

REVIEW OF OLD MINERAL PLANNING CONSENTS (ROMP) CORNELLY QUARRIES

Gaens Quarry, Grove Quarry and Cornelly Quarry have an historical consent to operate that pre-dates the modern planning system. They are also subject to an Interim Development Order (IDO) that dates back to the 1940s. Part of the IDO is that the consents are periodically reviewed.

Planning applications were submitted for Gaens Quarry (P/97/85/MIN), Grove Quarry (P/97/618/MIN) and Cornelly Quarry (P/97/623/MIN) for the periodic review of planning conditions. Prior to determination all the applications were called in by the (then) Welsh Office in 1998. The 'call in' procedure means that the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) i.e. Bridgend CBC is no longer the determining body. Instead the application will be determined by the Welsh Ministers.

At the time there was some considerable discussion between the applicants, the MPA and the Welsh Office regarding the need for an environmental impact assessment (EIA). An EIA was eventually submitted in 2003.

A further planning application relating to Cornelly & Grove Quarries for the periodic review of the IDO was submitted in 2009 (P/09/738/MIN) this was also called in by the Welsh Government in 2010.

Further to this Welsh Government issued a scoping direction in 2013, which indicate that a further EIA was required and an environmental statement (ES) was submitted in 2014.

There is no proposal to extend the boundaries of the quarries under these applications.

It is now proposed to hold a Public Inquiry in order to discuss the issues on all the 'called in' applications. The Inquiry will be led by a Planning Inspector, who will prepare a report for consideration by the Welsh Ministers. BCBC will attend and participate in the Inquiry, however it is unlikely that BCBC will be represented by a legal advocate.

BCBC's position is to examine, review and make comment on the proposed conditions as submitted although it is not in a position to amend or modify conditions regarding the operation of the quarries. Current national planning advice indicates that compensation will be payable if additional or modified conditions are imposed. It is possible that the Inspector could recommend changes to the conditions which could result in liability being put on BCBC.

The main issue in environmental terms is the impact on hydrogeology in relation the nearby Kenfig National Nature Reserve, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Merthyr Mawr. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will be providing the main input into this issue.

The Inquiry will discuss any issues of disagreement regarding the above and is due to take place in November 2015.

Recommendation

That the contents of the report be noted.

MARK SHEPHARD
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

Background Papers

See relevant application reference number.