

**Minutes of the South Wales Regional  
Aggregates Working Party  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

<b><u>Present: -</u></b>	<b><u>Action: -</u></b>
<p>M Hooker (Chairman) S Bool (Secretary) – Bridgend County Borough Council Jon Iane-Bridgend CBC H Towns – Carmarthenshire County Council R Amundson – Caerphilly County Borough Council M Lucas – Vale of Glamorgan Council M Lawer – MPA (Tarmac) M Davies – Monmouthshire County Council Adrian Wilcock-Torfaen B Hollington-WAG(Agric) Steve Packer-Powys CC R.Henderson-City and County of Swansea K.Maddock-Jones-CCW J.Locke-Carms CC Julie Kirk-PCNPA Ken Hobden-MPA Mark Frampton-MPA(Hanson) T.Gilman-BAA Ceri Morris-Neath Port Talbot CBC N.R.Morgan-Neath Port Talbot CBC Sue Martin-WAG Jo Smith-WAG Owen Jones-Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC</p>	
<p><b><u>1. Apologies</u></b> A.Wilkes-EAW L.Christian-Newport C.Morgan-BBNP M.Wrigley-Crown Estate S.Williams-Cardiff CC R.Bennion-NWRAP J.Cuddy-Cuddy Demolition M.Russell-BMAPA G.Dorrington-Ceredigion L.Healey-Blaenau Gwent CBC</p>	
<p><b><u>2. Minutes of the last meeting – 10/03/10</u></b></p>	
<p>Agreed as a correct record . MF requested D.Harding be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.</p>	<b>SB</b>

MF queried what advice SB was giving to local authorities regarding the RTS in their LDP's. SB confirmed informal advice was given to ensure consistency and to encourage collaborative working between authorities where apportionment needed to be shared.

### **3. Matters arising**

None.

### **4. AM2009**

MH advised there had been no meeting of the National Coordinating Group(NCG)for some time.

SB gave a brief update on the survey returns received so far. 15 of the 18 authorities have made returns and BGS have set a target date of the 30/9/2010 for the SWRAWP collation to be forwarded to them.

ML requested that all Form A's forwarded to LA's by MPA operators as part of the survey should be returned to MPA members.

### **5. North Wales RAWP update**

In the absence of Roger Bennion(NWRRAWP Sec)SB gave an update based on information provided by RB for the meeting.

1. Roger is to retire shortly and he thanked all for their support over the years.

2. The AM2009 survey is almost complete. On the whole the response has been good and MPA/BAA members should be congratulated on their co-operation. The major area of concern focuses on the minor producers in Gwynedd and to some extent Anglesey which tends to skew the response stats but in fact represents around an estimated 1% of sales, certainly less than 5% for the region. It is judged that further chasing will not result in any more responses. UA level collation is almost complete and it is hoped the RAWP level submission to BGS will be before the end of the month.

3. Activity level remains subdued with the equivalent of 4 quarries in the region mothballed.

4. Slate has still to make the anticipated impact on the aggregates market although the opportunity exists in N. Wales for sand substitution when and if the business revives.

5. Progress continues on the sharing of Mineral and Waste Planning services in the region led by Flintshire. A formal commencement date has yet to be confirmed but it is hoped that the service will be up and running in October 2010 subject to the completion of administration requirements.

6. Gary Nancarrow will assume responsibility for NWRRAWP affairs for the time being, including the completion of the AM2009 report and the subsequent annual NWRRAWP report.

### **6. South Wales RAWP update**

SB reported the new SWRAWP four year contract had been signed with WAG. SB is continuing to give support to mineral officers where appropriate but on a without prejudice basis. He has also been monitoring views expressed at EIP's during the LDP process. Currently Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Newport are moving towards

deposit stage.

The Mineral Resource map for Wales has been received and used but the associated Safeguarding maps are still awaited. A guide to the maps will be produced but BGS are unhappy to proceed until WAG have finished a policy review of para 13 of MPPW on safeguarding. This has taken some time because of the need for SEA and other environmental assessments. These will be contracted out to consultants in due course. No timescales for the delivery of the work can be given at this time.

TG enquired if managed supply was still supported and MH confirmed it was still accepted as the way forward.

#### **7. Trefign and Pantgwyn sand and gravel quarries, Pembs.**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting questions on the manner in which the inquiry into these two call in applications had been conducted and submitted evidence had been posed by TG. The chairman had been made aware of these and opened discussion on this matter by stating the SWRAWP had a strict remit whereby no specific sites should be discussed. Any such discussion may also be incompatible with the Competition Act etc which has been cited at previous meetings. MH stressed the case was only on the agenda to pick up on any implications for discussion on the wider issue of mineral extraction in National Parks or AONB's.

TG referred to a key phrase in PPW/MPPW which stated that any proposals in the National park had to be the subject of the most rigorous examination. Reference was also made to the RTS in which it was quoted that Pembs should not permit any new extensions in the National park.

MH acknowledged TG was obviously disaffected by the inquiry decision and referred to the avenues that were open to him to challenge the decision (i.e. judicial review). He re-emphasised, however, the issue was not a matter that could be pursued at RAWP level.

ML referred to evidence that was produced at the inquiry re marine dredged sand from the Bristol Channel. Tarmac had written to WAG regarding the wharf capacity at Pembroke dock to clarify matters of fact.

MH repeated that if an inquiry decision was incorrect because it was based on flawed evidence it may be challenged via a JR brought about by an interested party.

There was general discussion regarding the contents of para 49 of MTAN1.

SM advised officers of WAG could not make comments on the interpretation of mineral planning guidance. It was confirmed information relating to inquiries was received at different levels within WAG and policy staff have no contact with decision makers in order to maintain an objective decision making process. Internally, planning policy division staff normally only see reports as they are released to the general public.

MH confirmed the wider mineral extraction in the National park issue



not aware what has triggered this study but feel it may be a further hindrance to recovery. The CLG are unable to confirm the reason. TG-the BAA concur with KH's comments and nothing but anxiety will be generated by this action.

SB questioned if new technologies such as timber framed construction on new houses would lead to a further reduction in the demand for primary aggregates. This type of construction seemed to be expanding rapidly and is seen by many as the way forward. KH questioned whether or not it was the most sustainable option and research was still being carried out.

MH queried if CLG were still using Cambridge econometrics to estimate demand. KH said he would provide an update via Gerry McLoughlin.

SM raised the issue of imports/exports from Wales. A recent CLG report assumed there would be no increase in imports to England from Wales whereas the North West RAWP assumed imports would increase. AM2009 results will prove useful in giving an up to date position as to import/export patterns.

TG expressed concern about timber framed buildings which do not perform very well in the summer months. Buildings with a high thermal mass were generally a better option.

TG circulated a graph about the Aggregates Levy.

ML felt the quarries on the borders of Wales (Strinds/Dolyhir, Gore, Criggion,) were very important to the rural economy. There may be a negative perception of these quarries but the positive attributes also need to be considered.

MH stressed the need for the impact of exports/imports to be considered across the board.

KH acknowledged the role of the NCG may need to be enhanced with the abolishment of the RSS's/RA's in England. Pressure is being put on the CLG to organise discussion on this post election issue.

**KH**

**10. Minerals research**

SM advised as follows:-

- (i) the AM2009 collation has been part funded by the WAG.
  - (ii) the WRAP RAMs project on the recycling of aggregates for minor schemes is ongoing. It is funded by the Aggregates Levy and is hoping that 20 operators can be examined to look at their products with a view to the specification of the materials produced being sufficient to achieve a protocol.
  - (iii) funding is still available via the Aggs Levy for suitable projects.
- TG commented recycled aggs are in short material due to the lack of suitable brownfield /demolition sites. MH felt that vigorous assessment was required of projects to avoid any claims of favouritism.
- SM advised any enquiries regarding the fund should be directed to Russell Dobbins in WAG.

**11. Marine update**

The note produced by JS was referred to giving a summary of the current licences. It was noted marine dredging of sand on Nash bank off

