



**Liaison Group Forum**  
**Minutes of meeting: 31 October 2023, 11.00**  
**Hawsker 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  
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority  
Rob Smith (RS) - North York Moors National Park Authority  
Cllr Dave Brown (DB) – Sneaton PC  
Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire Council  
Cllr Alf Watson (AW) – Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby PC  
Cllr John Nock (JN) – Whitby Town Council  
Cllr Linda Wilde (LW) – Whitby Town Council

7 members of the public were in attendance.

**1. Introduction**

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Cllr. Kay and Cllr. Swannick.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

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

**4. Matters Arising from previous meeting**

Action 1: SK has met CEO of the Woodsmith Foundation and discussed expenditure in the Lockwood area.

Action 2: MP to organise a Woodsmith Foundation presentation for the new year to coincide with new funding rounds.

**5. Project Update**

ME gave a presentation, including images of the different sites, covering construction progress since the last meeting. Particular focus was given to the rig which is currently carrying out borehole remediation works at the Woodsmith site. ME explained it could be completed within the next month and would be followed by further resource boreholes to support the development of the mine plan.

ME also showed some images of the shaft bottom of the Mineral Transport System (MTS) shaft which has started to be developed laterally now it has reached the required depth.

ME explained that the service shaft had reached a depth of 617.9m and that the production shaft was at 386m and they are currently undertaking the cutting of the first pump cavern as with the service shaft.

ME reported that the tunnel boring machine (TBM) had reached almost 26km and that all of the support for the tunnelling crews such as the grout plant would be transitioning to Ladycross from Lockwood Beck before Easter 2024 when the TBM is expected.

ME reported that shaft sinking was complete at the Ladycross Plantation intermediate shaft site and shaft fit-out works were ongoing.

- BF asked whether the shafts were still in the Redcar mudstone?
  - ME confirmed that this was the case.
- A member of the public asked whether there would be enough spoil to create the bunding as he had noticed lorry loads of material being taken away from the site.
  - WW explained that there was enough to create the screening as per the planning application.
  - MP added that it was the non-hazardous non inert material being taken offsite and it was expected at this stage.
- A member of the public asked how the mine was going to be ventilated?
  - WW responded that the study work, which was currently ongoing, would inform the final ventilation design.
- RS asked when the borehole remediation work may be finished.
  - ME responded that it could be within a month.
- A member of the public asked about the cost of taking the excavated material off-site and asked where was being transported to?
  - WW responded that he thought it was being transported to Teesside.

## **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 ongoing monitoring particularly focusing on lighting, which was usual for this time of year.

### **Section 106**

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

## **7. Complaints**

MP reported that three complaints had been received in the third quarter of this year. Two were related to behaviour of contractors and one was regarding a local business. All were resolved. MP added that there had been 17 complaints this year to date, with nine related to the Woodsmith site.

## **8. Community**

MP said that as part of our Thriving Communities programme, Skills 4 Work had been active in the villages around the sites, 966 businesses in the area had been supported, 960 local individuals had been supported to find work and 108 new businesses had been created in the region since the programme was launched in 2021. MP also informed the group that interactions with local schools and Parish Councils was also ongoing.

In addition to this MP announced that the contractors responsible for shaft construction at Woodsmith, Redpath Deilmann would be recruiting for over 60 new roles within the next few weeks and more details would be provided publicly soon. There will be drop-in recruitment events in Whitby, Loftus and Redcar as part of the effort.

## **9. A.O.B**

MP thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.