

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
- I am sad to report that my latest entry in the register (Mr Les Ruck – FM No.4369) has now passed away.
- (From previous report) One new application for Grant of Gale for Coal is currently being processed and passed by me for approbation – Now successfully completed and in Grant.
- 7 actively working coal mines and 1 Iron mine as recognised by the HSE – these being Hopewell (including Old Furnace), Morse’s Level, Wallsend, Monument, Phoenix, Redding’s No.2, Buckholt and Clearwell No.2/Old Ham
- A CA Licence has been successfully acquired by a Freeminer for the purposes of underground mining in the Upper house coals near Oakenhill Parkend. I am now exploring the options as to where the entrance/egress portals and Rule 10 area will be sited

Coal Authority

- ALL operating coal mines in the Hundred are now fully CA compliant – all now have either Operator Licences or Combined Licences/Lease. This is the first time since 1994
- (From previous report) 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) – This proved to be insignificant and has been left fenced as a ‘secured monitored site’.
- A further 4no. CA sites have been identified as requiring treatment and are scheduled for treatment this calendar year
- The CA Licencing team will be making an inspection around August (TBC)

Quarries (Subject to DFMA 1838)

- No new applications for Grant of Stone-tract by a Freequarryman OR Freeminer.
- (From the last report) - Aston Bridge Quarry – Currently going through Approbation for release and offer. Site is still 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
- Richard Read Transport Ltd (owners of the Great Berry Quarry Lease) have now disbanded and seeking to dispose of their quarry interest. There are a number of interested parties and offers are on the table with a view to assign in the very near future.

- Knobb Quarry - currently undergoing a lease renewal - approaches completion and is currently with solicitors.
- Monument Quarry is exploring Assignment. Any transfer of Quarry Lease is subject to Approbation from Forestry England with a suitable level enquiry before approval.

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. There has been some focus on the old ‘Roger’s Quarry’ site which will involve the installation of piezometers and ground-water monitoring stations located in FE land around the main quarry Lease. This will be conducted under my direction.
- (From previous report) More of the general FC’s Administration (financial management and invoicing) of Stowfield Quarry has been 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 – THIS MEETING HAS NOW TAKEN PLACE AND THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN FLAGGED AND ADDRESSED. WE NOW HAVE ASSURED COMMITMENT TO CLOSE-OUT OUTSTANDING MATTERS
- 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. H.O.T’S HAVE NOW BEEN AGREED AND IS VERY NEAR COMPLETION

Other General Information

- Cleaner Air Act.....no further news or information. This Office is still waiting to hear if a response has been given by the Office of the Rt Hon Mark Harper or Minister.
- The HSE will be looking at availability for their annual Intervention Inspections June/July.




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