

**Liaison Group Forum**  
**Minutes of meeting: 1 July 2020, 1.00 – 2.30pm**  
**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  
Troy Whittaker (TW) – Anglo American  
Richard Murrell (RM) – Anglo American  
Froydis Cameron (FC) – 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 Michael Stonehouse (MS) – Scarborough Borough Council  
Cllr Michael King (MK) – Whitby Town Council  
Cllr Joe Plant (JP) – North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council  
Cllr Clive Pearson – North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council  
Cllr Mike Holliday – Sneaton Parish Council  
Cllr Stewart Campbell (SC) – Scarborough Borough Council  
Cllr Sue Tucker (ST) – Scarborough Borough Council

1 member of the public was in attendance.

**1. Introduction**

GE welcomed attendees and reminded everyone that the last meeting had taken place in September 2019. Since then Anglo American had completed the takeover of Sirius Minerals. GE acknowledged that some local shareholders were disappointed and stressed that this was not the outcome that anyone at Sirius had set out to achieve. GE explained that there had not been a viable alternative and that the takeover had secured the future of the Project, ensuring that the benefits to the area would be realised.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Mike Shardlow, Cllr Steve Kaye and Cllr Christine Kingham

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

No comments, minutes accepted as a true record

**4. Matters Arising**

No outstanding actions from previous meeting

**5. Corporate Update**

FC introduced herself, provided an overview of the Anglo American Group and stressed how much they were looking forward to sharing the benefit of their experience with the Woodsmith team.

## 6. Project Update

TW and RM provided a presentation, including images of the site, covering the progress that had been made since the last meeting.

TW explained that the focus at the Woodsmith site remains preparing the three shafts for shaft sinking. The first section of the service shaft had been excavated to 120m and over the last few months the Shaft Boring Roadheader (SBR) had been assembled in readiness for the main shaft sinking by the end of the year.

He reported that the production foreshaft was close to completion and excavation of the inner shaft to 120m would be finished by the end of the year. TW explained that the temporary winding tower that sits above the mineral transport system shaft had been completed and work was ongoing to fit-out and commission the Galloway, hoist and winch systems before the main shaft sinking later in the year.

Elsewhere on the project, TW reported that the tunnel boring machine had made excellent progress from Wilton and had reached 7km on its journey to Lockwood Beck.

GE expressed gratitude for the patience of local residents as there had been an increase in the number of cars were travelling to the site. He explained this was because construction workers were no longer being transported to site by bus to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

## 7. Planning

### Conditions

BF explained that construction phases 11 and 12 have been approved since September 2019.

### Section 106

BF reported that the Section 106 activities had continued and that 40 hectares of woodland had been created over the winter. The target was 50 hectares, but the lockdown had affected the ability to access land. 100 hectares of tree planting was planned for 2020/21. BF explained that the landscape and ecology s106 contributions had funded the completion of thirty projects over the previous year.

BF reported that the NYMNPA CEO Andy Wilson was retiring and that his replacement, Tom Hind, was starting in September 2020.

MP added that Section 106 contributions now totaled £7.5m since construction started in 2017, comprising £5m to NYMNPA, £1m to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and £1.5m to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). He reported that funding to NYCC was largely to enable an increase in train services on the Esk Valley Line from Whitby to Middlesbrough. The first service started in December 2019.

**Action 1:** MP to find out when the next additional train service was likely to be in place.

GE added that the company had donated over £20,000, together with £20,000 from the Sirius Minerals Foundation, to local food banks across the local area in response to the Covid-19. In addition, GE reported that first £1m contribution from Anglo American to the Foundation had been made and would be targeted at supporting post-pandemic recovery efforts.

## 8. Complaints

MP reported that there had been nine complaints related to the Woodsmith site since January 2020. Four were about the continuation of work during lockdown. MP explained that government were supportive of construction continuing, if it was safe to do so. He advised the group that comprehensive measures, aligned

to government guidance, had been put in place to mitigate the risk to the local community. He reported that the complainants were reassured by the measures that had been implemented.

There had been three complaints about traffic. One about a speeding vehicle through Ruswarp and two about white vans through Littlebeck and Ugglebarnby. GD reported that a responsible driving campaign had been initiated for the Woodsmith team, in response to the increase in cars travelling to site.

There was one complaint about noise in respect of beepers onsite, which was quickly addressed and another about a perceived lack of local employment. MP reiterated that we were engaging with our contractors to ensure that opportunities were available locally. The most recent data showed that two-thirds of the total project workforce was from the local area.

## **9. Community**

MP reported that the Skills4Work team (formerly Skill Mill) were due to re-start their work in the villages around the site and that their time was increasing from one to two days a week. HK would be speaking with Parish Councils to create a task list.

## **10. A.O.B**

No other questions or points were made so GE thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.