



Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 30 January 2024, 15.00
Littlebeck Village Hall

Present:

Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
William Woods (WW) – Anglo American
Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
Mark Elliot (ME) – Anglo American
Mike Hawtin (MH) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Rob Smith (RS) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Cllr Richard Wilkinson (RW) – Sneaton PC
Cllr Mike Holliday (MH) – Sneaton PC
Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Neil Swannick (NS) – North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Alf Watson (AW) – Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby PC
Cllr John Nock (JN) – Whitby Town Council
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Council

4 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr. Chance and Cllr. Wilde

3. Minutes of previous meeting

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

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

5. Project Update

ME gave a presentation, including images of the different sites, covering construction progress since the last meeting. He explained that the rig which had completed the borehole remediation work was being moved to a different location on the Woodsmith site to carry out more resource boreholes to support the development of the mine plan.

ME explained that the service shaft and production shaft had made good progress and at the mineral transport system shaft the work was continuing laterally now that full depth had been reached.

ME reported that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) had reached 27km on its route to Woodsmith from Wilton.

ME reminded the group that the grout plant, ventilation and tunnelling crew would move from Lockwood and be established at Ladycross later in the year. He also showed images of the inside of the mineral transport system tunnel and loco which takes the crew to and from the TBM.

ME reported that shaft sinking was complete at the Ladycross Plantation intermediate shaft site and shaft fit-out works were ongoing in addition to the construction of the temporary building above the shaft to house the lift system.

- SK asked about the origins of Polyhalite and how many meters in depth the shaft boring roadheader was sinking per day?
 - ME explained how Polyhalite was formed from the Zechstein Sea 250 million years ago said the meters per day varied and depended on the density of the rock.

6. Planning update

Conditions

RS reported that the NYMNPA were fully up to date with respect to the discharge of planning conditions and were continuing with regular monitoring. He said the NYMNPA were aware of the potential for design amendments following Anglo American's technical review and were ready to discuss this with the company.

Section 106

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

- NS asked about biodiversity net gain and whether there were any new applications as the legislation is now requires this?
 - RS said that Section 72 only applies to new applications.
 - MP responded that the Woodsmith Project and Anglo American had biodiversity management plans that it was implementing.

7. Complaints

MP reported that five complaints had been received since the last meeting. One was related to lighting, one regarded noise at the Woodsmith site and three involved traffic at Woodsmith. All five complaints have been addressed but two were ongoing.

8. Community

MP reported that Redpath had held three events to recruit around 70 jobs and they were well attended. He said the 2023 Social Impact Report would be published in the next few weeks. He concluded that approximately 1900 people currently work across the project and 1300 from the local area (70%).

In addition to this MP announced that a Local Procurement Manager was being appointed in March to boost local supply chain content.

- JN asked what local meant in terms of the employees?
 - MP responded that it meant that their normal residence was within a one hour commute from the site they worked at.

9. A.O.B

- CP said that he had received a complaint from a local resident regarding flooding in Sneaton. He asked whether it could have been impacted by the construction at the Woodsmith site.
 - MP said the environment team were confident that site water was managed and controlled satisfactorily but said he was happy to discuss the matter further following the meeting.
 - RW said he had been in touch with NYC to discuss work on the ditches in the parish.

MP thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.