



Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 23 May 2022, 1 – 2 pm
Sneaton Village Hall

Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
 Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American
 Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
 Mark Pooleman (MPo) – Anglo American
 William Woods (WW) – Anglo American
 Tom McCulley (TM) – Anglo American
 Michele Merryman (MM) – Anglo American
 Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority
 Rob Smith (RS) - North York Moors National Park Authority
 Cllr Stewart Campbell (SC) – Scarborough Borough Council
 Cllr David Rowling (R) – Hawsker PC
 Cllr Linda Wilde (LW) – Whitby Town Council (Mayor)
 Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire County Council
 Cllr Glenn Goodberry (GG) – Whitby Town Council
 Cllr John Nock (JN) – Whitby Town Council
 Cllr David Brown (DB) – Sneaton Parish Council

6 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

GE welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr. Kay, Cllr. Swannick, Cllr. Mortimer, Cllr. Tucker, Cllr. Chance, Cllr. Stonehouse, Cllr. Coulson

3. Minutes of previous meeting

No comments, minutes accepted as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

ACTION 1: MP explained that contact has been made with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council regarding the permissive footpath at Lockwood Beck requested by Cllr Kay.

ACTION 2: MP reported that the blast notification list had been updated to include everyone who had asked to be notified.

ACTION 3: BF confirmed that she had sent the archaeology report to Cllr. Kay.

ACTION 4: MP reported that the people who requested feedback on their Woodsmith Foundation application had been contacted.

ACTION 5: MP confirmed that the Liaison Group Forum Terms of Reference had been updated and distributed.

5. Project Update

CEO, Tom McCulley introduced himself and provided some background about his experience, how he was looking forward to working on the project and the importance working with the local community.

MPo 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 progressed at the service shaft and that the focus was on commencing routine progression and a steady state of shaft sinking. He explained that the permanent building over the production shaft had been completed and that the SBR was undergoing electrical and mechanical fit-out of all ancillary systems. MPo added that the first two blasts had been carried out successfully at the MTS shaft.

MPo reported that at Lockwood Beck, the shaft had been fully excavated to 390m and lined. The team were currently installing services. Backfilling of the lagoon was underway and work to connect the shaft to the mineral transport system (MTS) tunnel was ongoing. He explained that the grout plant, used to support the tunnel construction was being moved from Wilton to Lockwood Beck.

MPo explained that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) had reached almost 18.6km and was currently paused for planned maintenance.

MPo gave an update of works at the Ladycross Plantation site. He explained that the welfare offices had been established and pre-grouting works were underway ready for the grouting phase which would take place in the coming weeks.

- A member of the public asked where the TBM had reached along the route.
 - MPo confirmed that it was 18.6 km from Wilton underneath Danby Moor.
- A member of the public asked whether one or two TBMs are going to be used and whether the planning permission would allow for aggregate to be brought to site.
 - MPo responded that two TBMs was the base case but that the one TBM option was being considered.
 - MP added that deliveries needed to be within the maximum amount stipulated by planning permission and that the number of HGVs was currently well within this threshold.
- A member of the public asked what the tanks from the diaphragm walling phase at Woodsmith were now being used for.
 - MPo explained that they would be used to temporarily store groundwater if required.
- RS asked when the TBM would be working again after the planned maintenance.
 - MPo responded that it would be approximately the end of July 2022.
- A member of the public asked when the site would look like the 'operational image' used in the presentation.
 - MP replied that the image was a representation of the site once the planting scheme had fully matured, 10-15 years after the commencement of operations.
 - WW added that as well as the screening benefits, consideration had been given to the type of trees to planted to ensure they would be appropriate for the surrounding area.
- CP asked about the life expectancy of the buildings on site.
 - MPo explained that they were designed to the specification of being 50 years 'maintenance free'.
- A member of the public asked when the company expected the project to be in operation.
 - TM responded that the company would be in a position to answer this next year.
- GG asked whether the temporary speed limit of 40mph on the B1416 past the site would continue post-construction.
 - GE replied that it was a temporary speed limit for the duration of construction.

6. Planning Conditions

RS reported that the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) had recently approved the discharge of conditions related to construction phase 15 at Woodsmith and phase four was likely to be approved at Ladycross in the near future. RS added that the application for resource boreholes and remediation at the Woodsmith site was currently in the consultation phase.

MPO explained that an area had been cleared for creating the platform required for this work. He said that it would be similar to drilling works which was carried out in 2017 and that the rig would be 30m high and would be at site for approximately two years.

Section 106

BF gave an update and explained that the annual report would be circulated soon. She said that a wide range of small-scale projects had been completed and that larger scale projects were being considered in line with the NYMNPA's new management plan.

BF reported that one of the highlights had been the Dark Skies campaign, as well as tourism contributions following the disruption of the pandemic. BF encouraged people to come forward with ideas.

- Member of the public asked about measures to minimise light pollution from the site.
 - BF responded that NYMNPA was working closely with Anglo American to limit light pollution as much as possible and GE added that there were regular monthly lighting audits to monitor the situation.
- DB asked about potential light pollution from the new rig coming to site.
 - MP replied that lessons have been learnt from the past and that the impacts would be mitigated and managed.
- DR reported a concern about light from the site impacting specific households in Hawsker.

ACTION 1: HK to liaise with the environment team to investigate the issue.

MP provided an update on the train services between Whitby and Middlesbrough which had been temporarily reduced. He reported that the s106 funded scheme for eight services a day was planned to be up and running in 2024.

BF reported that new signage to the National Park would be in place by the end of the year.

- CP asked where the signage would be.
 - BF replied that it would be on the A1 and A64.

7. Complaints

MP reported there had been nine complaints since the last meeting. Four were due to traffic relating to the mine site. MP explained that he expected that the reinstatement of the Park and Ride facility would resolve the issue about concerns of the high volume of cars travelling to site. GE thanked everyone for their patience about the situation.

MP reported two complaints in relation to the Ladycross Plantation site. One concerned a site bound HGV damaging a grass verge and the other about reverse beepers. At Lockwood Beck there had been two complaints about noise that were under investigation.

8. Community

MP gave a brief summary of Anglo American's social and economic development (SED) programme which included four main strands – Education, Livelihoods, Health and Neighbourhoods – and added that further detail was available on the project's website.

MP reported that there were currently 1,300 people working across the Woodsmith Project and that 75% were from the local area (defined as within a one-hour commute). Over 150 were from the Whitby area. GE added that this exceeded the 35% local employment previously forecast but that the proportion was likely to fluctuate throughout construction.

MP reported that Anglo American had supported projects including a business startup scheme that had been successful in creating 15 new businesses, five initiatives to help improve school attendance, funding to address flood damage at Fylingdales School, support for Jubilee celebrations in the villages closest to the project sites and funding for the Red Arrows to attend Whitby Regatta.

HK gave an update on the Anglo American funded projects completed by North Yorkshire County Council's Skills 4 Work team. This included decorating Sleights sports pavilion and Hawsker School, tree planting in Dunsley and Sleights, and a sensory garden at Egton Playgroup. MP asked people to get in touch with HK with ideas for projects.

9. A.O.B

- MP asked for any comments about the Terms of Reference to be sent to HK.
- MPo provided an update on the completion of the Helredale Road improvements.
- Member of the public asked about job losses earlier in the year.
 - GE responded that 80 roles were identified as no longer being required due to a change in the approach to shaft sinking and that it was not unusual for the workforce to change throughout the development of a large construction project.
- GG said that he found the meeting a useful forum for the councillors so that they were able to respond to questions from the community.
- DB expressed thanks from Sneaton Parish Council for the community projects funded in the parish and asked whether any support could be given towards their efforts to reduce the speed limit through the village.
 - GE suggested that the issue could be raised at the next Traffic Management Liaison Group meeting.
- CP asked whether there was any provision for workers who wanted to cycle to site. GE replied that this was being looked at, but that there was planning and safety issues to consider.
- LW asked when the next tranche of apprentices would be recruited.
 - MP replied that this would be publicised by the end of the year.
- A member of the public asked whether there was any pressure to get polyhalite to market more quickly due to the situation in Ukraine.
 - TM replied that there was no pressure to speed up construction and stressed the need to ensure that the project was developed in the right way to ensure that it delivered benefits for the long term.