application has been linked to the Bedwin Sands and Bristol Deep.CCW have been requesting that all three applications be considered together so that any cumulative effects can be assessed.This is difficult to assess and</p>	<p><b>SB</b></p>
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is likely to prolong the determination. Bedwin sands requires two applications...one a review of the permission and the other a licence from the Gloucester Harbour Trustees.

*Culver*-the application submitted is on the English side and will be determined by ODPM. WAG will be a consultee. This sand is intended to be a substitute for Nash Bank sand. DH indicated some major objections had been withdrawn by the EA and English Nature. A request was made that the flowchart for marine sand/gravel production be updated by WAG and circulated.

CM highlighted that there were major difficulties in achieving an overview of the situation which was antagonised by a lack of legal direction. Nonetheless the managed supply of sand and gravel appeared to be under reasonable control.

**CM**

### **AOB**

(i) MPSI consultation documents. The QPA's response can be summarised as follows:-

- The document is too short
- The 7 year landbank for hard rock is too short-a meeting is to be held with ODPM
- The full contents of MPG6 should not have been deleted

(ii) Mineral research programme-a sand and gravel study will be carried out for S. West Wales. This will commence this year and last approximately 9 months. A c and d waste survey will be carried out for 2005 and funded from the WAG main budget not the Aggregates Levy Fund. The Coal TAN work has commenced and BGS have been employed to carry out research.

(iii) WAG have part funded the IMAGINE research project. This project is looking at marine sand and gravel resources.

(iv) SPP1 document-a parallel consultation is being carried out in Scotland.

(iv) Projects funded by the Aggregates Levy-the Outer Bristol Channel project is approximately 6 months away from completion.

**13. Date of next meeting:-** It was agreed that the RTS draft options report be circulated as soon as possible for consultation with a view to the final options being circulated in January, 2006.

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