

Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 14 April 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
Victoria Bolton (VB) – Anglo American
Mark Pooleman (MPo) – Anglo American
Elly Shaw (ES) – 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 Glenn Goodberry (GB) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr David Chance (DC) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Mike Holliday (MH) – Sneaton Parish Council
Cllr Sue Tucker (ST) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Sue Willmington (SW) – Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council

3 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

GE introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr Campbell, Cllr Stonehouse and Cllr Steve Kay

3. Minutes of previous meeting

No comments, minutes accepted as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

MP stated there were no outstanding actions from the last meeting.

5. Project Update

MPo provided a presentation, including images of the site, covering the progress that had been made since the last meeting. MPo reported that at the mine site, the focus remained on preparing the three shafts for the main shaft sinking.

At Lockwood Beck, the main drill rig is on site ready for shaft sinking and the pilot borehole is completed. The 'blind boring' will start in May and will take around three months to complete. MPo explained that the tunnel boring machine (TBM), has now almost reached 14km and is past Lockwood Beck.

MPo explained that at the Ladycross Plantation site, the highway works have begun on the access and a righthand turn lane off the A171 towards the site at Egton. MPo said that the aim is to be completed by the Summer holidays and that ground investigation works would follow.

ES introduced herself and provided an update about the airborne geophysical survey.

- LW commented that a lot of people in Whitby had found the survey interesting rather than a nuisance.
- GG asked about Ladycross highway works and the plans for the site.
 - MPo responded that a new access was being created into the site for safety reasons as the old one is close to the blind bend. MP added that plans for the site would be finalised following further geotechnical investigation and that all local stakeholders would be kept updated.
- CP asked why such a large area was necessary for the geophysical survey.
 - ES responded that an area larger than the project's area of interest was covered to improve the quality of the data around the outer area of the deposit.
- Member of the public asked for an update about the MTS shaft sinking.
 - MPo replied that this was set to start in June, although blasting could start some weeks later than this.
- Member of the public asked what was happening with the first shaft sunk at Lockwood Beck, and also asked about the target distance for the TBM launched from Wilton.
 - MPo responded that the original shaft had been backfilled with excavated material from the new shaft. He added that 27km was the target distance for the TBM.
- Member of the public queried whether the geophysical survey plane was following the planned survey area and asked there were likely to be any changes to the area of interest because of the survey.
 - ES explained that the crew uses short flight paths to calibrate their instruments and confirmed that the area was being surveyed as planned. GE added that there would not be a change to the area of interest.
- GG asked whether another site visit could be organised as new councillors had joined the group since the last meeting.
 - GE agreed that the annual site visits for Councillors would resume once Covid restrictions were lifted.

6. Planning Conditions

RS reported that the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) were currently dealing with phase 13 of the planning application which relates to relatively minor matters. He added that planning conditions around the Ladycross site would need to be discharged before works commenced.

Section 106

MH reported that a wide range of landscape and ecology projects had progressed including:

- Restoring historic boundary signs
- Public rights of way projects
- Water vole habitat creation monitoring projects

- Woodland management
- The Whitby to Staithes cycle link feasibility study

MH added that the NYMNP had achieved designation as a Dark Sky Reserve and that s106 funded projects had contributed to the successful application.

7. Complaints

MP explained that since January there had been six complaints. Three related to traffic, which should be resolved by monitoring specific routes and the phased return of the Park and Ride. Two complaints were due to light (mitigation discussed in detail at the last meeting). There was also one complaint about noise at Lockwood Beck which has been resolved.

- CP said that he had received complaints about traffic but thought traffic control was being managed well.
- A member of the public added that he is seeing more traffic on the roads around the Littlebeck area and that he had even been asked for directions to the mine.
 - GE stated that the routes around the site would continue would be monitored and that action would be taken as necessary. He asked that people continue to report instances of suspected mine traffic to the team.

8. Community

MP reported that since the previous meeting, funding had been provided for laptops for Caedmon and Eskdale Schools, urgent maintenance for Littlebeck Methodist Chapel and to Hawsker Church which Hawsker School uses for PE lessons. He explained that the Sirius Minerals Foundation had been awarded another £1million from Anglo American as part of the takeover agreement and that the next founding round would support covid recovery efforts.

HK provided a presentation about the work which Skills 4 Work had been doing in the area since January. This included the creation of a community garden at Hinderwell, improvements to the outdoor areas at Saint John's in Sleights, paving works at Sleights sports ground and litter picking along the B1416. She asked for ideas for new jobs to be sent directly to her.

AW thanked the group for the work they did at the church in Sleights.

9. A.O.B

- LW asked about the recent recruitment of apprentices and the extent to which applications had been received from people from Whitby residents and girls.
 - MP responded that there had been hundreds of applications, that the process was still open and that he would report back to the next meeting.
- SW asked for assistance in engaging North Yorkshire County Council about highways maintenance in Littlebeck.
 - GE agreed to provide support and DC responded that he would follow-up once the location and details about the specific issue were confirmed.
- AW requested more site photographs on the website if possible. He also asked when a project update would be announced to the market.

- GE responded that he would feed the request for more site images back to the team, and that a project update would be provided in July as part of Anglo American's half year results.

GE thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.