Report from Tarmac Local Liaison Group Meeting 7th April 2011

1. Two traffic incidents: Drier caught using mobile 'phone while driving through village;

One driver caught speeding, given a one-day driving ban.

2. Tarmac has a new lorry wash facility which ensures that the top canvasses covering of its lorries are washed and dampened down as well as the rest of the vehicle. Previously, it was just the wheels and the lower parts of the vehicles that were dampened. Tarmac did make the point that the village does seem to be particularly prone to dust being blown along the road and hedgerows, albeit they are aware of additional problems caused by stone dust from their lorries.

3. Tarmac, as a subsidiary company of Anglo-American, is to be united in a new Joint Venture company with the French company Lafarge (UK). This will only affect the quarrying side of the business – Tarmac Building Products is not included in the deal, which, subject to the usual due diligence checks should e completed by the end of the year.

4. Work will start shortly on blasting a face in the south-west corner of the quarry. Blasting should only occur once a week at 1.45 p.m. Currently, blasting is only occurring once in two weeks. New monitoring equipment has been installed to check the blast levels and ground vibration that ensues. Tarmac stated that most of the tremors that householders experience are due to air over-pressure reflections.

5. Tarmac will be speaking to North Somerset Planning Authority regarding the future quarrying of the Spinney extension. Initially, they will be asking for a 'scoping' opinion; i.e. what will be required of them to put into their Environmental Impact Assessment so that they can proceed with a full planning application later. It is anticipated that this will be submitted in the next three to four months with a full planning application being submitted by the end of 2012. This application is within the constraints laid down in NSC's Core Strategy regarding requirements for future quarrying needs. Andrew Cadell (Estates Manger Tarmac) is more than willing to discuss the proposals with parish councils and any other interested local group in order that everybody is happy with their proposals, and they will take on board any suggestions these groups may wish to make.

6. Tarmac is still willing to consider any applications for donations to local groups, although they have changed their internal systems in this regard, so it may take a little longer than previously for decisions to be returned, and money is not abundant, at the moment.

7. The next Local Liaison Group meeting will be towards the end of September 2011, but Tarmac will keep us informed of any matters that require our attention occurring before that date.