



Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 29 April 2024, 11.00
Sneaton Village Hall

Present:

Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
Mark Pooleman (MPo) – Anglo American
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Rob Smith (RS) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Cllr Mike Holliday (MH) – Sneaton PC
Cllr Dave Brown (DB) – Sneaton PC
Cllr Carolyn Watkinson (CW) – Fylingthorpe PC
Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Neil Swannick (NS) – North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Philip Trumper (PT) – North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Council

1 member of the public was in attendance.

1. Introduction

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

No apologies.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

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

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

No matters arising

5. Project Update

MP provided an update and overview on the recent takeover over from BHP and Anglo American's subsequent rejection.

MPo gave a presentation, including images of the different sites, covering construction progress since the last meeting.

MPo explained that the service shaft, production shaft and lateral work at the mineral transport system shaft had made good progress despite the expected change of winch ropes in the service shaft which has to be done at certain intervals throughout construction and operation.

MPo reported that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) had reached 28.5km on its route to Woodsmith from Wilton and that site alterations in readiness for the utilisation of Ladycross site for access to the tunnel, were underway. He said the TBM would be stopping for maintenance within the next month.

- SK asked about the bid from BHP.
 - MP said that there was a lot of unknowns at this stage, and due to the UK Takeover Code there were limitations about what could be discussed. He assured the meeting that the community would be kept informed with any updates.
- CW asked about the Woodsmith Foundation and community support in the event of a takeover.
 - MP reiterated that whilst there was a lot of uncertainty, the 106 agreements would not change.
- NS asked how the 106 agreement would work in terms of future structure in the event of a takeover of Anglo American by another company.
 - MP explained that the 106 agreements and mineral rights agreements would continue if this were to happen.
- SK asked whether the Tunnel Boring Machine would be left underground and when there would be a reduction in buildings at Lockwood Beck. He also asked whether the carpark might be left as it is for walkers to utilise?
 - MPo said that it was still to be determined and for discussion at a later date.
- NS asked for clarification as to whether drying the polyhalite during the granulation process was one of the most carbon intensive parts of the project and whether alternatives had been considered?
 - MP confirmed that heating the polyhalite (in order to dry it) using natural gas was an energy intensive part of the project. Whilst other options had been considered, and would continue to be explored, no feasible alternative had been identified to date.
- SK asked what happened to the excavated material from the shaft sinking?
 - MPo said it is used as part of the onsite landscaping, unless it was non-hazardous non-inert material. In this instance it was transported to a site licenced to receive it.
- DB asked whether there would be more buses coming through Sneaton with the new proposed shift pattern?
 - MP said that there were previously 20 coaches using this route, which was reduced to 10 following concern from the community. With the recent shift changes no coaches would be travelling via Sneaton.

6. Planning update

Conditions

RS reported that NYMNPA were fully up to date with respect to the discharge of planning conditions and were continuing with regular monitoring and awaiting news regarding future plans.

Section 106

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

- SK asked BF whether there was more information about the archeological dig and other aspects of the NYMNPA update.
 - BF said she would provide more information.

Action 1: BF to send report to SK.

7. Complaints

MP reported that seven complaints had been received since the last meeting. One was about noise at Ladycross and six were related to traffic issues. Two were related to parking (Hawsker School and the accommodation car park). One was regarding coaches and traffic through Ruswarp

MP explained that the other complaints were about contractor driver behaviour, deliveries to site and HGVs travelling in convoy. All complaints had been addressed.

8. Community

MP reported that the Social Impact Report which had been published in March provided an overview of the positive social and economic impact of the project in the area, including local employment. He also informed the group that a Procurement Manager had been recruited to focus on local procurement.

9. A.O.B

- CW asked for an electronic copy of the Social Impact Report.

Action 2: HK to send Social Impact Report to CW.

MP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.