

Liaison Group Forum

Minutes of meeting: 4 April 2017, 1.00 – 2.00pm

Venue: Hawsker and Stainsacre Village Hall, Mill Lane, Low Hawsker, Whitby, YO22

Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Sirius Minerals (Meeting Chairman)
Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals
Simon Carter (SC) – Sirius Minerals
Heather King (HK) – Sirius Minerals
Mark Hill (MH) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority
Cllr Guy Coulson (GC) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Gerald Dennett (GD) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Helen Swiers (HS) – North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Jane Mortimer (JM) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Tony Jackson (TJ) – Egton Parish Council
Cllr Leslie Atkinson (LA) – Fylingdales Parish Council
Cllr John Cummins (JC) – Hawsker Parish Council
Cllr Sandra Turner (ST) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Noreen Wilson (NW) – Whitby Town Council

12 members of the public

1. Introduction

GE opened the meeting and each attendee then introduced themselves to the group. Members of the public in attendance were invited to provide their contact details in order to be kept updated. GE reiterated purpose of the Liaison Group Forum (LGF or “the Forum”) – a channel to provide project updates and receive community feedback on the Project throughout the construction period.

2. Apologies

Adam Key (Savils), William Woods (Sirius), Cllr Derek Bastiman , Cllr Phil Trumper, Cllr Ted Sanderson, Cllr Steve Kay, Cllr Barry Truman, Cllr Joe Plant Cllr David Chance.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were accepted with no comments.

4. Matters Arising

It was confirmed that the following matters arising had been actioned:

- Terms of reference wording amended to include a section on voting.
- Cllr Alf Abbott and the Chair of Fylingdales PC added to the membership list.
- Presentation circulated and published on the Sirius website.

5. Construction Update

MP and SC delivered a short presentation covering a general update of construction activities since the last meeting and what is scheduled to take place in the three months ahead.

MP gave a progress update regarding the implementation of highways enhancements in Whitby, the works at the A171/B1416 junction and at the site entrance. He reported that the works in Whitby had been completed and that works around the site were due to be finished by 7 April.

- ST praised the high quality of work to date, especially the dry stone walling at the entrance to Woodsmith Mine.

SC provided an update on the ongoing geotechnical investigation works at Woodsmith Mine. He reported that drilling had started on a borehole down the line of the production shaft and was likely to last for the next five months.

SC went on to provide an overview of the enablement and site preparation works to be undertaken at Woodsmith Mine over the next three months. This will include site clearance, screening and soil storage, acoustic and security fencing, drainage, and construction of the site roads and the shaft sinking platform.

- TJ asked how many staff were currently working on site.
 - SC responded that there were currently around 50.

MP provided an overview of the highways and site preparation works at Lockwood Beck that is set to take place over the next three months. Works include the realignment of the A171/Swindale Lane junction which will help to improve traffic flow and safety at the junction.

GE opened questions up to members of the public.

- A local resident asked about the company's plans for addressing light pollution.
 - SC stated that 24 hour working was necessary during construction and that lighting was required onsite to maintain a safe working environment. SC said that plans to manage lighting have been produced and would be updated before each phase of construction.
 - MP added that Sirius is looking at whether the lighting associated with the rig currently on site could be altered, but stressed that safety would not be compromised.
 - GE asked whether there was a specific area that they were concerned about. The response was generally around the site, not one specific area.

6. Planning Obligations

Conditions

MP stated that Sirius has produced environmental plans and procedures to ensure that the next phase of construction is implemented in line with planning conditions.

MH reported that all but one of the conditions associated with the next phase of construction had been discharged by the NYMNPA. The outstanding matter involved finalising site preparation arrangements and for the S106 security arrangements to be resolved, which MH expected would be completed within days. Once finalised the subsequent works would trigger the formal commencement of development. MH stated that NYMNPA has agreed to enablement works being undertaken at the mine site, prior to this.

MH stated that Sirius had already paid the S106 police contribution and that Sirius and North Yorkshire Police had to agree an approach for these monies to be spent. MP confirmed that a meeting had been set up with the police to take this forward.

MH advised the Forum that a drone would photograph Woodsmith Mine around 11 April to get a baseline of the site. Drone footage will be used periodically to monitor earthworks and landscaping throughout construction.

MH introduced BF as NYMNPA's new Director of Polyhalite Projects and informed the Forum that Rob Smith had been appointed as a planning officer.

MH said that the possibility of changes to the permitted development had been discussed informally with Sirius. MH stated that this is normal for large-scale developments and that the Forum would be informed of any changes to the Project.

Section 106

MP gave an overview of the S106 commitments, referring to the list contained in the quarterly update. The payments are triggered by the formal commencement of development and will amount to over £2 million during the first year of construction. They will include funding for tourism promotion, training local people, local schools and a contribution aimed at increasing local rail services.

MP also pointed out that in addition to funding, the S106 included commitments that Sirius had made regarding taking on apprentices, training adults and supporting local undergraduates.

7. Complaints and Correspondence

MP explained that nine complaints had been received since January 2017. Two were Lockwood specific and about road works. Three were about temporary highways signage around the Woodsmith Mine site. Four involved construction vehicles not using the approved transport route. MP reported that all complaints had been resolved to the satisfaction of the complainants.

MP explained that steps had been taken – and would continue to be taken – to ensure that vehicles would use the approved route in future and that these measures were included in the Construction Traffic Management Plan. In one case in particular, direct actions had been taken against a sub-contractor.

GE asked that people get in contact if traffic problems are witnessed as it is something taken very seriously by the Company. He asked if there were any questions from members of the public and there were none put forward.

8. Community Engagement

MP provided an overview of community engagement activities since the last meeting including attendance at parish council meetings, newsletters and press releases and ongoing visits to site neighbours. MP informed the Forum that these will continue throughout construction and that Sirius will continue with its education and outreach programme in local schools and colleges.

9. A.O.B

GE reiterated that a new postcode had been registered at Woodsmith Mine, with Ordnance Survey and satnav providers also informed. This would help with the management of construction traffic.

- TJ asked whether the police had been considered as an invitee to the Forum.
 - GE explained that they are present at the Traffic Management Liaison Group which feeds into the LGF.

JM expressed thanks for the Sirius attendance at parish council meetings.

- NW asked whether Sirius is still intending to use the permitted construction village as she understood that it wasn't to be built. NW had also heard a rumour that Sirius was interested in using Hawksgarth Lodge.
 - SC said he didn't know anything about Hawksgarth Lodge and that a construction workers village was still an option.

MH mentioned that a number of pre-application consultation events were being held by Cleveland Potash regarding their application to renew planning permission to operate Boulby Mine.

- Member of public asked whether there was a way of shortening the construction period.
 - SC said that the company was constantly looking for ways to shorten construction but at the moment there was no change to the stated schedule.
- Member of the public asked whether there were other ways that Sirius could communicate rather than having to search on the website for information. She had not received the newsletter that was distributed in January.
 - GE asked if she could provide her contact details after the meeting and that Sirius would make sure that she was kept informed. The company would look into why she had not received a newsletter.

No other matters were raised, so GE thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.