

**Minutes of the South Wales Regional
Aggregates Working Party
Wednesday 23rd February 2005**

<u>Present: -</u>	<u>Action: -</u>
<p>Martin Hooker (Chairman) – Bridgend County Borough Council Steve Bool (Secretary) – Bridgend County Borough Council H Towns – Carmarthenshire County Council K Warren – Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council G Reay – National Ash R Amundson – Caerphilly County Borough Council J Hooker – Newport City Council K Maddock-Jones – CCW N R Morgan – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council M Lucas – Vale of Glamorgan Council C A Williams – Pembrokeshire County Council / National Park R Brown – Brecon Beacons National Park Authority M Lawer – Tarmac (QPA) A Bull – Powys County Council D Cameron – BGS M Frampton – QPA (Hanson) D Pollock – QPA D Harding – QPA (BMAPA) G Bishop – Wales Environment Trust (invitee) C Morgan – Welsh Assembly Government S Martin – Welsh Assembly Government T Gilman – BAA S Williams – Cardiff County Council A Wilcock – Monmouthshire County Council D Canney – Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council G Dorrington – Ceredigion W Towell – QPA (RMC)</p>	
<p>1. <u>Apologies</u></p>	
<p>A Wilkes (EA) J Cuddy (Cuddy Demolition) R Hilton (ODPM) B Hollington (Welsh Assembly Government) D Highley (BGS) R Henderson (Swansea) K Seaman QPA (BMAPA) N Davies (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council) Tony Murray (Crown Estates)</p>	
<p>2. <u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></p>	

<p>March 2005.</p> <p>Under the Freedom of Information Act, SB highlighted the QPA's request that all their members should not respond to the Annual Survey 2004. The reason given is that whereas the returns are deemed confidential, it is uncertain whether or not the exemption clause in the FOI Act includes such returns. SB was advised at the RAWP Secretaries meeting last week, that steps are being taken to seek a direction on this issue. DP confirmed his understanding that the QPA may be seeking a legal opinion but under the current Act any stance was open to challenge. It was noted that AMRI returns may also be affected by this issue.</p> <p>MH enquired as to whether the Information Commissioner had been notified but nobody was aware that this action had been taken.</p> <p>SB advised all MPA officers to contact him immediately if they were approached to release information on Annual Survey returns.</p> <p>In respect of AM2005, the ODPM have designated this as a high priority in their budget but there is no money available at present. Concern was expressed that such information was fundamental and essential to mineral planning.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the new post created by ALSF funding sought by the WET / NWRAWP / SWRAWP to investigate the use and future markets for construction, demolition, and quarry waste had been filled by Graham Bishop (ex Hanson). The period of post was for 4 years.</p> <p>This Friday's dissemination seminar regarding the IMAECA environmental capacity report was discussed. It was evident that a number of MPA officers and QPA representatives had not received invites. WAG representatives confirmed the appointed consultants Enviro were responsible for the despatch of invitations and these had been directed to Chief Executives / Chief Planning Officers and nominated Members. Those present were notified of the details.</p> <p>7. <u>UDP Update</u></p> <p><u>Bridgend</u> – Anticipated adoption date late March / early April.</p> <p><u>Carmarthenshire</u> – PI is ongoing and likely to close at Easter (late March)</p> <p><u>Rhondda Cynon Taff</u> – UDP abandoned. LDP is being progressed.</p> <p><u>Caerphilly</u> – LDP is being progressed.</p> <p><u>Newport</u> – PI starts in March. Inspector's report anticipated September / October 2005.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
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<p><u>Neath Port Talbot</u> – Proposed changes to be considered in mid March. PT commences in June 2005.</p> <p><u>Vale of Glamorgan</u> – UDP adopted subject to final 6 week response period.</p> <p><u>Pembrokeshire</u> – Joint UDP PI closed in December 2004. Inspector’s report anticipated in June 2005.</p> <p><u>Brecon Beacons National Park</u> – Pre-inquiry changes to be placed on deposit shortly. Provisional PI date set for October 2005.</p> <p><u>Powys</u> – Inquiry scheduled for mid 2005.</p> <p><u>Cardiff</u> – LDP is being progressed.</p> <p><u>Monmouthshire</u> – PI scheduled to close in March 2005. Inspector report anticipated mid / late 2005.</p> <p><u>Blaenau Gwent</u> – Further mods. to be considered in March. Objections anticipated.</p> <p><u>Ceredigion</u> – PI ongoing. Scheduled to be completed in May 2005.</p> <p>The Vale were congratulated on achieving adoption of their UDP.</p> <p>8. <u>Regional Technical Statement</u></p> <p>(i) MH confirmed that nominations for the Chair / Vice Chair of the RTS Members Forum would be considered at the inaugural Member Forum meeting (date to be arranged). Any nominations should be notified to the Secretary prior to the meeting. It was noted that the BBNP have nominated Cllr J Breeze as vice chair.</p> <p>(ii) The minutes of the RTS sub-group dated 9th December 2004 were circulated for discussion.</p> <p>(iii) It was noted that there would be a 5 year review of the RTS.</p> <p>(iv) It was agreed that a date in late March / April (avoiding Easter weekend) would be set for the inaugural RTS Member Forum. Attention was drawn to the possibility of an election being called in May, which would generate a 6 week ‘purdah’ period. This would mean the meeting must be held in mid / late March to avoid delays. QPA suggested that the meeting could possibly be held after a QPA meeting scheduled for the 15th March.</p> <p>9. <u>Response of SWRAWP to MPSI consultation</u></p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>SB</p>
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This was issued in November 2004. It gives a clear steer on the future of marine dredging in the Bristol Channel / Severn Estuary.

(ii) Nash Bank

The reduced extraction rate phase, leading to complete cessation in 2010, has commenced. Nash currently contributes 40% of the total volume of sand extracted. Thresholds have been established and regular monitoring meetings are being held. No significant changes have been noted to-date.

(iii) Helwick Bank

The current licence runs out in October 2005. Major objections have been received regarding the current application. As the bank is located in a SAC, an appropriate assessment is required in accordance with the Habitat Regulations (1994)

(iv) Nobel (sandwaves South West of Helwick)

An application is currently under consideration. A number of significant issues have been the subject of negotiations / discussion.

(v) North Middle Ground

An application has currently been under consideration for a significant period of time. Several objections have been received but no timetable is able to be confirmed.

(vi) Bristol Deep (South of Newport)

An application is currently under consideration and at present the preliminary view is that there does not appear to be any significant issues.

(vii) Culver Sands

An application is currently under consideration and the industry perceive this site as a substitute for Nash Bank.

CM confirmed that WAG had made a presentation to action / interest groups recently regarding Helwick Bank near Gower. WAG now feel that positive steps have been taken with the completion of policy / research to establish a policy framework and database appropriate for the consideration of individual applications for licences for marine dredging in the Bristol Channel / Severn Estuary.

(viii) North Bristol Deep

Technical notes are likely to be submitted shortly. Industry are still concerned about whether or not future supplies meet demand which appears to be increasing.

DP referred to work being carried out by Capita Symonds for the South West RPG, which considers 3 supply scenarios.

TG referred to one of his sites in Milford Haven which is rod milling granite and mixing it with marine sand. A view was expressed that the latter material is not considered irreplaceable.

AOB

- (i) DP highlighted the forthcoming annual QPA / RTPI annual conference on the 25th May 2005, at Wolverhampton Racecourse. This will follow the usual format but all bookings / administration will be carried out by the RTPI.
- (ii) Don Cameron, on behalf of BGS, invited those present to view literature produced by the BGS which was made available at the meeting.
- (iii) It was agreed that the issue of the conditions of Aggregates Levy funding ought to be a standing agenda item. ie. progress on research etc

SB

Date of next meeting

14th September, 2005.

Footnote

Tony Murray of the Crown estates has indicated that he will be retiring in April. His replacement is Jason Golder.

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