

## Liaison Group Forum

**Minutes of meeting:** 14 May 2019, 1.00 – 2.30pm

**Venue:** Hawsker Village Hall, Whitby

### Present:

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Sirius Minerals

Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals

Graham Clarke (GC) – Sirius Minerals

Heather King (HK) – Sirius Minerals

Cllr Jane Mortimer (JM) – Fylingdales Parish Council, Scarborough Borough Council

Cllr Christine Kingham (CK) – Lockwood Parish Council

Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Cllr Clive Pearson – North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council

Cllr Mike Holiday – Sneaton Parish Council

Andrew Naylor (AN) – North Yorkshire County Council

Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority

Robert Smith (RS) - North York Moors National Park Authority

Mike Hawtin (MH) – North York Moors National Park Authority

1 member of the public.

### 1. Introduction

GE opened the meeting and asked each LGF member to introduce themselves.

### 2. Apologies

MP pointed out that due to recent local elections many new members may not have received the invite to the meeting.

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting

- CK asked what the figures were for Redcar and Cleveland with respect to local employment - MP responded that in January 2019 there were 900 people working on the Project across all the sites. Two thirds were from the local area, including over 100 from Redcar and Cleveland.

### 4. Matters Arising

**Action 1** – MP said that employment data relating to Lockwood Beck would be provided at the next meeting.

**Action 2** – MP explained that the angular looking bunding at Lockwood Beck is temporary and the permanent landscape scheme would have a more natural appearance.

**Action 3** – MP gave a brief update about the progress of the Section 106 funded scheme to increase train services between Whitby and Middlesbrough from four to eight services a day. The first additional service is expected by the end of the year.

**Action 4** – In response to a query about permanent buildings on the site, GC explained that work had started on the permanent winder building at the service shaft. This was discussed in more detail under the next agenda item.

## 5. Construction Update

GC 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 January and what is scheduled to take place over the next few months.

### Questions

- SK asked about the diameter of the MTS access shaft in comparison to the main shafts.
  - GC explained that the diameter of the two access shafts for the tunnel, at Woodsmith and Lockwood, are both nine metres. The foreshafts of the service and production shafts are much wider than this to accommodate the winding gear.
- CK asked whether anything of archaeological interest had been found during construction.
  - GC responded that there had been nothing of note so far and explained there is an archaeologist onsite. BF added that Lidar data from the previously proposed pipeline route had identified some potentially interesting archeology which was being further investigated.
- RS asked GC to explain to the group why the two tower cranes were needed at Woodsmith.
  - GC explained that tower cranes were more efficient and better able to cope with the wind conditions at Woodsmith.
- SK asked whether two or three tunnel boring machines would be used to construct the tunnel.
  - GE confirmed that the plan is for the tunnel to be in constructed three drives from Wilton, Lockwood Beck and Woodsmith, using three tunnel boring machines.
- SK suggested that Lockwood Beck receives much less media coverage than the other project sites.
  - MP responded that the local media were more interested in the larger sites at Woodsmith and Wilton. He assured SK and CK that Sirius was committed to keeping residents close to the Lockwood site informed and that two drop-in sessions were planned for the near future.
- CK expressed concern that Sirius Minerals Foundation funding was not being targeted at projects close to Lockwood Beck.
  - MP responded that a range of projects in the Lockwood area had been funded and that he would forward the list. GE added that great lengths were taken by the Foundation to ensure that funding was distributed to those communities closest to the Project sites.

**Action 1** – MP to forward list of Foundation awards to CK an SK

- Member of the public asked about how the Third Energy fracking licence could affect Sirius.
  - GE stated that Sirius has been focused on protecting the polyhalite deposit from fracking and that Third Energy would have to go through a planning process if they wanted to extract gas. RS confirmed that the area minerals plan provided safeguards for the polyhalite resource and that an application to extract shale gas in the licenced area would have to go through a rigorous planning process.

## 6. Planning

### Conditions

RS explained that the phased discharge of planning conditions continues. NYMNPA is expecting to receive the next phase in the coming weeks, which will cover shaft sinking activities.

### Section 106

BF introduced Mike Hawtin to the group, who is taking up the new post as Head of Polyhalite Projects, reporting to BF. MH will oversee the delivery of s106 funded projects. BF reported that it was the third anniversary of the commencement of development which triggers a range of s106 payments, and that a landscape and ecology notice had just been issued to Sirius that detailed the landscape and ecology projects for the coming year. The woodland creation scheme has involved another 30ha of planting this year, with 60ha lined up for the winter.

## 7. Complaints

MP reported that there had been six complaints associated with Woodsmith Mine in the first quarter of the year, with none related to Lockwood Beck. Three were about noise, which were discussed at the last LGF meeting and addressed by implementing the measures discussed. There were two complaints about traffic related issues. One related to inconsiderate parking by a contractor in Stainsacre and another about vehicles using Raikes Lane. The other complaint was about lighting at the site.

- JM asked when the bunding to the east of the site was likely to be created, which would provide better screening from the Hawsker viewpoint.
  - MP replied that he would find out for the next meeting.

**Action 2** – MP to report back at the next meeting when the bund to the east of the site would be established.

## 8. Community Engagement

MP reported that in the first quarter of the year community engagement had included parish council meetings, presentations to local interest groups and site visits for key local stakeholders. In addition, Sirius attended three jobs fairs to promote job opportunities on the Project, with further events planned for later in the year. The Sirius Minerals education outreach programme had continued, with twenty activities attended since January. Group members were each given a copy of the recently published 2018 Responsible Business Report.

GE reported that the Sirius Minerals Foundation had launched its latest funding round in May, aimed at increasing participation in sport. There is £50,000 available for smaller grants up to £1000 and bids are welcome for larger capital projects to improve sports facilities. More information and application details are available on the Foundation's website.

#### 9. A.O.B

- A member of the public suggested that the boulder with the Woodsmith Mine sign should be moved to the new entrance.
  - GE responded that this was something that the Company was looking at, although it wasn't a current priority.