

WORKSHOP REPORT

Report Reference:
200201

North Cotswolds Quarries (Naunton – Toddington) Stakeholder Liaison Meeting 29 January 2020



Aerial photo: Google Earth

Facilitator:

Frank Lucas CEnv, MCIEEM
07792 975141

frank_lucas@btinternet.com

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Toddington Parish Council and Toddington Village Hall for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Funding for the venue and refreshments was kindly provided by the Cotswolds Conservation Board. The following quarry operators kindly provided funding for the costs of the external facilitator: The Breedon Group, Cotswold Hill Stone & Masonry Ltd (Cotswold Hill Quarry), Cotswold Natural Stone, Cotswold Stone Quarries Ltd, Johnston Quarry Group, Smiths (Gloucester) Ltd, Syreford Quarries & Masonry Ltd, Cotswold Stone Ltd.

1. Background and context

In January 2019 Temple Guiting Parish Council put forward a paper presenting ‘*A Call for a Fresh Approach to Quarrying in the Cotswold District AONB*’. The paper argued that decisions regarding quarrying in the north Cotswolds area need to be taken more holistically, with potential impacts considered cumulatively and greater attention to be paid to the needs of local residents.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board, Gloucestershire County Council and the minerals operators themselves were sympathetic to the need for a more holistic approach. To explore this issue in more detail the Cotswolds Conservation Board initiated the north Cotswolds quarries stakeholder liaison meeting in relation to the cluster of eight quarries that are located in the vicinity of Buckle Street and the B4077, between Naunton and Toddington, in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This focus area cuts across eight parishes.

The meeting was designed and delivered by Frank Lucas, an independent facilitator, working with John Mills of the Cotswolds Conservation Board and Lucy Binnie of Land and Mineral Management. The facilitator’s role was to guide the discussion, ensure that it stayed focussed on the meeting’s objectives and ensure that all participants had the opportunity to contribute effectively.

This report describes the process followed at the meeting and captures the flipchart outputs generated. It also records the post-meeting feedback. It is not, and is not intended to be, a verbatim record of the proceedings.

2. Meeting Objectives

- To bring together the main stakeholders in a positive forum for constructive engagement.
- To improve knowledge and understanding of quarrying in the north Cotswolds and to examine the issues that arise from it.
- To test support for a more holistic approach to quarrying in the area and, if supported, to examine what that would mean in practice.
- If not supported, to explore other possible ways forward, including the option to ‘do nothing different’.

3. Venue and timing

The meeting was held on 29 January 2020 at Toddington Village Hall, GL54 5DU, from 6pm to 9pm. Light refreshments were provided.

4. Arrival, sign-in and hopes for the evening

Overall there were 43 attendees drawn from the minerals industry, local Parish Councils, local government and the Cotswolds Conservation Board. A full list of attendees is given in Appendix 1.

On arrival attendees were asked to sign in and give photographic and GDPR consent (see Appendices 2 and 3).



After signing in, attendees were given a name badge with a coloured dot on it, indicating which of 5 tables (blue, black, yellow, red or green) they should join at the start of the meeting. Membership of each group was pre-arranged to ensure that each group had representatives from all sectors, and that as far as possible different attendees from the same organisation were split up for the start of the meeting.

At signing in, attendees were also asked to write on a post-it note, completing the sentence 'My hope for this evening is....' (see right). This encouraged attendees to reflect in advance on the purpose of the meeting and their reasons for attending. All post-it notes were gathered on a sheet at the back of the hall. These are transcribed into Table 1 below

Apologies were received from Lord Wemys and Cllr Richard Keeling.

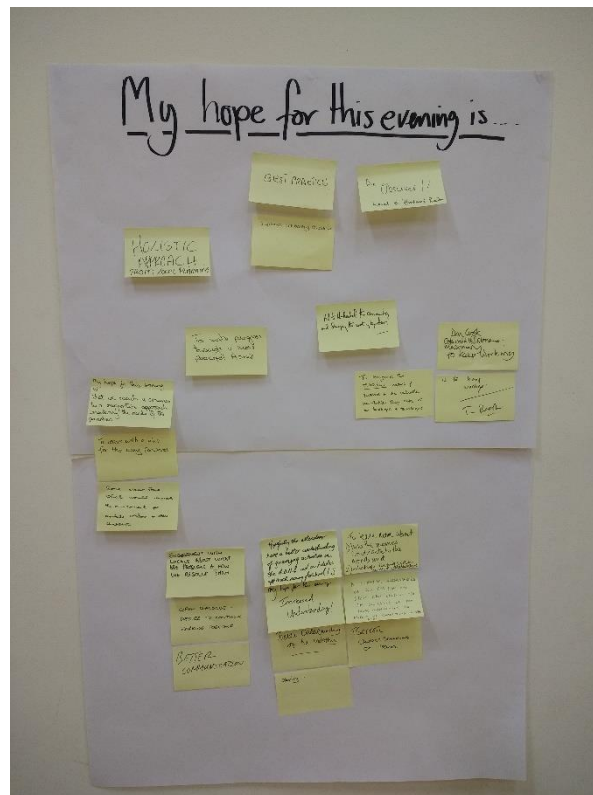


Table 1: My hope for this evening is....

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice • Compliance with best practice • Holistic approach from local planning • That we reach a consensus to a supportive approach considering the needs of the parishes • To make progress towards a more peaceful AONB • To leave with a plan for the way forward • All to understand the community and quarrying the [sic] working together • To keep working • To keep working (second post-it note) • To recognise the essential nature of quarries and the valuable contribution they make to our landscape and townscape • Some clear steps which would improve the environment for residents, visitors and other inhabitants • Better understanding of issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with locals about what are problems and how we resolve them • Open dialogue and desire to continue working together • Better communication • Hopefully the attendees have a better understanding of quarrying activities in the AONB and a holistic approach moving forwards 😊 • Better understanding of the industry • Clarity • To learn more about (i) how the quarries contribute to the AONB and (ii) whether things can be more collaborative • A clearer understanding of how the liaison group can respond to the concerns of the local communities in respect of quarrying in the area
--	---

5. Welcome and Introduction

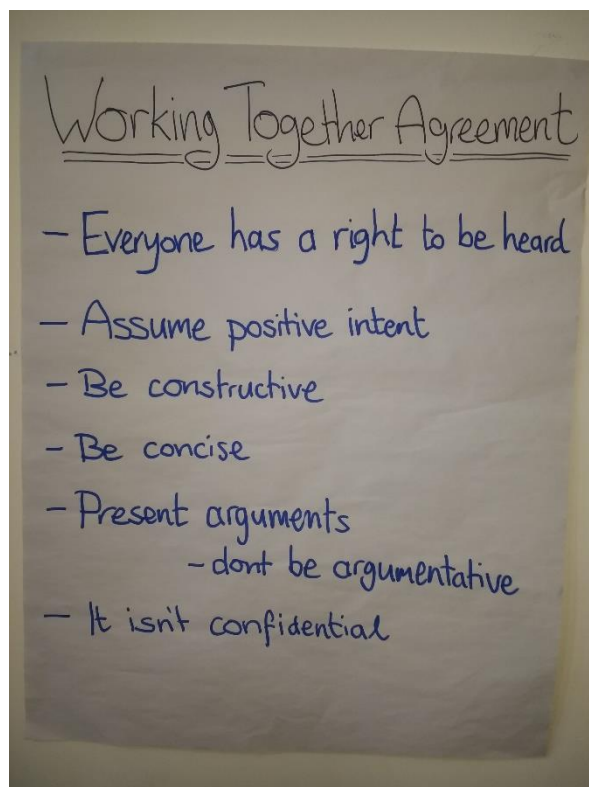
Attendees were called to order and asked to gather at the relevant coloured table to which they had been allocated.

Before commencement of the meeting a one-minute silence was observed in remembrance of Cllr Roger Wilson. Roger was the Gloucestershire County Council appointee on the Cotswolds Conservation Board until his untimely death in autumn 2019. His support for Temple Guiting PC's 'fresh approach to quarrying' helped to sow the seeds for setting up this meeting.

'House-keeping' arrangements were described and attendees were reminded of the objectives for the meeting, which had been circulated previously in an email.

A 'Working Together Agreement' (see right) was presented. The aim of the working together agreement was to encourage positive and open dialogue amongst attendees. It was also made clear that in a group of this size it was not possible to guarantee confidentiality. Attendees were asked to keep this in mind when contributing to the discussions.

Following the introductions, attendees were asked to gather around an annotated aerial photograph of the area where John Mills described the background to the meeting and the geographic area covered by it. Attendees then re-joined their original tables for Exercise 1.



6. Exercise 1 – Living and/or working in the North Cotswolds

Within their groups, attendees were asked to introduce themselves and then to share their experiences of living and/or working in the north Cotswolds.

Each group was provided with a flipchart sheets to allow them to record any observations if they wished to.

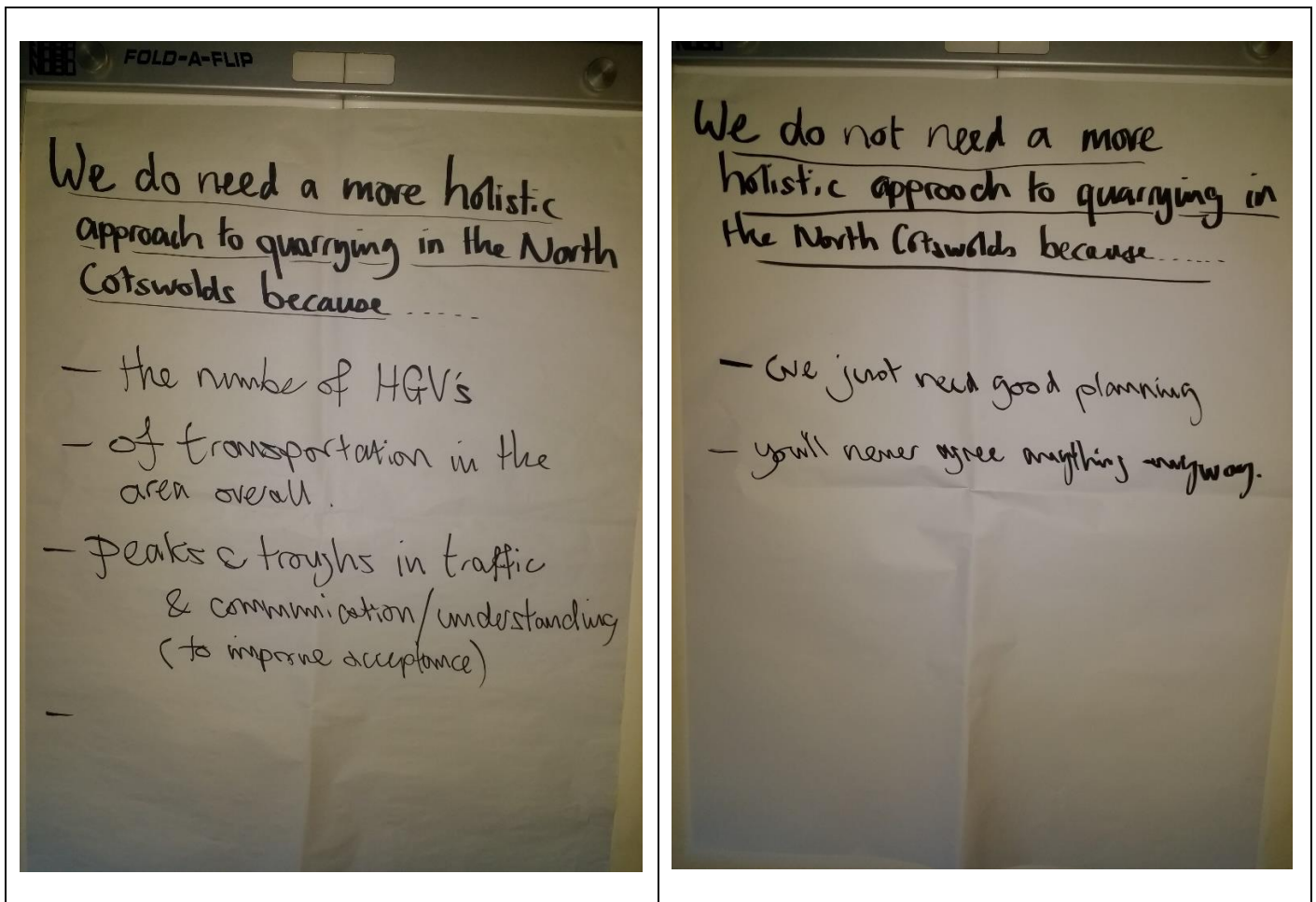
After c.10 minutes the meeting was called back together and the groups were invited to share any perspectives. A number of views were shared verbally. These were not recorded. None of the groups chose to record their observations on the flipchart sheets provided.



7. Exercise 2 – Do we need a more holistic approach to quarrying in the north Cotswolds?

For Exercise 2 attendees were asked to remain in the same five groups and to discuss the question of whether or not we need to take a more holistic approach to quarrying in the north Cotswolds, based on their own local knowledge and what they had already heard from others in the meeting.

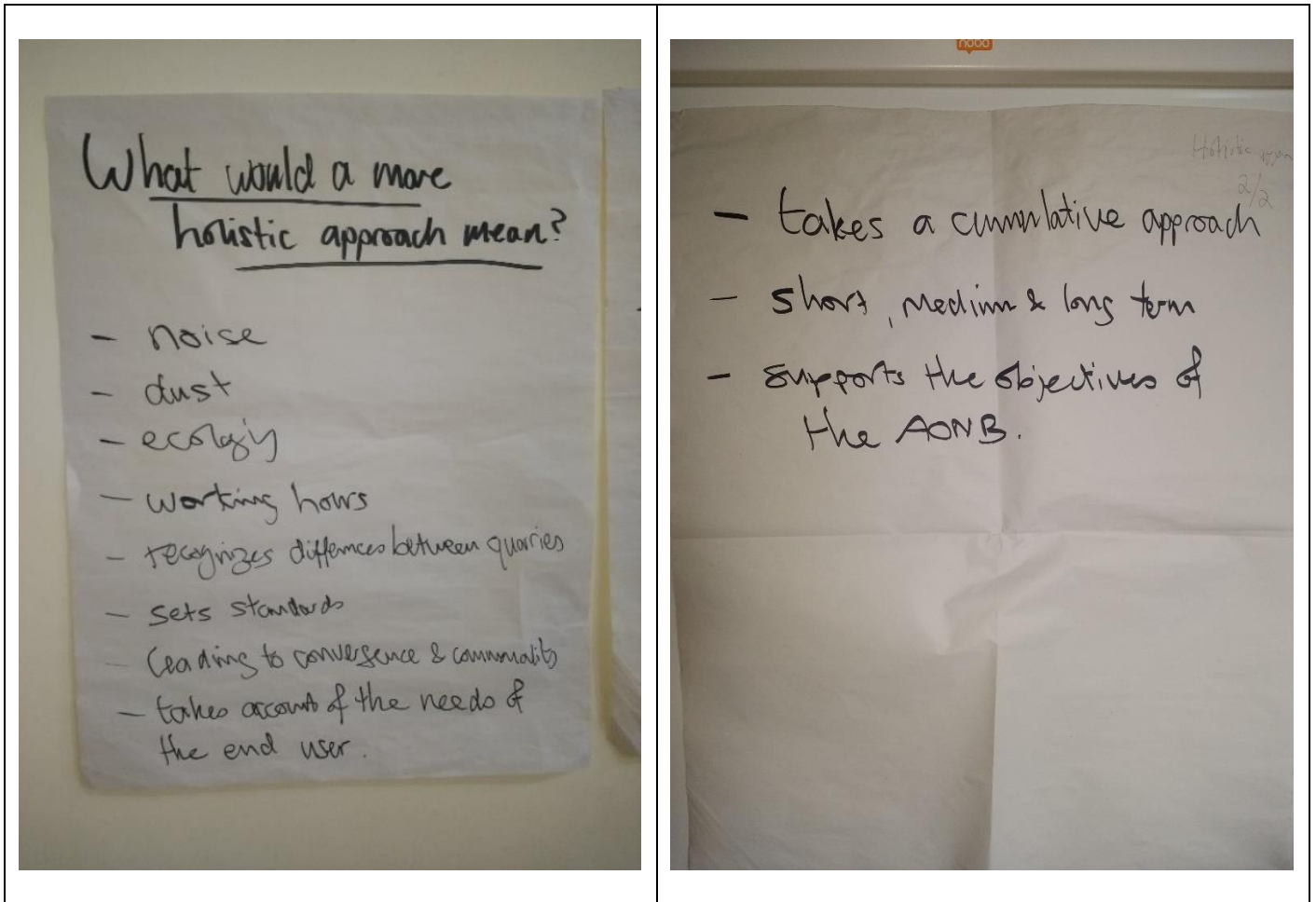
After c.15 minutes the meeting was called back together and the groups were invited to feed back their thoughts. Initial feedback focussed on the question as it was put to the groups, with direct responses to the 'do' or 'do not' choice. These responses are shown below.



One group raised the question of what a more holistic approach would mean in practice. A short whole-group discussion was held to identify possible components of a holistic approach. The following points were raised.

What would a more holistic approach mean?

- Noise
- Dust
- Ecology
- Working hours
- Recognises differences between quarries
- Sets standards
- Leading to convergence and commonality
- Takes account of the end user
- Takes a cumulative approach
- Short, medium and long-term
- Supports the objectives of the AONB



8. Exercise 3: Next Steps for Each Sector

Following a short break the meeting was reconvened and asked to gather in three sector-based groups of the minerals industry, the parish councils and other local government (inc. Cotswolds Conservation Board). Because of the size of the minerals industry group it was further divided into two minerals industry groups.

Each sector-based group was asked, bearing in mind what they had heard so far in the evening, to discuss and record on a flipchart

- What their sector group's next steps would be.
- What their sector would like to ask from either of the other sectors.
- What their sector could offer to either of the other sectors

Following c.25 mins debate each group fed back to the whole meeting. Questions were invited following feedback. Once all groups had fed back, they were asked briefly to re-convene in their sector group and where possible to allocate names (individual or organisation) to someone who might be willing to take a lead in actioning the next steps.

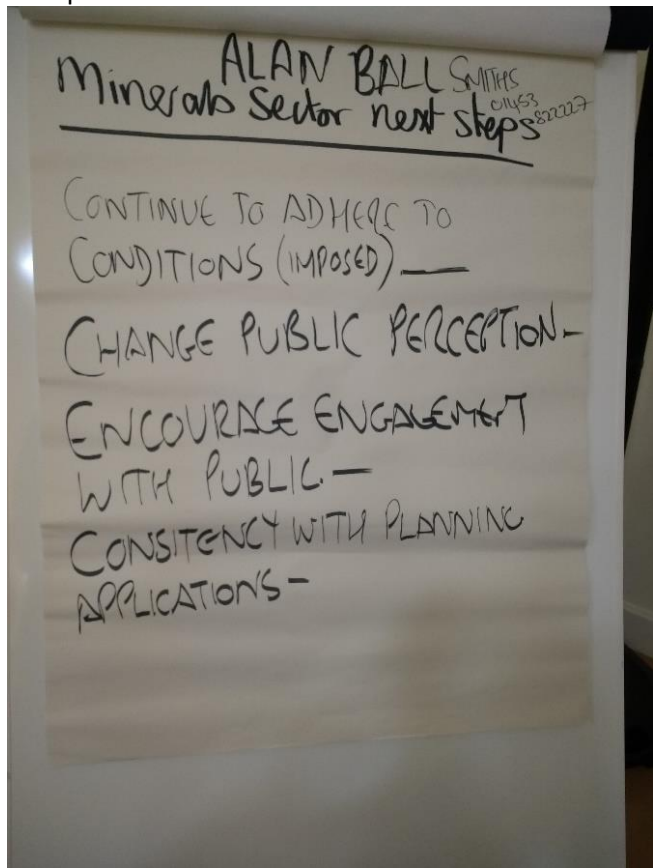
Table 2: Parish Council Next Steps, Asks and Offers

<p><u>Parish Councils next steps</u></p> <p><u>QUARRY OWNERS</u> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Code of conduct for drivers - Compliance with permissions - arrange/allow site visits (PCs together) - share information <p><u>GCC Highways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage 4077 + Buckle street better with traffic management tools [VAS, build outs] - Communication Local Community <p>LIVE + LET LIVE</p>	<p><u>GCC Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data - historic extraction levels - Review permissions more often. - establish base lines (noise, vibration, dirt etc) - definition of what is acceptable. - recognise "the train has already left the station"
--	--



Table 3: Mineral Industry Next Steps, Asks and Offers

Group 1



Group 2

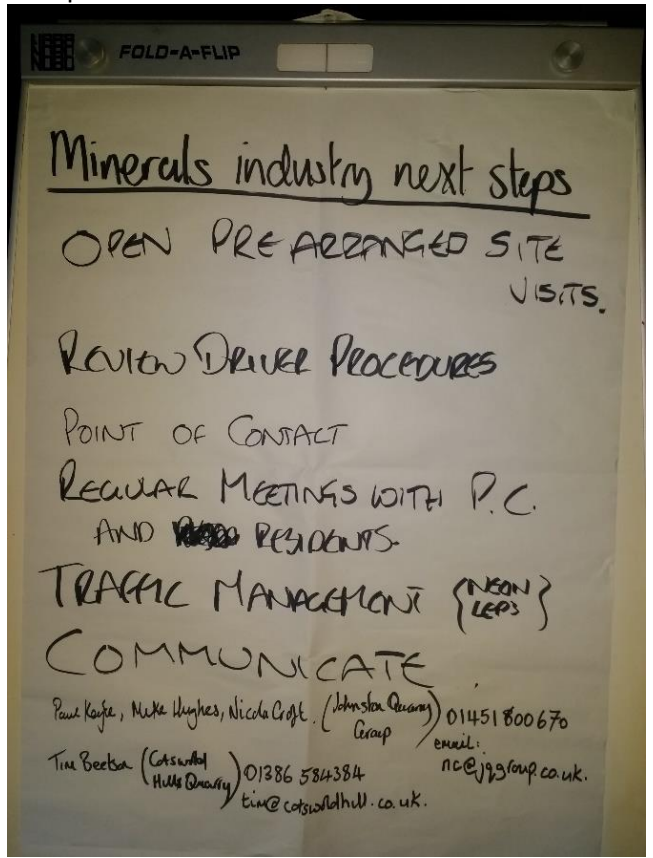
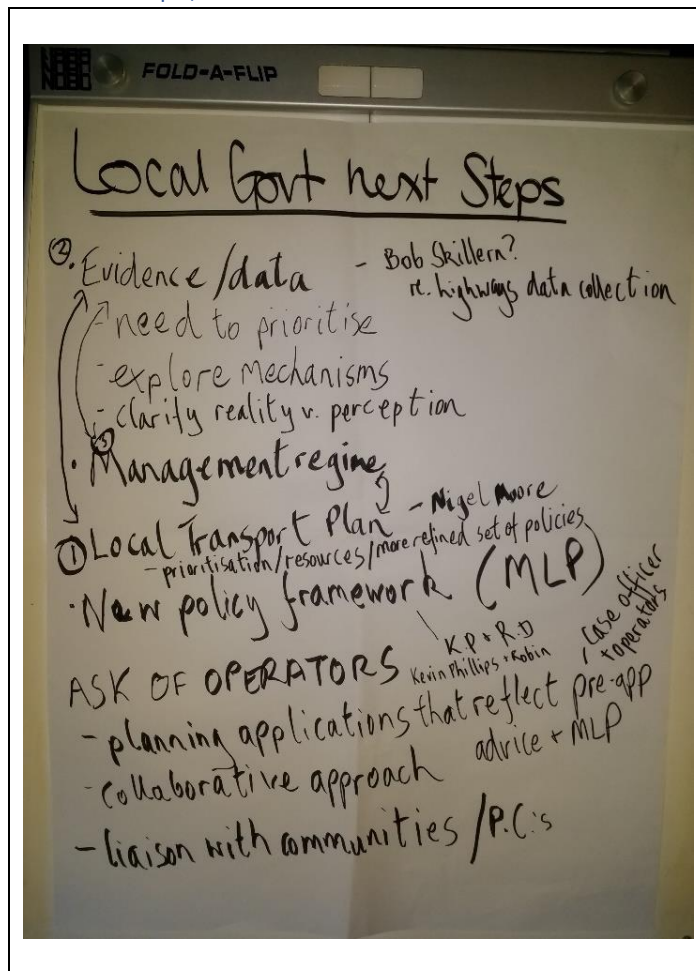


Table 4: Local Government Next Steps, Asks and Offers



9. Close of meeting

Following the identification of leads for the next steps the meeting was drawn to a close. Attendees were informed that a report of the meeting would be circulated and they were asked to complete a feedback form to enable the organisers to evaluate the effectiveness of the meeting.



10. Post-meeting Feedback

29 attendees completed the feedback form to allow the effectiveness of the meeting to be evaluated. On the form they were asked to indicate to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the statement 'It was worthwhile attending the North Cotswolds Quarries Stakeholder Liaison Meeting' by circling or ticking the best fit option. They were also invited to provide any free text comments and observations on what they liked about the meeting, what could have been better and any other comments. The results of the feedback are shown in Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Table 2: Overall Feedback Responses

It was worthwhile attending the North Cotswolds Quarries Stakeholder Liaison Meeting	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
	10	16	3	0	0

Table 3: One thing I really liked about the meeting was...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open forum • Cooperative atmosphere • <u>Understanding</u> • Well set up • Talking with the quarry stakeholders, hearing different views • Being able to talk to people on all sides of the discussion and get their opinions • The opportunity to meet and discuss issues with the stakeholders – also want to take this forward as a regular stakeholder forum • Starting the conversation • Listening to different parties’ views etc • Open discussion with willingness to find way forwards • Engagement • Apparent openness from all groups • Pro-active. Positive. • Biscuits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement and understanding of others views • Having people from all stakeholder groups. • Potential for interaction with other operators and Council members. • A constructive discussion of the issues • A starting point • Meeting different stakeholders and hearing different perspectives • The willingness of everyone to participate in a positive and constructive manner • Engagement with local Parish Councils and LPA alongside meeting new people • Openness of discussion • Gaining perspectives on all sides • Good turnout • Facilitation – and encouraging constructive dialogue
---	--

Table 4: One thing that could have been better was...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More even participation • Should have been a more direct approach to the issues. • More focussed sessions to agree way forward and get sign-up, involvement identified for the future. (i.e. more time on latter part pls). • Definition of the end objectives with benchmarks and best practice to be continued.... • We have only scratched the surface. Would like to hear more from Highways/condition of roads and suitability etc • How to pull the next steps together Next mtg? How do we make the next mtg happen? • More time for individual comments. What happens next? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A far more open approach could have been adopted • Help carrying it forward (then Lucy Binney chimed in!) • Next time a presentation by the quarrying industry so as to inform the current state of the industry • A more positive ‘agenda’ • A clear direction of travel, although that might arise following a review of the data • I really think we need to consider increases in traffic through these roads (not just HGV) i.e. what is the perceived % increase in HGV’s v. other traffic. I suspect the additional light traffic – tailgating etc, is adding to the issues.
--	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some conclusions and timescales • Identifying more directly which quarries are exceeding the volume of HGV's entering and leaving their site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the stakeholders should of introduced themselves and gave an outline of their business • Possibly larger tables • Not sure that the event was very successful in challenging the knowledge base
---	---

Table 5: Other comments...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worthwhile • Need to establish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Stakeholder forum b) Points of contact to use for better communication c) Better communication with involvement from each stakeholder group. • A good start for the interested parties • Will there be a report of the evening? • Got a better understanding what the quarry operators feel • Not every quarry should be tarred with the same brush 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to have decided on what's next rather than stopping dead. • Not entirely clear how changes can be made going forwards. • Would like to see this continued on a regular basis • Very enjoyable evening for our 1st meeting. Worthwhile meeting!! 😊 • A meeting is only as effective as the follow-up • Well done! • Difficulties (or practicalities) of moving forward in this format • Ongoing
---	---

Ends

Appendix 1: North Cotswolds Quarries Stakeholder Liaison Meeting Attendees

Attendees (total = 43):

Nick Bainton, Gloucestershire County Council (Planning)
Alan Ball, Smiths (Gloucester) Ltd (Cotswold Hill Quarry)
Tim Beetson, Cotswold Hill Stone & Masonry Ltd (Cotswold Hill Quarry)
Lucy Binnie, Land & Mineral Management (agent for Cotswold Hill, Guiting, Nayles Barn, Tinkers Barn and Three Gates Quarries)
Bill Bolsover, The Johnston Quarry Group et al (Guiting Quarry)
Cllr Bev Chance, Naunton Parish Council
Cllr Christopher Clarke, Cutsdean Parish Council
Luke Conlon, Cotswold Natural Stone (Grange Hill Quarry)
Paul Conlon, Cotswold Natural Stone (Grange Hill Quarry)
Antony Cook, David Jarvis Associates (agent for Naunton Quarry and Oathill Quarry)
Don Cook, Cotswold Hill Stone & Masonry Ltd (Cotswold Hill Quarry)
Cllr Edward Cookson, Upper Slaughter Parish Council
Nicola Croft, The Johnston Quarry Group et al (Guiting Quarry)
Matt Dovey, Syreford Cotswold Stone (Three Gates Quarry)
Robin Drake, Gloucestershire County Council (Planning)
Jayne Ewert-Perks, Temple Guiting Parish Council
Cllr Christine Fawcett, Toddington Parish Council
Cllr Maxi Freeman, Temple Guiting Parish Council
Cllr Simon Gardner, Guiting Power Parish Council
Cllr Stephen Gower, Temple Guiting Parish Council
Rhodri Grey, Gloucestershire County Council (Highways)
Kath Henley, Tewkesbury Borough Council (Environmental Health)
Mike Hughes, The Johnston Quarry Group et al (Oathill Quarry)
Paul Joynes, Breedon Group (Naunton Quarry)
Paul Keyte, The Johnston Quarry Group et al (Guiting Quarry)
Frank Lucas, Facilitator
Cllr Kate Mather, Temple Guiting Parish Council
Chris Mead, Gloucestershire County Council (Highways – Development Management)
John Mills, Cotswolds Conservation Board
Cllr Nigel Moor, Gloucestershire County Council
Neil Palmer, Cotswold Stone Quarries Ltd (Tinkers Barn Quarry)
Andy Parsons, Cotswolds Conservation Board
Kevin Phillips, Gloucestershire County Council (Planning)
David Pitt, David Jarvis Associates (agent for Naunton Quarry)
Cllr Alex Puddy, Stanway Parish Council
Ben Richardson, Breedon Group (Naunton Quarry)
Cllr Dawn Rimmer, Guiting Power Parish Council
Cllr Jan Sadler, Stanway Parish Council
Alan Smith, Smiths (Gloucester) Ltd (Cotswold Hill Quarry)
Jaco Swart, Cotswold Stone Quarries Ltd (Tinkers Barn Quarry)
Cllr Stuart Thomas, Lower Slaughter Parish Council

CLlr Ruth Waller, Toddington Parish Council

Julia Webberley, David Jarvis Associates (agent for Grange Hill Quarry)

Additional invitees who were not able to attend but would like to be kept informed / involved:

Lord Wemyss, Wemys & March Estates (Nayles Barn / Larch Quarry)

Martin Andrews, Wemys & March Estates (Nayles Barn / Larch Quarry)

Cllr Richard Keeling, Cotswold District Council

Graeme King, Breedon Group (Naunton Quarry)

Robert Skillern, Gloucestershire County Council (Highways)

Paul Smith, Smiths (Gloucester) Ltd (Cotswold Hill Quarry)

Linda Townsend, Gloucestershire County Council (Planning)

**PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE NORTH COTSWOLDS QUARRIES
STAKEHOLDER LIASON MEETING**

29 JANUARY 2020

Please be aware that today's event is being photographed for current and future promotional use by the Cotswolds Conservation Board and its partners. We kindly request that anyone who would rather not be photographed, notifies John Mills, as the official photographer, during today's proceedings.

John will use his best endeavours to avoid photographing guests who have expressed a preference, but this may not always be possible, so please avoid the cameras if you feel strongly about this.

Please note that by attending this event you are formally giving permission for your image being used, free of charge, by the Cotswolds Conservation Board for the designated purpose of promoting the work of the organisation.

Thank you for your co-operation.

**GDPR STATEMENT FOR QUARRY STAKEHOLDER
LIAISON MEETING**

29TH JANUARY 2020

In the process of organising this Quarry Stakeholder Liaison Meeting 29th January 2020), the Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') has collated relevant contact details for the attendees¹ and for those who have expressed an interest in attending but can't.

This meeting will hopefully be the first step in an ongoing process of engagement with stakeholders. As such, the Board kindly requests that you confirm that you are happy for your contact details to be retained by the Board for this purpose. If you are happy for your contact details to be retained please tick the GDPR box next to your name on the sign-in sheet.

It is possible that, following this meeting, an organisation (or organisations) other than the Board may take the lead on continuing this process of ongoing engagement. As such, the Board also kindly requests that you confirm that you are happy for your contact details to be shared with other relevant organisations for this purpose. Again, if you are happy for your contact details to be retained and shared in this way, please tick the GDPR box next to your name on the sign-in sheet.

¹In the case of parish council representatives, this has primarily been via the parish clerk's email address unless additional contact details have been provided.