



Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 15 October 2025, 11.00
Hawske Village Hall

Present:

Matt Parsons (MP) – Anglo American (Meeting Chair)
 Phillipa Starmer (PS) – Anglo American
 Heather King (HK) – Anglo American
 Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority
 Rob Smith (RS) – North York Moors National Park Authority
 Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire Council
 Cllr Tony Cross (TC) – Sneaton Parish Council

Two members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr. Trumper, Cllr. Chance and Cllr. Swannick

3. Minutes of previous meeting

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

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

- MP provided an update on painting the gates at Red Gates Corner and explained it had been completed.
- MP reported that Anglo American had visited Whitby Cliff Lift and provided a high level view of its condition, together with a number of recommendations.

5. Project Update

MP provided a corporate update, which included the announcement of a proposed merger with Canadian mining company Teck. He explained that the regulatory and approvals process that would take 12-18 months before completion.

- TC asked for clarity about whether the project was still dependant on attaining syndication partners?
 - MP confirmed that securing a syndication partner or partners remained a condition.
- A member of the public asked about the CEO of Anglo American and whether there was a potash mine in Canada.
 - PS explained that there were potash mines in Canada and that Duncan Wanblad, the CEO of Anglo American, would be the CEO of the new merged company.
- A member of the public asked about Teck and Anglo American's association with coal.
 - MP said both companies had already or were in the process of exiting from coal assets.

MP provided an update on the moors fire and Anglo American's response and commitment to supporting recovery.

- CP added that all parish councils that he had attended had congratulated the Authorities and especially Highways for their response.
- Member of the public asked about Ugglebarnby Moor and whether it was being future proofed against risk of fire?
 - BF described work being carried out as part of the North Yorkshire Resilience Forum.

PS updated the group on construction progress, focusing on shaft sinking of the service shaft and explained the grouting, cutting and lining process that would continue through the sandstone to a depth of 1060m.

- A member of the public asked about tunnel progress and enquired about the additional offsite borehole drilling.
 - MP said that the tunnel had reached 29.859km and that three locations had been identified for offsite drilling. He explained that the planning application would be submitted in a few weeks and added that onsite drilling with the same rig had begun at Woodsmith.

MP updated the group about plans to amend the current approved development of the mine and mineral transport system and that a planning application covering the proposed amendments would be submitted in the first part of 2026. He explained that there would be a period of pre-application consultation and explained where members of the public could find out more and feedback their views.

- A member of the public asked where it could be found online?
 - MP responded woodsmithconsultation.com
- A member of the public asked about the diameter of the proposed ventilation shaft?
 - MP responded that it would be c.8m and that it was likely that a vertical shaft sinking machine (VSM) would sink the first part, as with the MTS shaft previously.
- TC asked how long the headframes would be required?
 - MP said for the duration of construction.
- A member of the public asked how much of the shaft material would be kept onsite and whether it was kept on site currently?
 - PS said that as much of possible is retained for landscaping and bunding purposes and that it had been ongoing since shaft sinking started.
- A member of the public wanted clarification about the original plans for vent shafts at the intermediate sites.
 - MP provided clarification of the new proposals, and also explained that the application was an opportunity to formally remove previously consented aspects of the approved development, such as the requirement to use the intermediate sites to permanently store excavated material from the tunnel.
- TC asked about the water ponds in the plans and asked whether they were good for wildlife?
 - MP explained they were part of surface water management system and were positive for biodiversity.
- A member of the public asked how long the planning process would take?
 - RS responded that the National Park Authority would aim to determine the application within four months of submission.

6. Planning update

Conditions

RS explained how the monitoring routine from the North York Moors National Park Authority was continuing.

Section 106

BF provided an update, explaining that work on s106 funded projects was continuing as usual and encouraged people that had ideas for projects to come forward.

7. Complaints

MP reported that there had been no complaints since the last meeting.

8. Community

MP explained that the education and health projects were continuing, in addition to the community support through Skills 4 Work.

9. A.O.B

- A member of the public asked whether the port was still being built at Teesside?
 - MP said that initially the company would use Redcar Bulk Terminal, which had the capacity to handle up to 10 million tonnes per annum.
- HK said that she would raise the issue of removing old project related signage along the B1416 at the Traffic Management Liaison Group meeting as it was raised at the last meeting and remained unresolved.

ACTION 1. HK to raise issue of old signage at TMLG.

MP thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.