

Wakerley Quarry Liaison Group

Report of meeting held on 12th November 2018

At the most recent meeting of the Liaison Group, Mick George, the operator of the quarry advised that, during the commencement of quarrying on the old airfield, they found that the limestone was much harder than they had anticipated and there are unable to break it mechanically into smaller pieces to fit the crusher.

Because of this, they have applied to Northamptonshire County Council for approval for a scheme to allow blasting. The approved Planning Application allowed for blasting but required the operator to provide details as to the method etc. It was explained that initially they only expect to blast every three of four weeks and they will advise all the surrounding villages in advance with the time and date. They will use the Village Email system to advise Barrowden residents as well as advising the Parish Council Clerk.

At the Liaison Meeting, their blasting contractor was in attendance and explained the methodology which will be used. In order to minimise both ground vibration and the change in air pressure caused by the blast, they will be using a large number of mini charges electronically controlled so that each mini blast is separated from the next blast by milliseconds. By using this method, it should minimise both the vibration and shock wave.

However, because they do not know just how hard the rock is, the first couple of blasts may exceed the threshold which they have set for vibration and shockwave. The Liaison Group were quite forceful in seeking extensive monitoring during these and all future blasts to make sure that the thresholds are not breached. They also asked for all measurements to be placed online for residents to be able to check the information – this request is still being considered.

The first blast is planned for some time in December and I would suggest that this report is used as the basis of a village email advising residents of Quarry's plans.

G Brown
2nd December 2018