

Minerals report from Deputy Gaveler

Freemining - General

- 0no. new requests for Application to register as Freeminer since the last Court meeting
- Total FM registrations since 01/09/1838 = 4369. Total Free Quarrymen registered = 320
- One new application for Grant of Gale for Coal is currently being processed and passed by me for approbation.
- 7 actively working coal mines and 1 Iron mine as recognised by the HSE
- I have had a meeting with a Private Galee to discuss the opening of a new mine on a recently transferred Gale.

Coal Authority

- 2no. 1994 Part II Licence/leases are currently being processed to allow CA Gales to be worked...One has completed and passed to me for approbation. Both are near completion - ONGOING.
- In addition, 2no. 1994 Part II operator's Licence have been applied for....COMPLETED
- J D Civils (The CA's retained contractor) will be undertaking formal treatment of a crown-hole at the Flour Mill Colliery with a pre-commencement meeting taking place next Monday (21st January)
- The Licencing team from the CA made a visit to the Dean 21st-23rd November... all is in good order.

Quarries (Subject to DFMA 1838)

- No new applications for Grant of Stone-tract
- From the last Court - Aston Bridge Quarry – Currently going through Approbation for release and offer. Site is undergoing extensive fencing and ground-clearance. The entrance gate has been moved and re-hung and the area immediately behind the gates cleared to use for stone preparation, site Office, welfare, and out-sales...ONGOING
- The Quarry mentioned at a previous Court meeting scheduled for assignment has now stalled amidst negotiations. I have personally met the potential assignee and can confirm that they are still very interested at this stage.

Quarries (Being dealt with Land Agent) including matters from previous Court

- Stowfield – Ongoing involvement with FC management team regarding possible future uses and preferred restoration schemes together with clear understanding of future planning applications regarding the same – CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE
- More of the general FC's Administration (financial management and invoicing) of Stowfield Quarry will be transferred to our retained National Minerals Consultant - Wardell Armstrong so that a closer eye may be kept on operational matters – This is proving challenging at our end regarding timeframes and feedback. A further meeting will be called to address outstanding matters.
- Precedent Quarry Leases – Standard leases for the smaller quarries drawn-up under similar terms but subject to site differences. Mine Train Quarry in Bixslade will be the first to use this new template....near completion but not yet undertaken. Shortly to be followed by Knob Quarry, Speech House Road – ONGOING WITH WARDELLS
- Barnhill/Bixshead Quarry is currently under proposal of surrender and re-grant with a number of outstanding Lease and Planning particulars to be addressed....discussions have now been concluded with the current footprint of operation being regularised in a new Lease offer to reflect current and possible minerals planning permission. The Lease will include an 'option' area upon determination of planning – ONGOING WITH WARDELLS

Other General Information

- Both myself and representatives of the Freeminers Association have been to Westminster to meet Officials at DEFRA to discuss future implications regarding the potential banning of sale of domestic coals and the Cleaner Air Policy. A full case has been presented for the requirement and inclusion of dispensation for the Hundred of St Briavels in any future Policy document.....discussions continue.



Deputy Gaveller

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