



**Liaison Group Forum**  
**Minutes of meeting: 18 July 2024, 14.00**  
**Egton Village Hall**

**Present:**

Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)  
Heather King (HK) – Anglo American  
Mark Elliot (ME) – Anglo American  
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority  
Rob Smith (RS) - North York Moors National Park Authority  
Cllr Mike Holliday (MH) – Sneaton PC  
Cllr Dave Brown (DB) – Sneaton PC  
Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire Council  
Cllr David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire Council  
Cllr Linda Wild (LW) – Whitby Town Council

Two members of the public were in attendance.

**1. Introduction**

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Swannick and Cllr Nock.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Members were satisfied that the minutes were an accurate record of the last meeting.

**4. Matters Arising from previous meeting**

BF had provided further information to SK about the archeological works near Lockwood and HK had sent the Social Impact Report to CW.

**5. Project Update**

MP provided an update and overview on the recent announcements about Anglo American and the slowdown of the Woodsmith Project. He reported that the aim was to be in a position to fully restart construction by the end of 2026.

ME gave a presentation, including images of the different sites, covering construction progress since the last meeting. He focused on how construction would be impacted following the slowdown announcement in May.

ME explained that work would continue with the shaft boring road header (SBR) in the service shaft in addition to the progression of the mineral transport system tunnel (at a reduced rate) but that other aspects of construction would be paused.

He said the TBM had reached the intermediate shaft at Ladycross and was having a scheduled maintenance stop until later in the year whilst the connection between shaft and tunnel was completed.

- LW asked about the value of the product and whether this was linked to the slowing down of the Project? She also asked whether the community funding would be affected.

- MP replied that the availability of capital was the issue and not the value of the polyhalite. He explained that 2023 had been a challenging year for Anglo American, which had impacted the company's balance sheet that meant that the development of Woodsmith had to be slowed down. MP went on to reassure LW that the company remained committed to funding its community programmes focused on vulnerable young people. He described how some of the funding had been reallocated to support the project workforce that had been impacted by the slowdown.
- A member of the public asked about the sales agreements made before Anglo American's involvement and whether an investment partner would be for the whole of Anglo American or just the Woodsmith Project?
  - MP explained that investment partner would be for Woodsmith Project specifically.
- BF asked whether there was anything to update the group with in regard to syndication and also whether any remediation would take place at Lockwood once the grout plant had moved to the Ladycross site.
  - MP explained that a process to identify and engage potential syndication partners was ongoing and would continue into 2025. He suggested that there were no imminent plans for remediation work at Lockwood, due to budget constraints.
- A member of the public asked whether there was a date in mind for the commencement of production?
  - MP replied that this depended on when construction ramped back up.
- CP asked whether there was the capacity to deal with the potential quantity of water in the sandstone seam during shaft sinking.
  - ME confirmed that there was.
- RS asked about the shift patterns of the reduced workforce.
  - ME replied that there was likely to be a Monday to Friday single shift pattern and that vehicle movements would be lower as a result.

## 6. Planning update

### Conditions

RS reported that NYMNPA were fully up to date with respect to the discharge of planning conditions and in close dialogue with Anglo American whilst continuing with regular monitoring.

### Section 106

BF provided an update on some of the recent work with respect to the Section 106 funding.

## 7. Complaints

MP reported that seven complaints had been received since the last meeting. Four were noise related. Three concerned traffic issues, with two relating to driver behaviour. MP described the new system in place to address parking issues near Hawksgarth Lodge.

## 8. Community

MP reported that a programme had been established, working in partnership with local councils, combined authorities and the National Careers Service, to support people across the Woodsmith workforce that had been impacted by the slowdown. This included training, business start-up support, careers advice and job search support.

## 9. A.O.B

- A member of the public suggested having a base in Whitby as the quarterly meetings were not accessible for working people.
  - MP replied that the company attended parish and town council meetings, and hold drop-in sessions outside of working hours. An office in Whitby was something that would be considered in the future.

- CB thanked the team for the work Skills 4 Work do in Sneaton.

MP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.