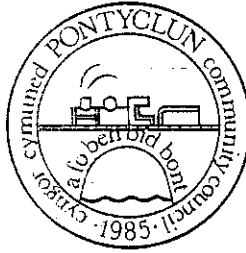


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
 J. H. G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
 Telephone: Llantrisant (0443) 227094



"Mandalay"
 Cowbridge Road,
 Talygarn, Pontyclun,
 Mid Glamorgan CF7 9BZ

Minutes of the meeting a special sub committee of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00p.m. on Wednesday, 15 May, 1991.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Professor I D Bowen, (Chairman) Mr T J Burton, Mr J R Dilworth, Mr G M Moir and Mr R G Norman

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors Mrs A Burton, Mr E V Griffith, Mr V P James and Mrs O P Phillips

2. Mineral Local Plan for Limestone Quarrying in Mid Glamorgan - Part 4 - Hendy Quarry

RESOLVED: That the following observations be submitted to the County Planning Officer:-

1. Each of the Scale 1:10,000 maps contained in the report, although dated April, 1991, is out of date. The most recent development in the vicinity of the Quarry, The Chestnuts, is not shown. The Council believes that an informed decision on the Quarry should not be made without knowing the extent of adjacent residential development.
2. Geology Map 4 shows that the limestone belt extends from the Quarry across Misken village up to Manor Hill. A survey conducted in the village shows that properties along this line have suffered structural damage. Further extraction of limestone at the Quarry will cause additional damage along this belt. Indeed, vibration levels from explosions will be transmitted under the foundations of all houses in the village.
3. Section 5.1 details the constraints to future quarrying. The Community Council believes that these reasons in themselves are sufficient to close the Quarry immediately.
4. Section 5.6 states that the greater part of the Quarry now operates under the terms of the 1963 planning consent which limits the depth of the Quarry to 60 feet below the Quarry floor. This is the first indication Misken residents have

had that a further planning consent would be necessary to extract below 60 feet.

5. The report accepts that, provided planning consent were obtained, it would be possible to excavate "one or two further lifts" subject to the constraints of the water table. The Community Council is concerned about the unknown effects of a large surge of water into the excavations in the event of the water table being breached. No indication of the effects is contained in the report. Indeed, it would appear that no borings have been taken to establish the presence of the numerous abandoned, and flooded, iron ore workings in the vicinity. Residents of Miskin would look to the planning authority for compensation in the event of water damage to their homes.
6. Paragraph E.1 suggests the provision of additional wheel cleaning facilities at the quarry. The existing wheel cleaning facilities result in large accumulations of mud and water on School Road. This point takes on major significance when one considers that the County Council propose that School Road will be the only access point on to the A4119 from Miskin and Pontyclun.
7. Grave doubts exist about the quarry operator's observance of Health and Safety requirements. It is a fact that a Prohibition Notice, suspending quarry operations, has been served on the operator on at least one occasion when debris from blasting showered properties in Miskin. Further evidence of the scant regard to Health and Safety is the absence of a 6 foot high perimeter fence around the site as required by the County Planning Authority under planning consent 56/76/322, dated 22 August, 1975.
8. Section 5.5 suggests the possibility of an extension of quarrying activities into field no.4931 between the quarry entrance and the A4119. The Community Council would strongly advise against this course of action since:-
 - (a) Blasting could rupture the petrol storage tanks at the junction of School Road and the A4119.

- (b) The premises adjacent to the Corner Park Garage, owned by the Ministry of Transport, are regularly used for roadworthiness checks on heavy goods vehicles using the nearby M4. Vehicles carrying toxic chemicals, flammable fuels and explosives regularly use these premises.
 - (c) The Highways and Transportation Department of the County Council propose that the junction of School Road and the A4119 will eventually be controlled by traffic lights. The Community Council believes that, bearing in mind earlier incidents of rock being showered on residents' properties in Miskin, there would be a strong likelihood of vehicles at the traffic lights being subjected to the effects of fly debris.
 - (d) Part of the new Cefn-yr Hendy residential development, for which outline planning consent has already been granted, would fall inside the safeguarding zone as detailed in Section 2.6.1
 - (e) The nearby I C I explosives depot could be subject to the effects of vibration.
 - (f) The foundations of the adjacent A4119 could be effected by vibration from blasts.
 - (g) The effects of blasting would destroy the nearby monastery.
 - (h) The effects of blasting would damage the nearby Grade 2 Listed Building, Mwyndy House.
9. Now that planning consent has been granted for an extension of the Steetly Quarry at Tongwynlais there is no overwhelming need to expand at Miskin.

10. A recent statement by Dr Kim Howells, MP for Pontypridd, laid great emphasis on not repeating the mistakes of the past. It would be wrong to sacrifice the pleasant village of Miskin for the sake of 21, albeit temporary, jobs. If, as seems very likely, the quarry is reaching the end of its working life, then there would be ample justification in not granting any further planning consents, and avoid the need to pay the operators any compensation.

3. The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

