

## **Liaison Group Forum**

**Minutes of meeting:** 23 April 2018, 1.00 – 2.30pm

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

### **Present:**

Gareth Edmunds (GE) – Sirius Minerals (Meeting Chair)  
Simon Carter (SC) – Sirius Minerals  
Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals  
Heather King (HK) – Sirius Minerals  
Cllr Leslie Atkinson (LA) – Fylingdales Parish Council  
Cllr David Chance (DC) – North Yorkshire County Council  
Cllr Christine Kingham (CK) – Lockwood Parish Council  
Cllr Steve Kay (SK) – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council  
Cllr Tony Jackson (AJ) – Egton Parish Council  
Briony Fox (BF) – North York Moors National Park Authority  
Robert Smith (RS) - North York Moors National Park Authority

10 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, Cllr Barry Trueman, Cllr Jane Mortimer and Cllr Guy Coulson.

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

- MP clarified Cllr Plant's query regarding Helredale Road. Cllr Plant was not present at the meeting, but had asked MP to raise the matter in his absence.
- SK asked if the old road surface at Swindale Lane would be returned to grass and when this was likely to happen.
  - MP responded that the piece of land in question will be returned to grass. He agreed to would find out when this would happen and feedback to SK.

**Action 1:** MP to find out the timescale and respond to SK.

### **4. Matters Arising**

- MP provided an overview of local employment on the Project in response to questions that had been asked at January's meeting. MP reported that almost half (47%) of the 300 people involved in construction were from the local area, compared to the estimated 35% as stated in the planning application. In addition, there are now over 100 Sirius staff at the head office in Scarborough and two thirds of them are from the local area. MP explained that local is considered to be people normally residing within a commute of one hour.

- A member of the public asked which contractors were working on the Project and specifically whether Murphy's were still involved.
  - MP confirmed that Murphy's were no longer involved and said that SC would provide an update about contractors under the next agenda item.
- AJ suggested that the Whitby Gazette would be a useful platform to update the community about local employment.
  - GE agreed with AJ and explained that a variety of channels, including the press, social media, newsletters and the company's website, were used to provide information to the community.
- SK stressed that the Project covers the Teesside area, as well as Whitby, and that local employment should be seen in this context.

## 5. Construction Update

SC gave an update of construction activities at Woodsmith Mine, the intermediate shaft site at Lockwood Beck and activities at Wilton.

SC explained that Sirius had entered into a contract with DMC Mining Services (DMC) for shaft sinking and gave an overview of the Shaft Boring Roadheader (SBR) that DMC will use to construct the main shafts. SC reported that Sirius had entered also into a contract with experienced tunnelling contractor Strabag for the first drive of the MTS tunnel between Wilton and Lockwood Beck. Work is currently underway at Wilton to prepare the site for the launch of the tunnel boring machine.

SC explained that the Lockwood Beck site has been prepared in readiness for shaft sinking. The first stage of this, which is likely to start in the next quarter, involves the construction of a secant pile wall down to a depth of approximately 20 metres.

### Questions

- Member of the public asked whether the three shafts at Woodsmith were going to be connected.
  - SC explained that the production and service shafts and the MTS shaft were connected at the -360m level.
- SK asked when the winding tower was going to be constructed at Lockwood Beck.
  - SC said that the winding tower won't be erected until next year.
- A member of the public asked about the possibility of drill and blast being used to sink the shafts.

- SC explained that the SBR will be used for the main shafts at Woodsmith, but it was possible that drill and blast could be used on occasion if the underground conditions required it.
- A member of the public asked whereabouts in the Wilton site the Project was located.
  - GE responded that the materials handling facility and the tunnel portal would be located at the northeast of the Wilton site.
- SK asked whether an overland conveyor was going to be used from the materials handling facility to the harbour facility and how the main trunk road was going to be crossed.
  - MP responded that an overland conveyor would cross over the road and further explained that an outline planning application had been submitted that proposed a simplified the conveyor route, which would enable the road crossing to be more of a bridge like feature than a flyover.
- AJ asked the length of the conveyor from the MHF to the Tees.
  - SC said that the conveyor would be roughly 3km from the MHF to the Tees.
- Member of the public asked if D-walling had been undertaken to -120m.
  - SC replied that the focus had been to D-wall the foreshaft to -60m.
- Member of the public asked if the section 73 application would lead to any changes with the above surface headgear.
  - SC explained that there would be one temporary winding tower during construction rather than three.
- Member of the public asked for more details about the machines used to sink the drives and construct the tunnel.
  - SC provided an overview and showed slides giving examples.

## 6. Planning

### Conditions

RS reported that the amended planning permission granted by the NYMNPA was formally issued in February. Monitoring of construction activities and compliance with conditions were ongoing.

- Member of the public asked when the latest planning matter associated with the Project was going to be considered.
  - RS responded that the only outstanding application related to the Northern Powergrid kiosk and that this was likely to be determined in the next two weeks, subject to consultation.

- Member of Whitby Town Council asked whether a park and ride would be used to transport the workforce to the mine site.
  - SC explained that the construction of an extension to the existing Whitby Park and Ride was underway and that this would be used to transport the workforce both during construction and operations.

### Section 106

BF gave a presentation about the variety of projects supported by Section 106 funding.

- SK asked BF whether she shared his view that NYMNPA had greatly benefitted from the Project.
  - BF responded that whilst a lot of good projects could be supported by the funding, the S106 was in place to mitigate and provide compensation for the impact of the Project on the National Park.
- SK asked the amount that NYMNPA had received out of the total S106 funding of £2.5m paid by Sirius to date.
  - MP explained that added that just over £1.4m had been paid to NYMNPA, £855,000 to North Yorkshire County Council and £214,000 to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.
- Member of the public expressed his concern that large amounts of the s106 funding would be paid to consultants.
  - BF responded that NYMNPA have employed people directly to deliver S106 projects, but that there are instances where consultants are necessary.

### Helredale Road

Mrs Vivien Wright (VW) introduced herself and voiced a number of concerns about traffic issues on Helredale Road in Whitby, including:

- The additional number of HGVs using the road and the speed they were travelling at
- The noise caused by HGVs as they were travelling back from the site when they were empty
- Danger to pedestrians, particularly the narrow footpath by the cemetery
- HGVs travelling in pairs

VW requested that speed limits should be enforced and asked when the Helredale Road layby scheme, which is a condition of the planning permission, was going to be implemented. Mrs Wright said she was aware that there is a specific group that met to discuss traffic issues and asked whether this was open to the public.

GE responded that the Traffic Management Liaison Group (TMLG) had been established to oversee the delivery of the Project's Construction Traffic Management Plan. GE explained that the group was not open to the public and that issues raised in relation to traffic were investigated by the TMLG and

reported back to the LGF. GE assured VW that the TMLG would look into her concerns and confirmed that it was attended by the Highways Authority, North Yorkshire Police, NYMNPA, Sirius and its contractors.

MP explained that the Helredale Rd layby scheme is taking longer than expected due to complications with utilities and drainage issues. The aim is to finalise the plans for consultation in July, with work to start on implementing the scheme in Autumn.

**Action 2:** MP to raise Helredale issues at the next TMLG meeting.

## **7. Complaints and Correspondence**

MP reported that there had been eight complaints associated with Woodsmith between January and March. Four were in relation to the Northern Powergrid works to bring power to the site. Three were traffic issues related to HGVs missing the site entrance, and the other a complaint about lighting at the site. There were two complaints associated with Lockwood Beck, both about the power supply being connected to the site.

## **8. Community Engagement**

MP reported that four parish council meetings were attended over the last quarter and a number were scheduled to take place over the next few weeks. Work with schools has continued and fourteen educational events had been attended over the last three months. The Project exhibition at Whitby Museum is open until the end of May and discussions are underway with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council about the possibility of it being moved to Kirkleatham Museum.

## **9. A.O.B**

GE made reference to a letter that was published in the Whitby Gazette about the amount of litter on the roads leading to the Woodsmith site. GE stated that Sirius strongly disapproves of littering and reported that local people the company had spoken to had suggested that the amount of litter around the site was no worse than before construction started. He stated that Sirius wants to help to keep the area tidy that staff were due to do a litter pick in the following week, and had enlisted the help of North Yorkshire Skill Mill moving forward.

VW asked whether the construction village to accommodate the construction workforce was going ahead. MP responded that this was not being progressed.