

Pant-y-Gwlanod Quarry

I thought it prudent to provide an accurate update, as Local Resident on the Liaison Committee and as someone who was involved, regarding the incident which happened on the morning of Saturday 3rd October. I do this to prevent any unfounded rumours and miss-information that may be circulating.

At about 9.15 a.m. the police helicopter hovered low over my garden followed by the arrival of a paramedic in his car. I let the paramedic into the quarry (I have the lock code for emergency purposes) to look for someone who had called 999 stating that they had fallen into the quarry and were injured. The ambulance crew at the white sands side of the quarry were unable to see the casualty. The paramedic and I spotted the casualty on a ledge some 50ft down from the top of the quarry, the casualty could be seen to move.

The paramedic, with advice from me, decided that it was unsafe, due to loose rocks, to extract the casualty up the rock face. The paramedic made the decision to call out the rescue helicopter from 22 Squadron RAF Valley.

North East Wales Search and Rescue (NEWSAR) arrived and a team member abseiled down to the casualty. 22 Sqn arrived and lowered a crewman down to the casualty. The casualty was stabilised and winched up to the helicopter along with the NEWSAR team member.

The casualty was reported as having injuries to his head, arm, both legs and pelvis.

Darrell Williams of D.P.Williams (quarry company) contacted me as the rescue services were clearing up and said that his Production Manager was on his way over. I met with the Production Manager, I briefed him on what had happened and together we checked the boundary fence. The injured person appears to have gained access to the quarry through a hole that had been cut in the weldmesh fence close to white sands. This hole had been cut some while back by someone with bolt cutters and had been closed off again by the quarry company using barbed wire. The barbed wire had been pulled away. The hole was closed up again and made safe.

The quarry company, the Community Beat Manager and I have been reasonably successful this year in keeping the fence repaired and keeping people out of the quarry. However there is at least one person, possibly local, who accesses the quarry from time to time and is probably the same person who cut the hole in the fence, cut the lock off the gate and climbs the fence by the quarry gate. My best guess is that this person is after the rabbits in the quarry and surrounding area.

The quarry is a hazard, as is any quarry, but it is worth noting that the fence surrounding Pant-y-Gwlanod quarry is twice the height of the fence surrounding the Graig Quarry. As long as the fence remains intact, the risk from the quarry is significantly reduced.

Gareth Bryan

Graig Cottage, Eryrys.