



Liaison Group Forum

Minutes of meeting: 29 January 2026, 13:00

Sneaton 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 Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
 Cllr Neil Swannick (NS) – North Yorkshire Council
 Cllr David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire Council
 Cllr David Tate (DT) – Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council
 Cllr Dave Brown (DB) – Sneaton Parish Council
 Cllr Mike Holliday (MH) – Sneaton Parish Council
 Cllr Linda Wild (LW) – Whitby Town Council

Three members of the public were in attendance.

1. Introduction

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr. Trumper

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 regarding the removal of old signage on B1471 and suggested the matter be raised at the next Traffic Management Liaison Group (TMLG).
- NS asked MP whether there had been any further update with respect to the Whitby Cliff Lift?
 - MP reported that Anglo American had recently visited the Cliff Lift to undertake a high-level review of its condition, and that conditions were broadly similar to the last visit.

5. Project Update

MP provided a corporate update, which included progress of the proposed merger with Canadian company Teck to form a new company, Anglo Teck. Shareholders of both companies had voted in favour of the merger, and the Canadian Government had given their approval. There were other regulatory approvals required, which could take around 12 months to complete. He assured the group that the Woodsmith Project was very much still part of Anglo American's future plans.

- AW asked whether Anglo American was still looking for a strategic partner?

- MP replied that the work was ongoing with respect to finding a strategic partner or partners. He reminded the group of the conditions that would enable construction to re-accelerate, including the strengthening of Anglo American's balance sheet.

PS updated the group on construction progress, focusing on the service shaft which is currently in a cutting phase within the sandstone layer and tunnel which has reached over 30km on its route from Wilton to the site at Sneaton. PS also discussed the onsite drilling programme.

- SK asked when the Lockwood Beck site would be fully remediated.
 - MP suggested that the site would be needed during construction as the fitting out of the tunnel would be at the end of the construction phase.

ACTION 1. – MP to give SK a more detailed timescale regarding Lockwood remediation.

- SK asked whether PS was concerned about the machinery being capable for the shaft sinking at Woodsmith?
 - PS said that she was not concerned as the Shaft Boring Roadheader, which has been upgraded, was demonstrating it was able to progress through the sandstone.
- A member of the public asked whether the team was grouting in the service shaft?
 - PS explained the process of grouting 30 to 40 meters, then sinking, followed by lining and that this process would be repeated through the Sherwood Sandstone.
- LW asked whether recent wet weather had created a problem on site?
 - MP said there was a lot of standing water, but the drainage system was managing well.
- A member of the public asked how much water was being seen in the shaft from the sandstone aquifers.
 - PS explained that it was within expected levels.

MP added that two planning applications would be submitted to the North York Moors National Park Authority for two offsite drilling rigs in the area within the next few weeks. He also added that no significant concerns had been raised as part of the recent pre-application consultation events for proposed amendments to the mine.

6. Planning update

Conditions

RS described how the North York Moors National Park Authority was expecting the planning application for proposed amendments to the mine / MTS later this year following a detailed scoping exercise. He explained that there was a statutory consultation process following receipt of the application, which included Parish Councils and local residents.

Section 106

BF provided an update, explaining that work on section 106 funded projects was continuing as usual including the long-awaited tourism signage which had recently been installed and the planting of over 60 hectares of woodland.

- SK queried why some forestry had been taken down?
 - BF explained that there was one instance where a plantation was dangerous to leave due to access for maintenance - but generally the right trees are being planted in the right place.

- DB asked whether the bunding at the Woodsmith site was ever going to be planted with trees?
 - RS said that trees would be planted, with an emphasis on natural colonisation.
- Member of the public questioned the amount of meters achieved since the last meeting and asked whether management were happy with the rate.
 - PS said that snow had resulted in losing a few days and but that the team was achieving a consistent rate in line with the schedule.

7. Complaints

MP announced that there was a new way for members of the public to get in touch to raise any issues or complaints called Resolveline and this was managed by HK. He explained that residents and Councillors would receive a letter describing how they can use Resolveline in the next few weeks.

HK explained that there had been three complaints since the last meeting, taking the total for 2025 to nine. One was about light; one was an ongoing issue to do with parking at one of the accommodation facilities in Hawsker and the other was to do with water pooling at the entrance of the Ladycross site at Egton which has been raised with North Yorkshire Council Highways.

ACTION 2. – HK to change agenda going forward from Community to Social Programmes.

ACTION 3. – MP to invite Leah Swain to talk to the group about the Woodsmith Foundation.

8. Community

MP explained Anglo American's Thriving Communities Programme was continuing and that there were currently 1,000 people working on the project, including 76% from the local area.

9. A.O.B

- DB said that the council had received correspondence from North Yorkshire Council about the changing of the speed limit in Sneaton to 30mph but that they didn't know timeframes.
 - MP replied that this would be raised at the next TMLG.

ACTION 4: - HK to ask re Sneaton speed limit at TMLG and report to DB.

- DT expressed concern about hearing that the North Yorkshire Council Skills 4 Work programme supported by Anglo American might come to an end. He said the young people had supported many communities and that the experience was invaluable to the youngsters. He asked whether Anglo American were keen to keep supporting the scheme?
 - MP said that Anglo American were aware that North Yorkshire Council were currently undertaking a review of the future of the programme and would keep the group updated with any changes.
- NS asked about the headcount on the project.
 - MP said that the headcount had reduced slightly since January 2025 (from 1,100 to 1,000) due to consolidation of certain works and other scopes of work coming to a natural conclusion.

MP thanked RS, who has announced his retirement and thanked everyone for attending.