

Liaison Group Forum

Minutes of meeting: 7th February 2019, 1.00 – 2.30pm

Venue: Sneaton Village Hall, Sneaton, Whitby, YO22 5JG

Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Sirius Minerals
Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals
Graham Clarke (GC) – Sirius Minerals
Leoni Bradnam (LB) – Sirius Minerals
Taleen Barkhordarian (TB) – Sirius Minerals
Briony Fox (BF) - North York Moors National Park Authority
Rob Smith (RS) - North York Moors National Park Authority
Cllr Gordon Stock (GS) – Sneaton Parish Council
Cllr Gerald Dennett (GD) – Scarborough Borough Council
Andy Naylor (AN) – North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Jane Mortimer (JM) – SBC and Fylindaes PC
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Les Atkinson (LA) – Fylingdales and NYMPA Member
Rebecca Pearson (RP) – Whitby Town Council
Alf Watson (AW) – Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby
Rose Stainthorpe (RS) - Sneaton Parish Council
Dick Hoyle (DH) - Fylingdales Parish Council

15 members of the public.

1. Introduction

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

2. Apologies

Cllr David Chance, Cllr Christine Kingham, Cllr Joe Plant

3. Minutes of previous meeting

No comments.

4. Matters Arising

Action 1 – BF confirmed she is waiting for a response from Hawsker Parish Council about how to best improve the accessibility of the footpath/Pegasus crossing at the A171.

Action 2 – AN will follow up issue raised regarding the difficulty of horse riding from Lousey Hill Lane to Raikes Lane due to the amount of signage in the verge.

Action 3 – BF is still in discussion with various parties regarding improvements to the bridleway to Lilla Cross.

Action 4 – MP informed the meeting that all contractors had been instructed to fit white noise alerts to all site plant. GC added that vehicles will be checked at the gatehouse and will not be admitted if they are not fitted with the correct alerts.

Action 5 – In response to a request for more detailed data about local employment, MP explained that there were 900 people working on the Project across all sites and that 66% of these lived in the local area (defined as within a one-hour commute). This exceeds the 35% estimated during the planning process for the construction phase. MP reported that almost 200 were from Scarborough Borough, including 82 from Whitby specifically.

Questions

- SK asked if numbers were available for Lockwood Beck.

Action 1 - MP to provide data on the local employment for Lockwood.

- Member of public asked for clarification on the area of bridleway to be improved between Ella Beck and Lilla Cross.
- BF responded that a team was currently working on the footpath at Lilla Cross, in addition to the works that had been completed last year.

5. Construction Update

GC gave an update of construction activities at Woodsmith Mine, Lockwood Beck and Wilton. This covered construction activity since October and what is scheduled to take place over the next few months. Recent drone footage of the Woodsmith site was shown.

Questions

- BF asked if there is a reason the Lockwood site has unnatural angular shaped bunds.
Action 2 - GC to report back to next meeting.
- SK asked when the winding tower would be erected at Lockwood Beck.
 - MP responded that it would be around July 2019 and that there would be public drop in events before this happened.
- Member of the public asked if the winding tower would go up at the same time at Woodsmith.
 - GC said that it would be at about the same time.
- Member of the public asked how many TBMs there would be and how would be assembled.
 - GC explained that there would be three TBMs – one would be assembled above ground and launched from Wilton. The others would be assembled in underground caverns at the Lockwood and Woodsmith sites.
- Member of public asked what the advance of the tunnel boring machine would be.
 - GE responded that the conservative assumption was 17 metres a day.
- Member of public asked if there was going to be a concrete segment plant at Woodsmith.

- GC said that would not be a plant at Woodsmith and that the segments would be transported to the site.
- Member of public asked how high the winding tower would be.
 - MP replied 45 meters high
- Member of public asked whether LNG generators are quieter than diesel generators.
 - GC responded that they were quieter and also more environmentally friendly.
- Member of public asked how the gas would get to site.
 - GC explained that it would be transported to the site in tankers.
- Cllr RS stated that there was still a problem with beepers on site and that it appeared that the issue was not being taken seriously.
 - GC apologised and agreed that the issue had not been managed as well as it could have been. He assured the meeting that he would further strengthen procedures to rectify the issue.

6. Planning

Conditions

RS reported that minor tree clearance works were taking place along the B416 and that replacement planting would start shortly to ensure long-term screening of the site. Light and noise will continue to be monitored by NYMNPA. A lighting audit took place in December 2018, which showed good practice on site and a few minor issues which Sirius were acting upon.

S106

BF reported that the tree planting programme continued to be delivered. NYMNPA had identified 33 hectares for planting and that another 15 hectares would be available by end of the year. Volunteer groups, including a Sirius team, have helped with the planting. BF also informed the meeting that the funding to promote tourism was being used to support a number of campaigns.

Questions

- Member of the public asked for an update on progress to increase train services from Whitby using S106 funding.

Action 4 - MP to report back at the next meeting.
- Member of public asked when the buildings that go over the shafts would be constructed.
 - RS responded that it was likely to be later in the year.

Action 4 – RS or GC to report back to next meeting.

7. Complaints and Correspondence

MP reported there had been two complaints associated with Woodsmith Mine over the last quarter. One was noise related about reverse beepers and the other regarded a reported discolouration of Sneatonthorpe Beck, which was quickly investigated and resolved.

There have been three complaints related to works at Lockwood Beck. Two were from residents close to the Lockwood Beck site after the first night of 24-hour working and were associated with noise and light issues. Following an immediate review of night-time working practices, these were resolved. The other complaint was from a resident of Moorsholm village about being disturbed by noise from the site. The resident reports that this is now no longer the case.

MP also reported that there had been a noise complaint since January from a resident close to the Woodsmith site, which was identified as the drill rig. Night time working was suspended until mitigation measures had been put in place.

Questions

- Member of public explained her frustrations about how noise had been managed at the Woodsmith site and that in her view the approach was more reactive than proactive.
 - GE and MP responded that noise issues were taken seriously by the Company, accepted that in some instances they could have been managed more effectively, and assured the meeting that measures were being put in place to address the concerns expressed.

8. Community Engagement

MP reported that the Sirius engineering apprenticeship programme, which would create 50 new apprenticeships, had been launched in November and that more details were available on the Sirius website.

9. A.O.B

- GE reported that the Sirius Minerals foundation latest grant round awards are to be announced next week, with £250,000 to be awarded to skills-based projects around Scarborough, Whitby and Teesside.
- Member of the public asked whether the results of the speed monitoring of HGVs on Helredale Road in Whitby, undertaken by North Yorkshire County Council, were available. She also expressed her frustration of the noise levels of HGVs, particularly when they passed over specific part of Helredale Road that was uneven.
 - AN provided a summary of the monitoring, which included all HGVs using Helredale Road, and reported that the average HGV speeds were below the threshold that NYCC considered that action was necessary. AN explained the reasons why improvements to the road surfacing had been delayed and said that he would look into whether it was possible to implement a 'quick fix' in the meantime.
 - GE said he would liaise with the Sirius logistics team to ensure that HGVs associated with the Woodsmith site adhered to the speed limit.