

Liaison Group Forum

Minutes of meeting: 22 January 2018, 1.00 – 2.30pm

Venue: Bede Hall, Sneaton Castle Centre, Whitby, YO21 3QN

Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Sirius Minerals (Meeting Chairman)
Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals
Glenn Dunn (GCD) – Sirius Minerals
William Woods (WW) – Sirius Minerals
Heather King (HK) – Sirius Minerals
Cllr Roger Wootton (RW) – Grosmont Parish Council
Cllr Leslie Atkinson (LA) – Fylingdales Parish Council
Cllr David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Gerald Dennett (GD) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Jane Mortimer (JM) – Fylingdales Ward, Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Christine Kingham (CK) – Lockwood Parish Council
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Barry Truman (BT) – Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council
Cllr Tony Jackson (AJ) – Egton Parish Council
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Rob Smith (RS) - North York Moors National Park Authority

14 members of the public

1. Introduction

GE opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public in attendance.

2. Apologies

Cllr Derek Bastiman, Cllr Joe Plant

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of October meeting accepted.

4. Matters Arising

Cllr Plant asked about the status of the Helredale layby improvements. MP responded that Sirius is working up the design with NYCC and that the plans would be made public by July 2017.

5. Construction Update

MP delivered a presentation giving a general update of construction activities at Woodsmith Mine and the intermediate shaft site at Lockwood Beck. This covered construction activity since October and what is scheduled to take place over the next few months.

Questions

- A member of public asked what freezing the ground at Lockwood Beck involved. Another asked whether liquid nitrogen would be used.
 - MP outlined the process which involves freezing the ground immediately around the shaft to a depth of -160m. The ground would only be frozen during shaft sinking to mitigate against water ingress. MP did not know during the meeting whether liquid nitrogen would be used during the freezing process, but immediately afterwards advised the person who asked the question that it would be brine.
- SK asked whether the old Swindale Lane had been officially closed.
 - MP replied that it had and that the old road surface would be replaced by grass.
- SK raised concern about whether the works to bring a power supply to Lockwood Beck would impact on Stanghow's Britain in Bloom entry.
 - MP explained that Northern Powergrid were responsible for these works and that they, together with HK, had met with local representatives about this matter. It had been agreed that the specific area of concern could be avoided.
- A member of the public asked whether there was likely to be any further intermediate shafts other than at Lockwood. RW asked whether there were any plans to use the site at Ladycross Plantation.
 - MP responded that, in addition to Lockwood Beck, planning permission was in place for two further intermediate shafts at Ladycross Plantation and Tocketts Lythe. At present, the proposal was to sink a shaft at Lockwood Beck from which a tunnel boring machine would be launched. MP explained that it may be necessary to have smaller ventilation shafts at the other two sites for operations, but that this wasn't known yet.
- There were two questions about the schedule for the mineral transport system.
 - MP responded that the first tunnel boring machine would be launched from the northern end of the route at Wilton by the end of 2018 or beginning of 2019. GE further explained that ground investigation works were currently underway at Wilton.
- LA asked whether work was going to take place on the A171 to straighten the Normanby Bends.
 - MP explained that the Normanby Bends works were a planning condition and that this would be implemented when the scheme had been fully worked up.

There were two questions about local employment. One from a member of the public and another from RW who asked whether Sirius was required to monitor this for the planning authority.

- GE responded that Sirius is committed to growing a local workforce and providing opportunities to local people. All jobs are advertised on the website and a high proportion of the team live locally. GE added that constructing a development of this scale would require specialist skills, as Sirius had made clear during the planning process, which in many cases were not available in the local area.
 - MP added that Sirius is working with schools and has training commitments as part of its S106 agreement to prepare local people for opportunities in both the short and longer term.
 - BF explained that there is a requirement for Sirius to monitor the targets related to training as set out on the S106 including apprenticeships, undergraduates and for adults.
- SK enquired about the possibility of Sirius taking on people who are to be made redundant at Boulby Mine and also whether there is any truth in the rumours about Sirius buying Boulby.
 - GE stated that Sirius does not comment on rumours or market speculation and that the company is fully focused on delivering the Woodsmith Mine project.
 - MP added that Sirius had discussed the redundancies with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC). As construction was still at a relatively early stage, similar underground positions were not yet available with Sirius. However, MP explained that Sirius is working with RCBC and its contractors to understand their employment requirements and where possible making these positions available to local people, which could include those being made redundant at Boulby.
- JM asked whether Sirius was working with local schools and providing careers advice.
 - GE responded that the Sirius education outreach programme has been running for over five years already. MP added that Sirius has engaged with over 70 schools and over 8000 young people. The focus the company's programme is to raise the skills and aspirations of young people in the area by supporting careers provision, enriching the science curriculum and by working specifically with disadvantaged young people.
- Eskdaleside-cum-Ugglebarnby Parish Council asked what was being done to address lighting levels at the Woodsmith site.
 - MP stated that Sirius was working with its contractors and NYMNPA to limit light spill from the site, whilst still maintaining a safe working environment. This has resulted in some lighting being removed and/or re-orientated. Lighting at the site will be regularly reviewed.

6. Planning

Conditions

MP stated that conditions regarding the next phase of works at Lockwood Beck had been discharged.

RS stated that NYMNPA is looking at the discharge of conditions for the next phase of construction at Woodsmith and is continuing to monitor compliance with planning conditions. RS confirmed that the Section 73 application had been approved and that the permission notice was being finalised.

Section 106

BF reported that good progress had been made in delivering a number of S106 funded projects, including the repair of Old St Stephens Church and improvements to the Coast to Coast Walk between Littlebeck and Falling Foss. In addition, two tree planting schemes, funded by the Core Policy D contribution, would be ready to commence in March.

BF added that the Tourism Impact Review started in August 2017 and will be ongoing over a ten-year period. Two applications for the local tourism business grant, funded through the S106, were currently being considered.

BF informed group that the Compensation and Mitigation Action Plan, detailing the delivery of S106 projects over the next four years, is available on the NYMNPA website.

7. Complaints and Correspondence

MP reported that there had been six complaints in the last three months. Five were related to HGVs, not using the approved route. There was also a noise complaint about reverse beepers, which was resolved within an hour. There were no complaints relating to Lockwood Beck.

8. Community Engagement

HK reported that the November drop-in events at Sneaton and Hawsker were well attended. A public meeting has also taken place at Moorsholm to provide an update on the works at Lockwood Beck. There have been eleven visits to schools over the last three months. HK also informed the meeting that an exhibition about the Project was due to open at Whitby Museum from mid-February and last for four months.

GE provided an update on the Sirius Minerals Foundation. In December, 75 community projects from across the local area were awarded a total of £300,000. This included improving community facilities, supporting families and vulnerable people and environmental projects. More details are available on the Foundation's website.

9. A.O.B

GE thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.