

## **Liaison Group Forum**

**Minutes of meeting: 23 October 2017, 1.00 – 2.30pm**

**Venue: Hilda Room, Sneaton Castle Centre, Whitby, YO21 3QN**

### **Present:**

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Sirius Minerals (Meeting Chairman)  
Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals  
Simon Carter (SC) – Sirius Minerals  
Glenn Dunn (GD) – Sirius Minerals  
Heather King (HK) – Sirius Minerals  
Cllr Guy Coulson (GC) – Scarborough Borough Council  
Cllr Gerald Dennett (GD) – Scarborough Borough Council  
Cllr Joe Plant (JP) – North Yorkshire County Council  
Cllr Steve Smith (SS) – Whitby Town Council  
Cllr Christine Kingham (CK) – Lockwood Parish Council  
Cllr Steven Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council  
Cllr David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire County Council  
Cllr Rose Stainthorpe (RS) – Sneaton Parish 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

Nine members of the public

### **1. Introduction**

GE opened the meeting, welcomed members of the public in attendance and asked each LGF member to introduce themselves.

### **2. Apologies**

Cllr Jane Mortimer, Cllr Derek Bastiman, Cllr Sandra Turner, Cllr Phil Trumper, Cllr Rob Barnett and Rob Smith (NYMNP).

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The layout of the minutes were queried by SK and it was agreed that the spacing would be altered to make it easier to read with respect to questions from members of the public. Last minutes agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising**

- At the last meeting MP stated that the Helredale layby improvements were likely to commence in Autumn 2017. Discussions are currently taking place with utilities services and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Highways Authority. MP reported that due to the complexity of the utilities services on Helredale Road a decision has been made to defer the scheme until next year.

- At the last meeting MP said that he would ask NYCC the approximate timescale for the S106 funded project to increase train services between Whitby to Middlesbrough. NYCC estimated that, given the amount of feasibility work required and the process that had to be followed, it would take between three to five years for the scheme to be implemented if it was found to be feasible and the S106 funding was sufficient.
- At the previous meeting, a member of the public requested that S106 funding to promote tourism in Whitby should be able to be used for research and asked Sirius to put this forward to North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP). BF stated that the S106 funding was explicitly for the promotion of Whitby as a tourism destination, rather than research. Scarborough Borough Council has made additional funding available for research.
- GD enquired about the Whitby and District Tourism Association's (WDTA) suggestion that the wrong figures had been used for the research that determined the amount of S106 funding allocated to promote tourism in Whitby. MP confirmed that he had had discussed this with WDTA and had explained that the level of S106 funding was not based on research figures.

## 5. Construction Update

SC 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 July and what is scheduled to take place over the next few months. LGF members were given a site visit before the meeting.

### Questions

- A member of the public, not in attendance, had been in contact regarding lighting at Woodsmith mine and requested that this was raised at the meeting. She asked if anything more could be done to limit the projection of light beyond the site.
  - SC stated that it is an ongoing process to make sure that there is no more lighting than is necessary to keep people working on the site safe. SC gave a recent example of how lighting at one of the drilling rigs was altered slightly in response to an observation from a member of the public. This resulted in improvement and is something that Sirius will continue to do.
- The same member of the public also asked for clarification of the plans to screen the site, particularly now it is more visible.
  - SC described the measures that will be taken which will ultimately screen the site from external viewpoints. As the shafts are sunk the excavated material will be used as bunding and the height of the bunds will increase as shaft sinking progresses. SC also outlined how the temporary structures used during construction, such as the concrete batching plant, will be treated to minimise the visual impact as much as possible.

- SK asked whether the temporary winding tower at Lockwood Beck would be camouflaged.
  - SC said that it will be a large structure which will be there for a few years, and that efforts will be made to make it as unobtrusive as possible.
- GD noted the amount of car parking spaces at Woodsmith during construction and asked whether there will be facilities for electric vehicles.
  - SC explained that bringing cars to site was discouraged and that workers will be bussed to site as much as possible. SC confirmed that there were no plans for facilities for electric vehicles.
- A member of the public suggested that he didn't share the concerns of some people about the visual impact of the mine and that it wasn't possible to disguise it during construction. He stated his support for the project and asked whether Whitby was going to get its share of the work.
  - SC agreed that it wasn't possible to screen the site during construction and reiterated the point about trying to minimise the visual impact during this period as much as possible. SC referred to the image of the mine during operations and explained how it would be screened.
  - SC stated that Sirius do want to employ local people and already are. He explained that there will be a requirement for specialists during construction would be likely to come from elsewhere. MP reaffirmed the commitment that Sirius has made for at least 80% of the operational workforce to be sourced from the local area.
- JP referred to the morning site visit and asked MP to explain how a local company had won the contract to clean the site welfare facilities. MP confirmed this and described how the company had been newly established by a local woman and now employs approximately ten people.

## **6. Planning**

### Conditions

BF reported that NYMNPA continues to work closely with Sirius on various aspects of planning. In respect of discharging conditions NYMNPA is waiting for a response from MoD regarding the subsidence monitoring strategy.

### Section 106

BF gave an overview of how S106 funded projects were progressing including the landscape and ecology contribution, woodland creation and promoting tourism. Two five hectare sites for tree planting have been identified, with planting likely to start early in the new year.

BF reported that good progress had been made with the landscape and ecology contribution, including improvements to the Coast to Coast Walk between Littlebeck and Maybeck. Renovation works have also started on St Stephens Church in Fylingdales.

In respect of tourism promotion, complimentary campaigns to promote the North York Moors are currently being developed. There are a number of projects in the pipeline around utilising the tourism business grant contribution that are part of the S106.

#### Section 73 application

BF explained that further information about hydrogeology had been submitted by Sirius, which is currently being consulted upon. The Section 73 application is expected to be presented at the November planning committee meeting<sup>1</sup>.

### **7. Complaints and Correspondence**

MP reported that there had been a total of seventeen complaints since July. Ten of these were traffic issues, with seven of those involving HGVs using prohibited routes. HGV drivers have been taken off the job if they had been given the correct routing instructions but had not followed them. Two complaints were related to the amount of road signage around Woodsmith, which has since been significantly reduced. There were two complaints at Woodsmith related to noise issues, which have both been addressed.

MP reported that there had been three complaints related to Lockwood Beck. Two involved disruption to utility services and the other regarded highways signage. All have been resolved.

GD, Sirius Minerals Logistics Manager, was introduced and outlined the measures that had been taken to manage and monitor construction vehicle movements. These include a new delivery management system, driver training programme and automatic number plate recognition cameras that track all vehicles entering and exiting site.

#### Questions

- SK asked whether safety has been reduced onsite due to reversal beepers being disallowed.
  - SC explained that site vehicles should be fitted with 'white noise' reversal beepers. These ensure that workers are safe, but the noise does not carry as far as conventional beepers.
- Member of the public asked what Sirius was doing to control 'white van' deliveries to the site using local villages, such as Littlebeck, as a shortcut.

---

<sup>1</sup> Subsequent to the LGF meeting it has been agreed that the S73 application will be considered at the December planning committee meeting.

- GD explained that a delivery consolidation system will be implemented. This involves smaller deliveries going to an offsite location first and then delivered to Woodsmith site together, using the approved transport route.
- SK requested that the previous signage at Swindale Lane stating the road is unsuitable for large vehicles should be replaced, and that it would be best located on the A171.
  - GE said the issue would be picked up with the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Highways Authority.

## 8. Community Engagement

MP provided an overview of community engagement activities since the last meeting including attendance at parish council meetings, site visits with local councillors and ongoing engagement with households near the Project sites.

MP added that HK has been continuing to engage with schools and colleges in the area. During 2017 Sirius has given presentations and attended events at 35 schools in Scarborough Borough and Redcar and Cleveland. HK is working closely with Eskdale School and Caedmon College Whitby.

MP reported that Sirius is holding two informal drop-in events on November 13 and 21 at Sneaton and Hawsker respectively that are open to the public to attend. There will also be a public meeting at Moorsholm Village Hall about the works at Lockwood Beck.

GE provided an update on the Sirius Minerals Foundation, reporting that there had been a lot of bids for the first round of funding. He explained that these are being shortlisted and that applicants will be notified whether they had been successful in December.

- DC asked whether any contact had been made with educational establishments with regard to training up young people for the future.
  - MP explained that Sirius is discussing an engineering apprenticeship programme with TTE. Discussions are also ongoing with Coventry University Scarborough Campus about an engineering degree and the potential to bolt-on elements of mining engineering.

## 9. A.O.B

- JP asked how Sirius is planning to update local people about the decision to defer the proposed layby improvements at Helredale Road.
  - MP agreed that it is important to update local people and that a decision would be made on the best way to do this after further discussion with JP.
- Member of public stated that large numbers of HGVs have always travelled through Whitby and Ruswarp.

- GE agreed that many HGVS use the routes mentioned and that Sirius reports complaints associated with its construction traffic. Complaints are low in the context of the number of deliveries to the mine site.
- DC reported that he had requested a copy of the traffic count at Mayfield Road over the last two years and it hadn't risen significantly at all.