



Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 14 February 2022, 1 – 2 pm
Online Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
 Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American
 Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
 Mark Pooleman (MPo) – Anglo American
 Clive Dowdeswell (CD) – 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 Stewart Campbell (SC) – Scarborough Borough Council
 Cllr Rowling (R) – Hawsker PC
 Cllr Linda Wilde (LW) – Whitby Town Council (Mayor)
 Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Lockwood Parish Council
 Cllr David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire County Council
 Cllr Guy Coulson (GC) – Scarborough Borough Council
 Cllr Glenn Goodberry (GG) – Whitby Town Council

3 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

GE welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr Stephen Shaw

3. Minutes of previous meeting

No comments, minutes accepted as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

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

5. Project Update

MPo gave a presentation, including images of the site, covering construction progress since the last meeting. MPo reported that the shaft boring road header (SBR) had progressed at the service shaft. He explained that the permanent building over the production shaft had been completed and that the SBR was undergoing commissioning. MPo added that the first blast had been carried out at the MTS shaft and that the wastewater treatment plant on site was fully commissioned.

MPo reported that at Lockwood Beck, the shaft had been fully excavated and lined. The team were currently installing services. Backfilling of the lagoon was likely to take place in the next few weeks and work was continuing to connect the shaft to the tunnel.

MPo explained that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) had reached almost 18.4km and was going to pause for refurbishment. Segment production was continuing at Wilton and the run of mine dome foundations were progressing well and would be completed by the end of the year.

MPo gave an update of works at the Ladycross Plantation site. Site preparation was ongoing and the next phase would include construction of the working platforms and a lagoon similar to Lockwood Beck.

- SK asked how many TBMs were going to be used to construct the MTS, how long it would be before the Lockwood Beck site would be returned to its normal condition and whether another access shaft was being sunk at Ladycross Plantation. He added that Lockwood Parish Council had not received any complaints about work at site.
 - MPo confirmed that an access shaft would be constructed at Ladycross Plantation. He added that using two TBMs was the base case for the MTS but the one drive scenario was being considered.
 - MPo explained that restoration work at Lockwood Beck would begin with the backfilling of the lagoon in the next few weeks. The grout batching plant which supplies the TBM would be moved from Wilton to Lockwood Beck following the connection of the shaft to the tunnel. Overall, there would be significantly less activity on the surface than during the shaft sinking phase.
 - GE added that the construction schedule was currently being reviewed.
- SK asked whether it would be possible to create a permissive footpath from the junction with the Castleton Road to link up with Swindale Lane, as this would be safer and more convenient for walkers.

ACTION 1: MP to follow-up and feedback to SK.

- GC asked for clarification about blasting notifications.
 - MP responded that as part of the planning condition related to blasting notifications, residents within 1.5km from the mine site had been contacted to ask if they would like to be notified 30 minutes before a blast. In addition, anyone could request notification via the website.
- GC added that it had been brought to his attention that a lot of private vehicles had been entering the site recently.
 - CD responded that due Covid-19, and associated social distancing requirements, more cars had been allowed to drive directly to site. He reported that the Park and Ride service was in the process of being reinstated.
- GE asked if there were any specific concerns. GC responded that it was just a general comment and that he understood the necessity to respond to the pandemic.
- A Member of the public said that he got a blasting notification text, but that a neighbour did not receive a message.

ACTION 2: HK to follow up.

- A member of the public asked if the entire length of the tunnel would be concrete lined and how long the TBM would be paused for maintenance.
 - MPo confirmed that the whole tunnel would be concrete lined, and that the maintenance period would be 6-8 weeks.
- RS asked for feedback from the first blast regarding levels of vibrations or noise.
 - MP responded that noise and vibration levels were within the permissible thresholds and that no concerns had been raised from the community.

6. Planning Conditions

RS reported that the North York Moors National Park Authority had recently approved the discharge of conditions related to construction phase 15 at Woodsmith and phase three at Ladycross Plantation. He added that a lighting audit had recently been undertaken at the Woodsmith site, which recommended a few minor points to be addressed.

Section 106

RS gave an introduction about s106 agreements, which are designed to compensate and mitigate for the impact of a development. MH provided an overview of landscape and ecology projects.

BF gave an overview of Core Policy D requirements, which is a carbon offsetting mechanism through tree planting. So far 110 hectares had been planted, with a further 70 hectares underway. Other s106 requirements included contributions towards tourism, geology and archeology in addition to the Police and Scarborough Borough Council. Within the agreement there were also payment and reinstatement security arrangements.

- SK asked to be informed about the Lockwood archeology project and also asked whether s106 funding could be used to tackle Ash Dieback disease or felling trees on the highways.
 - BF responded that NYMNPA is not permitted to use s106 contributions for statutory purposes but were exploring ways to address the issue.

ACTION 3: BF to inform SK about the Smeathorns Road dig.

7. Complaints

MP reported there had been two complaints in Q4 2021. One came via NYMNPA about surface water management at Ladycross Plantation which had been rectified. The other one was a general complaint about lighting at the Woodsmith site. There had been no complaints this year to date. In all there were 19 complaints in 2021, ten of which were related to Woodsmith and of those, seven were traffic related and three were light related.

8. Community

MP gave a presentation about Anglo American's programme to support social and economic development (SED) in the area. He explained that the SED programme was informed by detailed baseline studies and extensive stakeholder engagement to identify the challenges facing the area and the opportunities deliver socio-economic benefits.

MP explained that the programme had four main strands – Education, Livelihoods, Health and Neighbourhoods – and that a core principle was to work collaboratively with stakeholders to deliver the programme.

- LW enquired about an individual who had an application for funding refused and had not received feedback.
 - After discussion, it seemed as though the application related to the Sirius Minerals Foundation.

ACTION 3: MP to investigate and request feedback from the Foundation to the individual concerned.

9. A.O.B

GE asked for any feedback about the LGF, for example what was working well or could be improved. He explained that the terms of reference needed to be updated.

- LW asked when the LGF could meet in person and whether it was possible to have a site visit.
 - GE responded that he hoped the next meeting would be in person, Covid-19 permitting, and that a site visit could take place later in the year.

ACTION 4: MP to update the LGF terms of reference and circulate to members for discussion at the next meeting.

GE thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.