



Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 26 April 2023, 11.00
Sneaton 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 Dave Brown (DB) – Sneaton PC
Cllr Linda Wild (LW) – Whitby Town Council
Cllr John Nock (JN) – Whitby Town Council
Cllr Neil Swannick (NS) – North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire Council
Cllr David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire Council

4 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr. Wilkinson, Cllr. Trumper, Gareth Edmunds

3. Minutes of previous meeting

MP apologised for the minutes of the previous meeting not being as detailed as usual and explained that this was due to a break in the recording.

LW pointed out that her apologies were not recorded in the minutes.

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

ACTION 1: MP has met with NS and provided a project overview.

ACTION 2: MP is to give presentation about social and economic development as part of the April meeting agenda.

5. Project Update

MP started the update by explaining that Anglo American had announced, as part of its annual results, that it expected to have first product to market by 2027 and to ramp up to produce 5 million tonnes per annum by 2030. After investment of £400 million in 2022, it was announced that the capital expenditure for 2023 would be approximately £650 million and up to £800 for the following three years.

ME gave a presentation, including images of the site, covering construction progress since the last meeting. He reported that the shaft boring road header (SBR) had made good progress in the service shaft and that SBR commissioning works were complete in the production shaft as it moved into steady state shaft sinking.

ME explained that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) had reached over 23km. He reported that shaft sinking was complete at the Ladycross Plantation intermediate shaft site and would be followed by shaft fit-out works.

ME finished by reporting that the same TBM would be used for the entire length of the tunnel following an overhaul of the cutting head earlier in the year. He added that once complete, it would be the longest tunnel in the UK and longest ever driven by a single TBM.

- BF asked why the steel casing for Ladycross was being stored at Lockwood Beck.
 - ME replied that there was more space at Lockwood and that he expected that the casing would be removed very soon when shaft lining works were complete.
- A member of the public asked what was happening to the excavated material from the shafts and the tunnel.
 - ME replied that excavated material at the Woodsmith site was being used to create the bunds and the tunnel spoil was used at the Wilton end of the project.
- CP asked what was used to transport the excavated material from the tunnel.
 - ME said that a conveyor belt behind the TBM was used in the tunnel and haulage trucks were used at surface.
- CP asked whether an overland conveyor was part of the plan at Teesside?
 - ME confirmed that this would be the case when the project was in production.
- RS asked when the borehole remediation works and exploratory drilling would start.
 - ME replied that mobilisation would be within the next three months.
- LW asked about the extent of the polyhalite and how much it was worth.
 - ME replied that there was a polyhalite resource of around two billion tonnes. MP added that the pricing base case was \$190 per tonne.

6. Planning update

Conditions

RS reported that the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) were fully up to date with respect to the discharge of planning conditions and were continuing with ongoing monitoring. RS explained that a planning application had been received for temporary use of a strip of land adjacent to the site for the storage of excavated material and this has been approved but work had not yet commenced.

Section 106

BF reported that 65 hectares of new woodland had been planted during the year, together with a wide range of landscape and ecology projects. BF suggested that she could do a presentation to the group at the next meeting.

- A member of the public asked how projects were selected.
 - BF replied that there was specific criteria for the woodland creation projects with broader categories for other elements of the s106. She encouraged people to come forward with suggestions.

7. Complaints

MP reported that ten complaints had been received in the first quarter of the year. Four were related to traffic (two about contractor parking in Hawsker which was in the process of being addressed). One was about noise at an employee pickup point in Scarborough, one was at Ladycross and involved a member of the public concerned about driver behaviour of a project HGV. The other four complaints included two about noise at Ladycross, one about light from Hawsker and another regarding the extent of local employment.

- CP reported that there seemed to be one specific light orientated towards Hawsker that was causing annoyance.

ACTION 1: HK to investigate light complaint in Hawsker.

8. Community

MP gave a presentation about the social and economic benefits generated by the project, which were detailed in the Woodsmith Social Impact Report.

- NS said that whilst the funding was impressive, he wanted to have more clarity on indirect jobs and wanted local procurement to be prioritised in the long term.
 - MP agreed that it was important to focus on local procurement and that supply chain opportunities could deliver significant local economic benefits.

ACTION 2: MP to request a presentation from the Woodsmith Foundation.

9. A.O.B

- DB said on behalf of Sneaton PC that they were grateful for the ongoing work of the Skills4Work team.
- A member of the public said that it might be an idea to have the Liaison Group Forum meeting in the evening to allow working people to come.
 - MP replied that having a project 'shop front' presence in Whitby was being considered and that early evening public drop-ins had started.

MP thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.