

Belhelvie Community Council

Rainnieshill Quarry meeting – 14 January 2021



Meeting note

Present (BCC): David Wallace, Alex MacIntyre, Carolyne Wood, Graham Middleton
Jenny Nicol (first 30 minutes), Stephen Nicol

Aberdeenshire Council: Councillor Andrew Hassan

Local residents: Jim & Kerry Urquhart, Emily Boast, Bill Kinnaird, Stewart Morrison, Ceri Revethan, Fiona Ewen, Malcolm Paterson, Helen Gill

Representing the proposed development: Tom Lewis (Johnson Poole & Bloomer), Kevin Taylor (JKR Contractors Ltd), Ryan Taylor (JKR Contractors Ltd), Jim Taylor (JKR Contractors Ltd), Paul Frank (Landowner)

Community Councils

Udny, Foveran and Newmachar Community Councils were contacted with meeting details, but were not present. Udny Community Council had a public meeting with the development team the day before. Newmachar have submitted questions to the development team.

Presentation from the development team from (Johnson Poole & Bloomer)

The meeting opened with a presentation from the development team based on the website for the proposed quarry (<https://www.rainnieshillquarry.co.uk/>).

Johnson Poole & Bloomer are a scientific and engineering consultancy working on the application for the quarry.

The proposed quarry aims to enable JKR contractors (local firm based in Ellon) to make their business more efficient by providing a local source of stone.

The site of the quarry is on Paul Frank's land. The Franks family run a mixed farm and are looking to diversify their business.

The presentation included the expected output of the quarry over its lifetime (12-13 years), changes being made to the plans for access to the site (following public feedback), landscaping and planting to screen the site, plans for returning the site to scrubland at the end of its use, noise monitoring and reduction, blasting notifications, dust management and new pathways for pedestrians alongside existing roads that will be used by HGVs from the quarry.

Role of the Belhelvie Community Council

Our Chair (David Wallace) thanked the team for the presentation and explained that the Belhelvie Community Council is one of 4 Community Councils being consulted about the quarry, and while it falls outside our immediate boundaries our communities may experience traffic to and from the quarry and other impacts.

In response to a question from the public about the organisation of the meeting our Chair explained that this meeting was set up by the BCC as an opportunity for the BCC to speak to the development team (with the public). The quarry has already been discussed with residents in several of our regular public monthly meetings and will continue to be discussed. Taking into account these discussions the BCC will form an

opinion that will be fed back to Aberdeenshire Council through our Planning Reporter. Councillor Andrew Hassan noted that the public have their own right to send in their opinion on a planning application to Aberdeenshire Council.

These notes outline issues raised during the meeting. The development team's response to issues raised by the public is still being completed and is expected around the end of January/start of February.

Issues discussed

Roads, access, traffic and routing

Road access to the site was raised along with how a proposed fence (to shield pedestrians from the road) will be positioned so that fields along the road can still be accessed.

Some residents reported having problems in the past with bin collections and post due to a previous development in the area and road closures. There were concerns that the development of the quarry could cause similar problems for residents.

***Update to original minutes** at request of a resident who attended the meeting. The above point that bin collections were impacted by previous works was disputed by the resident who disagreed that the road works prevented bins being emptied.*

The development team are talking to Aberdeenshire Council about the impact of work to prepare the roads for the quarry traffic (for example laybys) to see if these will require roads to be fully or partially closed. They are aiming to minimise the impact on residents who use the private track that will need to be widened for the quarry.

Levels of traffic were a concern, as the roads around the proposed development are already seeing more traffic and the quarry will bring more HGVs into the area.

The route of HGVs arriving and leaving the quarry was discussed, along with the issue of schoolchildren crossing the route of the quarry traffic. The developers are aware of the issue of routing HGVs through the village of Kingseat as this was raised in the consultations last year. They are still working with Aberdeenshire Council on a final route plan for the site, this will be published in due course. Alex McIntyre (BCC Vice Chair) noted that quarry lorries may end up coming into Whitecairns at a difficult junction.

Wildlife

The impact on the site's wildlife was raised, an ecological survey has been done and will be made available to the public by the development team.

Noise

Concerns about the noise from the site was raised, further information about noise levels and will be made available by the development team. During the meeting it was noted that maintenance will take place within stipulated working hours (available on the quarry website), not out of hours or at weekends.

Application for the quarry and response to local residents' concerns

The planning application is still in the process of being written. As noted, Johnson Poole & Bloomer (JPB) have been consulting with local residents and are currently collating the issues raised. They expect to issue a response to questions and issues from residents in a few weeks, around the end of January / start of February.