

Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 11 January 2021, 3 – 4 pm
Online Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American
William Woods (WW) – Anglo American
Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
Glenn Dunn (GD) – Anglo American
Mark Pooleman (MPo) – Anglo American
Zoe Cooper (ZC) – 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 (CP) – North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Stewart Campbell (SC) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr David Chance (DC) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr David Tate (DT) – Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council
Cllr Sue Tucker (ST) – Scarborough Borough Council

2 members of the public.

1. Introduction

GE introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr Joe Plant, Cllr Stonehouse and Cllr Steve Kay

3. Minutes of previous meeting

No comments, minutes accepted as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

Action 1: Lighting added to the agenda (item 7) as agreed at the last meeting.

5. Project Update

MPo gave a presentation, including images of the site, covering the progress that had been made since the last meeting. He reported that the focus had remained on preparing the three shafts – service shaft, production shaft and mineral transport system (MTS) shaft - for the main shaft sinking.

MPo explained that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) had now almost reached 12km on its journey to Lockwood Beck and had progressed more quickly than anticipated.

At Lockwood Beck, works were well underway on the updated plans for an intermediate shaft. Since October, works had been focused on preparing the site for the shaft sinking, which would be done using a method called 'blind boring'.

- A member of the public asked when the letter inviting residents to sign-up for blasting notifications was going to be sent. He also asked who the shaft sinking contractor at Lockwood Beck was.
- MP responded that the letter would be sent to all neighbours at least four weeks before blasting commenced and added that the start date had yet to be confirmed. MPo explained that Strabag were the principal tunnelling contractor responsible for the works at Lockwood Beck and that they had sub-contracted the shaft sinking to blind boring specialist Shaft Drillers International.

6. Planning

Conditions

RS suggested that agenda item 7 (site lighting) could be addressed as part of the planning update. He explained that whilst some light impact was to be expected, steps had been taken to monitor and identify scope for improvements.

MH added that the emphasis was to find the appropriate level of lighting required to ensure a safe working environment, whilst reducing light spill from the site to a minimum. He gave the example of the walkway lighting, which was identified as an area that was improved following recommendations from National Park officers.

ZC, the Woodsmith Environmental Officer, showed some images to demonstrate the improvements that had been made since the last meeting and provided an overview of how lighting was managed on a day-to-day basis.

Section 106

MH reported that the landscape and ecology projects were progressing well despite the pandemic. The recent International Dark Sky Reserve designation was achieved with the help of s106 funding. As part of this work, two demonstration projects were delivered through the Lighting Improvement Scheme. MH showed a range of 'before and after' photographs illustrating this. He reported that further demonstration projects were now underway. Other projects progressed since October included:

- The Whitby to Staithes cycle link feasibility study and further Mulgrave tunnel inspection work
- The scoping project for the Bransdale Conservation Management Plan and the Ryevitalise project
- Phase one of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway Adder Wall Restoration, Mulgrave A171 dry stone wall project, and a number of public rights of way projects.

BF added that 60 hectares of tree planting were progressing well, but that s106 funded tourism promotion had been limited due to Covid-19. Campaigns were being prepared in readiness for launching at the appropriate time.

7. Woodsmith lighting

Covered in item 6.

8. Complaints

MP explained that there had been four complaints related to the mine site since October. All of these were about the volume of traffic travelling to site using the lane through Iburndale and Ugglebarnby. Having investigated these concerns and listened to residents' feedback, measures had been introduced to limit the site traffic using this route. MP reported that a letter had been received from Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby PC to say the traffic issue was much improved and they were grateful for the swift response.

- DC enquired about a vehicle that he had followed through Ruswarp that had gone to site.
- GD confirmed it had come from Wilf Nobles yard in Ruswarp which was permitted.

9. Community

HK reported that she had continued to attend parish council meetings and that the Skills4Work team had re-started their work in the villages around the site. This included gardening and maintenance works at Sleights churchyard, as well as the sports field. The team had also undertaken regular litter picking on the lanes around the villages.

10. A.O.B

- MP reported that the recruitment of ten engineering apprentices would begin to coincide with National Apprenticeship Week on 8 February.
- Member of the public asked when the outcome of Anglo American's technical review would be completed and reported.
- GE responded that he was not sure, but that he did not anticipate any significant changes to the project.
- DT suggested painting the white site buildings a different colour to minimise the light reflected from them.
- ZC responded that she would investigate the possibility of doing this.
- Member of the public asked if the TBM was continuing past Lockwood Beck.
- MPo responded that it would.