



Liaison Group Forum
Minutes of meeting: 7 April 2025, 14.00
Egton 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 David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire Council
 Cllr Neil Swannick (NS) – North Yorkshire Council
 Cllr Clive Pearson (CP) – North Yorkshire Council
 Cllr David Rowland (DR) – Hawsker cum Stainsacre Parish Council
 Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Three members of the public were 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 for the last meeting.

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

MP provided a rail service provision update as actioned and explained that Network Rail were finalising the design to facilitate an increase of up to 7/8 services a day.

- SK asked how subsidies and funding for the local railway could be justified if Anglo American was struggling financially.
 - MP explained that it was a Section 106 obligation.
 - NS added that usage of the railway had been increasing and was much needed by tourists and local people alike.

5. Project Update

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

MP provided a recap of Anglo American's updated business strategy and the reasons behind the slowdown which had been taking place since May and shared that there had been engagement with potential partners.

- SK asked whether there was demand for polyhalite?
 - MP confirmed that almost 8 million tonnes had already been sold and that there was confidence within the business about the market.
- RS enquired as to whether the levels of water were in line with expectations.
 - PS replied that there had not been any surprises with regards to water.

- A member of the public asked whether chemical grout was being used and whether any tubbing had been installed?
 - PS confirmed that chemical grout had been used but not for big fractures, she confirmed that steel tubbing would be used through the Sherwood Sandstone. She qualified that using the SBR was plan A now that the pics and hydraulic system had been improved, but that partial blasting was plan B if necessary.
- NS asked whether the project had been derisked for the marketability due to the progress within the sandstone?
 - PS suggested that it was an ongoing process with a lot more work to do.
 - MP expressed that this was why it is important to keep going in one shaft rather than slow everything down.
- A member of the public made a comment that there had not been much progress in the service since the last meeting.
 - PS said that there was a new scope and new winder and challenges with the winder had been overcome.
- A member of the public asked whether recent visits from MP's had been for any specific purpose?
 - MP said that the visits were part of ongoing engagement with key stakeholders to provide updates and raise awareness of the project.
- SK asked whether the tariff war would affect the company?
 - MP said that was unknown at the moment.

6. Planning update

Conditions

RS described that there was a proposal to use part of site for general storage and potentially a new rig at the southern end of site. He said that the detail was currently being assessed and that a decision would be made in the next few weeks.

Section 106

BF provided an update on some of the recent work with respect to the Section 106 funding and said that a report would be provided at the next meeting.

- SK asked whether trees could be planted on open moorland.
 - BF said that no planting could take place on moorland.

ACTION 1. – BF to provide an update on expenditure at next meeting.

- A member of the public enquired as to the health of the trees in the shelter-belt around the Woodsmith site which were planted by the company. He also mentioned that there was some signage on the ground near the old entrance to the site which looked untidy.
 - RS said that he was due to check the new trees and see whether more planting was required.
 - MP added that he would raise the signage issue with the Highways at the next Traffic Management meeting.

ACTION 2. - MP to talk to the Highways re. the signage debris on the verge.

7. Complaints

MP reported that two complaints had been received since the last meeting. One involved traffic through Ruswarp whereby the driver was re-inducted to site and one was about dangerous driving to Ladycross site of a Strabag employee which was currently under investigation.

8. Community

MP reported that there was currently around 1,100 working on the project.

9. A.O.B

- BF said that she had driven past Lockwood Beck and thought the lights may need adjusting as were very bright.
 - MP said that he would pass this on to the environment team to investigate.

ACTION 3. – MP to alert the environment team re. lighting query at Lockwood Beck.

MP announced that the latest Social Impact Report for 2024 was now available and thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.