

Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 1 October 2020, 1.00 – 2.30pm
Online Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American
Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
Glenn Dunn (GD) – Anglo American
Mark Pooleman (MPo) – Anglo American
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Mike Hawtin (MH) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Rob Smith (RS) - North York Moors National Park Authority
Cllr Linda Wild (LW) – Whitby Town Council
Cllr Clive Pearson – North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Stewart Campbell (SC) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

1 member of the public was in attendance.

1. Introduction

GE introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr Joe Plant

3. Minutes of previous meeting

No comments, minutes accepted as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

Action 1: MP explained that NYCC are planning for the two or three additional rail services to be live in May 2022. To clarify, a rail service is a round trip – meaning a train arriving in Whitby from Middlesbrough and then making the return journey.

5. Project Update

MPo provided a presentation, including images of the site, covering the progress that had been made since the last meeting. He explained that the focus remained on preparing the service shaft, production shaft and minerals transport system (MTS) shaft for the main shaft sinking.

The Shaft Boring Roadheader (SBR) had been successfully installed in the service shaft at the depth of 120m in preparation shaft sinking to an eventual depth of 1,600m. MPo reported that the production foreshaft was complete and the excavation of the inner shaft has almost reached 120m. For the MTS shaft, work was ongoing to fit-out and commission the Galloway, hoist and winch systems.

With respect to the tunnel, MPo reported that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) had made great progress and had now reached 9.5km on its way to Lockwood Beck. He explained that the workforce had been remobilised at Lockwood Beck and had started to prepare the site for the updated shaft sinking plans.

GE thanked local residents for their patience about the increase in the number of cars travelling to the site due to the Park and Ride service not being in use, as part of measures to mitigate the risk of Covid-19. He explained that the importance of responsible driving was being stressed to the workforce and that site traffic was being monitored.

- SK asked how many years it would be before the site at Lockwood Beck was reinstated.
- MPo replied that reinstating the site should be able to start at the end of 2021.

- BF asked what the triangles on the roof of the building at Lockwood site were.
- MPo replied that they were rope openings for the winches and winders and were only there during the construction phase.

- Member of the public asked about the size of the bunding to the east of the Woodsmith site and when it was going to be created.
- MPo explained using the aerial image of the site.

- Member of the public asked whether the light audit would be published.
- RS replied that they would not ordinarily be published but he was happy to share the findings.
- GE added that light from the site would be visible until completion of construction, as it was required to ensure a safe working environment, but that regular audits were a key element of reducing light pollution as much as possible.

ACTION 1. Add lighting to agenda for next meeting.

6. Planning

Conditions

RS said that monitoring visits continue to be undertaken within the constraints of Covid-19 guidance and that this would include another review of site lighting in the near future as the evenings draw in.

Section 106

MH reported that a number of projects are progressing well, but that due to Covid-19 restrictions there would be a delay in the delivery of some schemes. Joint work is ongoing to map all projects including Core Policy D, landscape and ecology and tourism contributions.

MH highlighted the completion of the International Dark Sky Reserve application, which had been submitted recently. He explained that the application was supported by work funded by the s106.

BF added that whilst Covid-19 had impacted tourism promotion plans, projects including cycle signage and the ongoing woodland creation scheme had progressed well.

7. Complaints

MP explained that there had been five complaints related to the mine site since July. Three of these were related to the speed of cars which were travelling to the mine site. A responsible driving campaign has been rolled out to the workforce including toolbox talks, posters and leaflets and offsite monitoring. MP added that the park and ride service would be reinstated as soon as it was considered safe to do so.

There had been one complaint about light from a local resident and another regarding noise from a resident of Ugglebarnby which was currently being investigated.

GE added, in relation discussions about local employment in previous meetings, that a new recruitment campaign would be launched in the coming weeks.

8. Community

HK reported that she had started to attend parish council meetings once again and added that the Skills4Work (S4W) team had re-started their work in the villages around the site. This included gardening and maintenance works at Sneaton churchyard and war memorial, as well as other churchyards in the area. The team had also undertaken regular litter picking on the lanes around the site. Further works, including the Lockwood Beck area, were planned for the coming months.

9. A.O.B

A suggestion was made to have the next meeting in the second week of January. GE agreed, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.