

**Draft Minutes of the South Wales Regional
Aggregates Working Party
Wednesday 18th January 2012**

<u>Present:</u> -	<u>Action:</u> -
<p>M.Hooker (Chairman) –Consultant S.Bool (Secretary) – Bridgend County Borough Council M. Lawer- MPA-Tarmac K.Hobden- MPA M. Frampton- MPA-Hanson J.Smith- Welsh Government G.Nancarrow-NWRWP Sec/Flintshire CC N.R.Morgan- Neath Port Talbot CBC M.Davies-Monmouthshire CC R.Amundson-Caerphilly CBC S.Williams-City of Cardiff G.Thomas-Vale of Glamorgan C H.Thomas-Carms CC G.Dorrington-Ceredigion CC</p> <p>1. <u>Apologies</u> I.Skidmore RWE nPower J.Kirk Pembs. NPA M.Wrigley Crown Estate C.Morgan BBNP O.Jones RCT C.Drayton EAW L.Healey Blaenau Gwent CBC C.Morris Neath PTCBC L.Christian City of Newport M.Russel BMAPA P.Huxtable BAA K.Maddock-Jones CCW R.Henderson City of Swansea</p> <p>2. <u>Minutes of the last meeting dated 13.4.11</u> The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record subject to:- MH confirmed shared service provision is taking place on a pragmatic basis.Part of Powys CC has now signed up to the N Wales Mineral planning service. JS- WG waste team commencing new c & d waste work but the outcomes will not be available until 2013 and therefore not available for use in the RTS review. HT-a service level agreement((SLA) has been agreed for Powys CC.Possibly Ceredigion in due course.Any policy work is likely to continue to be the responsibility of the individual authorities.</p>	

<p>SB advised the EAW were unable to change the waste codes in their waste monitoring system to be able to isolate that part of the waste stream which would substitute solely for aggregate. KH acknowledged the quarry industry recognised the value of recycled material as a valuable resource and now normally include it as part of their normal production. MF queried if there had been any progress on a review of para 13 of MTAN1.JS advised that some work had been carried out but at the last minute a decision had been taken to cease work on this issue.This decision had been taken as senior staff felt the new Environment Minister would be able to deal with it as there were other priorities. HT advised POSW had written to the WG asking for para 13 to be reviewed as a matter of urgency..There is no timetable for the review of para 13 at present. The BGS safeguarding maps which have been delayed to date are almost ready. MF re AOB item(i)the words <u>working rights</u> should be substituted for <u>asset value</u> MH advised the EAW had made no response to the supply of blockstone for flood defences. After EAW had suggested they did not feel it would be beneficial to continue attendance at SWRAWP meetings it was agreed their attendance should be requested on a regular basis. MF enquired at to progress on the standard conditions for minerals and waste drafted by HT on behalf of POSW.HT advised they were near completion and their main purpose was as guidance/good practice for mineral and waste officers.HT to forward a copy to KH and the minerals edition for the SWRAWP website. There was some discussion regarding the status of the documents and HT advised they should be seen as broad guidance to be kept under review.It was not intended they would be definitive and any conditions would have to meet the 6 tests as a matter of course. AOB(5) change reference to <u>pre-application discussions</u>.</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>SB</p>
<p>3. <u>Matters arising from 2. above</u> The amendments generated from discussions on the subject of the RTS review outline strategy produced by SB for the meeting to be discussed further at a RTS review sub committee(to be convened). SB to respond to the WG on the Call for Evidence on the new Welsh Planning System citing the main issue is considered by the group to be that unitary authorities are unable to deal competently with the delivery of mineral planning.</p>	<p>SB</p>
<p>4. <u>Minutes of the SWRAWP Sub Committee meeting15.6.11 re RTS review</u> Agreed as a correct record subject to the amendments outlined by MF in his revised minutes circulated to the SWRAWP prior to the meeting with the following exceptions;- :-Page 1 In the penultimate paragraph delete(i.e. 15+10=25 years)</p>	<p>JS</p>

<p>Page 3(5)Status of document.Add"if necessary and" after the word <u>clarified</u> and delete the remainder of the sentence. WG to advise SWRAWP when a sub committee should be convened(end of March/April) to finalise outline strategy for the RTS review. MF indicated it would be preferable to engage a local planning consultancy experienced in mineral matters to undertake the RTS review. Any RTS review will consider the issue of the time period for landbanks to be incorporated in LDP's.Some discussion took place as to what the appropriate period may be, as set out in para 49 of MTAN1,which appeared to be open to different interpretations.</p> <p>5. <u>Matters arising from 4 above</u> Covered previously.</p> <p>6. <u>SWRAWP Secretary's report</u></p> <p>SB advised as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.AS2010.Completed.Any amendments to be forwarded to SB asap. 2.AS2011.Forms to be despatched in April,2012. 3.Site waste management plans.A steering group has met on a regular basis to discuss the required content of the plan and how it is to be implemented.The next step is to undertake a formal consultation phase in March of this year.Eventually it is hoped the plans will come into force in 2013.As part of the process a communication and training plan is to be set out to assist the industry and other parties implementing the new regs.This is to hopefully avoid the shortfalls in England where little or no enforcement has been undertaken.It seems likely Building Control staff will enforce the fees.The level of fees is still to be determined as is the threshold to determine if a plan is required. 4.SWRAWP website report.The 6 monthly report confirms the website is visited regularly. 5.Review of the Planning system in Wales.(call for evidence) It would seem appropriate for all authorities to respond to this consultation and in respect of mineral planning to express the view the majority of small unitary authorities do not have a current system which is adequate to deal with mineral planning. 6.Site visits are continuing with a view to making contact with all active quarries. <p>7. <u>NWRAWP report</u> GN reported as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The next NWRAWP meeting will be on Friday 9th March,2012. 2.Work on the RTS review has been limited to date. 3..AS2010.The completion of the annual report is imminent.It is evident there has been a significant increase in sales and a 	<p>JS</p> <p>All</p>
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general increase in construction activity. Overall there has been a 35% recovery in sand and gravel sales and 44% recovery for hard rock. Overall the aggregate sales are 4.6mt.
4. There has been no major mineral planning applications granted consent and if the demand increases significantly there could be potential problems with the landbank.
The market for slate waste, or slate used as aggregate, has been surprisingly healthy.

8. Industry report.

BAA-as there was no representatives present there was no report.

MPA-demand forecasts for the next 3-4 years suggest the market will be suppressed.

The localism bill will generate secondary legislation by the end of March and the *MPA* are anxious about the implications of the new approach by the current government. The new National Planning Policy Framework will be published in March. There will be associated guidance which despite initial suggestions it would be brief, may in fact be quite lengthy. A Select Committee will be convened into the *NPPF*.

9. Welsh Government update

The deadline for the consultation on the new Welsh planning system is the 3rd February. Round table discussions are likely to be convened to discuss the matter further.

A C and *D* waste sector plan is out for consultation.

C and *D* waste issues are being considered by *Andy Rees'* team and another survey is ongoing. It is considered, however, it is unlikely to assist the *SWRAWP* with robust *C* and *D* figures for the *RTS*.

The *RAMs/TRAMs* initiative promoted by *CEW* is still ongoing.

JS confirmed she would update *KH* on the "Call for evidence"-new planning system for Wales consultation.

ML questioned whether or not the forthcoming merger between the *EAW/CCW/FC* may have a significant effect on the current system of environmental planning consultation/issues. *JS* advised there would be consultation on the Natural Environment Framework which appeared to be based on an ecosystem based approach. This may give rise to a bias toward the subject of ecology rather than a wider multi disciplinary approach. There were concerns over the potential interface with the mineral planning system. A consultation exercise is due shortly.

10. Marine update(JS)

(i) *Wobel* application has been submitted. Affects the area south west of *Gower*.

(ii) *Nobel banks* application has been granted.

JS

SB

(iii) In response to Mark Wrigley's (Crown Estate) update, which he forwarded because of his absence from the meeting, it was agreed SB would confirm the SWRAWP would be happy to receive a presentation from BGS on the proposed marine resource mapping exercise.

SB

11.AOB

(i) SB confirmed he had received an invitation from Ivan Skidmore of RWE nPower to forward names of those interested in attending a forthcoming Ash Forum regarding the promotion of the use of PFA (to include tour of the facility at Aberthaw power station). SB to circulate request for names to determine interest.

(ii) Peter Huxtable of BAA has confirmed he will identify the BAA representative to attend SWRAWP meetings in due course. (Tony Gilman was the previous representative)

(iii) KH drew attention to the forthcoming Annual MPA/RTPI Mineral Planning Conference which this year will be held at the cricket ground at Edgebaston, Birmingham. The itinerary will include the usual legal (chambers rep) input. The date is Thursday, May 17th, 2012.

Date of next meeting:-

Wednesday 12th September, 2012. 10am-12.30pm Innovation Centre, Bridgend.

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