

**c/o Tice's Meadow Bird Group**  
268 Lower Farnham Road  
Aldershot  
Hampshire  
GU11 3RB

October 21<sup>st</sup> 2019

Simon Willis - Chief Executive Officer  
Hanson Quarry Products Europe Limited  
Hanson House  
14 Castle Hill  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire  
SL6 4JJ

CC: The Board of Directors – Hanson Quarry Products Europe Limited  
CC: The Managing Board – HeidelbergCement Group

**Ref:** Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve (formerly Farnham Quarry)

Dear Mr Willis,

We, the undersigned, would like to take this opportunity to write to you regarding the impending sale of Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve – on the site of Hanson's former Farnham Quarry in Badshot Lea, Surrey. This is an open letter that we shall also be publishing across our social media and website, and in the local press.

Hanson, working in partnership with the other site stakeholders, have successfully delivered an award-winning restoration of the site, which has developed into a multi award-winning community run nature reserve. The site is used as an example of excellence across the country, including by the Mineral Products Association and the RSPB's Nature After Minerals initiative, and has developed into one of the best inland nature reserves in the south-east of England, home to many rare and threatened species.

The nature reserve that Hanson have created has also become a hub for volunteering that stretches beyond the reserve's borders and into the local communities, led by the Tice's Meadow Bird Group (TMBG). Hanson should rightly be congratulated for encouraging the development of the TMBG, from a small group of bird watchers, into a highly effective multi award-winning team, with an impressive record of safely delivering numerous ambitious projects, and who have only recently been nominated for a Queen's Award for Excellence. None of this would have been possible without the support and mentorship of Hanson.

2018 in particular was an *annus mirabilis*, which saw:

- 5,000 volunteer hours on site.
- £35,000 raised in donations, prizes & grants by the TMBG.
- £20,000 invested back into the nature reserve by the TMBG.
- Major projects completed by the TMBG:
  - Biodiversity Trail, Bird watching shelter, Swift nesting tower, Sand Martin nesting bank, 30 bat boxes, 2 new tern rafts, 100 nest boxes donated to local school pupils and much more.

- Awards won:
  - UK Quarry Life Award (2<sup>nd</sup> place), International Quarry Life Award (1<sup>st</sup> place), Waverley Borough Council Design Award, Hampshire County Council Volunteer of the Year Award.
- 150+ visitors during the BioBlitz, and tours for c300 visitors throughout the year.
- A combined value of management of £93,028 from all stakeholders, for an annual site management contribution (excluding one-off costs) of just £4,000 from Hanson.

Whilst the news of the sale came as a shock to the local community, your reasons for disposal are generally understood and we are not asking you to reconsider the decision. However, concern has been caused by the progress of the sale, particularly the perceived lack of consultation with the local community, local authorities and county wildlife bodies, despite many offers to work together to achieve a satisfactory outcome for Hanson.

The other site stakeholders had hoped to receive some assurance from Hanson at the recent Aftercare & Management Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. However, the minutes show that Hanson's representative repeatedly refused to offer any form of assurance, and a number of concerning statements regarding the sale process were made, including:

- There will be no test of the new owner's suitability. Hanson's board will not take into account the bidders' intentions, or any reputational damage their intentions may subsequently cause to Hanson, when deciding on a preferred bidder.
- The involvement of the TMBG on site is under threat. Their role on site has not been formalised by Hanson and the new owner will have no obligation to continue to allow them access to site.
- All of the site infrastructure paid for and installed by the TMBG – with the express permission of Hanson, and much of which was installed for the Quarry Life Awards competition – may be under threat of being removed by the new owners.
- None of the potential bidders have been in contact with Surrey County Council to discuss the site's regulatory regime, or the various county wildlife bodies to discuss the site's biodiversity and habitat management requirements.

In light of the above, we politely request that you pause and consider that you are not just disposing of a parcel of land, you are selling a cherished community asset and valuable biodiversity resource that Hanson have helped develop. Please do take into account the new owner's suitability when deciding on a preferred bidder, and consider the reputational damage that may be caused to Hanson by selecting an unsuitable new owner.

We believe it is in Hanson's long-term interest to leave a sustainable legacy for the local community and environment, that can be held up as an example of your high standards of corporate governance in future.

We all hope to be able to work together with Hanson to achieve a successful transition to new ownership that protects the long-term future of the nature reserve, and allows it to continue to develop and flourish in the future.

Yours sincerely,

**The Undersigned**

## **List of Signatories**

Chris Bagust	Chair	Aldershot Branch Labour Party
Gaynor Austin	Chair	Aldershot Constituency Labour Party
Justin Coll	Chair	Aldershot Civic Society
Stephen Barney	Chair	Aldershot, Farnham & Fleet Camera Club
Roger Dickey	Chair	Army Ornithological Society
John Martin	Chair	Badshot Lea Bloomers
Cliff Watts	Chair	Badshot Lea Community Association
Gemma Ball	Headteacher	Badshot Lea Infants School
John Martin	Chair	Badshot Lea Pond Group
Roy Dennis	Treasurer	Beddington Farm Bird Group
Lou James	Chair	Bishop's Meadow Trust
Mary Ferris	Chair	Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust
Peter Barnett	Coordinator	Blackwater Valley Green Party
Noel Moss	Chair	Bourne Conservation Group
Roger Dickey	Trustee	British Trust for Ornithology
Bernard Baverstock	Chair	Camberley Natural History Society
Fiona Massari	Coordinator	Extinction Rebellion Farnham
Noel Moss	Chair	Farnham Biodiversity Group
Julia Davidson	Chair	Farnham Community Farm
Libby Ralph	Chair	Farnham Rivers Group
Alan Gavaghan	Chair	Farnham Society
Iain Lynch	Town Clerk	Farnham Town Council
Jim Storey	Chair	Fleet Pond Society
Mike Hatch	Chair	Friends of Brickfields Country Park
David Havenhand	Chair	Friends of Farnham Park
Dr. D. M. Jennings	Chair	Friends of Normandy Wildlife
Gemma Brown	PCC Secretary	Parish of Badshot Lea & Hale
Paul Dawson	President	Rotary Club of Farnham Weyside

Nick Palmer	Chair	South West Surrey Labour Party
Corin Harrison	Manager	Space2Grow Farnham
Steve Langham	Chair	Surrey Amphibian & Reptile Group
Ross Baker	Chair	Surrey Bat Group
Eric Soden	Chair	Surrey Bird Club
Steve Chastell	County Bird Recorder	Surrey Bird Club
Dave Williams	Chair	Surrey Dormouse Group
Richard Horton	Chair	Tice's Meadow Bird Group
Roger Dickey	President	Tice's Meadow Bird Group
Dave Williams	Secretary	West Surrey Badger Group
Steve Rattan	Leader	4 <sup>th</sup> Farnham Scout Group
Mike Roberts	Rushmoor Borough Councillor for Aldershot Park	
Sophie Porter	Rushmoor Borough Councillor for Aldershot Park	
Terry Bridgeman	Rushmoor Borough Councillor for Aldershot Park	
Stephen Spence	Surrey County Councillor for Farnham North	
Dan Hunt	Waverley Borough Councillor for Farnham, Weybourne & Badshot Lea	