

Liaison Group Forum

Minutes of meeting: 24 October 2018, 1.00 – 2.30pm

Venue: Littlebeck Village Hall, Littlebeck, Whitby, YO22 5HA

Present:

Matt Parsons (MP) – Sirius Minerals (acting Chair)
Graham Clarke (GC) – Sirius Minerals
Glenn Dunn (GD) – Sirius Minerals
Heather King (HK) – Sirius Minerals
Briony Fox (BF) - North York Moors National Park Authority
Cllr Gordon Stock (GS) – Sneaton Parish Council
Cllr Gerald Dennett (GD) – Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Sandra Turner (ST) – Scarborough Borough Council
Andy Naylor (AN) – North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Derek Bastiman (DB) – North Yorkshire County Council

8 members of the public.

1. Introduction

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

2. Apologies

Gareth Edmunds, Cllr Steve Kay, Cllr David Chance, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Christine Kingham, Cllr Joe Plant, Cllr Guy Coulson, Robert Smith.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

No comments.

4. Matters Arising

Action 1 – The offer of Skill Mill undertaking work in Lockwood Parish has been made to the council.
Action 2 – MP confirmed that Sirius will be supporting the defibrillator installation project in Whitby.
Action 3 – BF had contacted Hawsker PC regarding the Pegasus crossing.
Action 4 – MP reported that Sirius currently had 180 staff and that just over 70% were from the local area. Of the 650 workers involved in construction, 45% were local compared to the 35% estimated during the planning process.

Questions

- DB asked for the definition of local. MP responded that a one-hour commute was the standard measure used in economic impact assessment.
- GD asked for further explanation about the Pegasus crossing in Hawsker explaining that currently horses were forced to ride on the footpath which was considered unsafe.

Action 1 - BF to follow up with the parish council again to further understand their concerns about footpath / Pegasus crossing for A171 and how to ensure this is accessible.

- Member of the public said that it was difficult to horse ride from Lousey Hill Lane to Raikes Lane due to the amount of signage in the verge.

Action 3 – AN to investigate.

5. Construction Update

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

Questions

- Member of the public asked about when the site would be more screened from the Hawsker viewpoint.
 - GC responded that as the bunding increases over the next few months it will start to provide greater screening.
- Member of the public enquired about the diameters of the shafts and whether the winder foundations were for the permanent winders.
 - GC responded that the shaft diameter would be 7.25m to the -350m level and then reduce to a diameter of 6.7m for the remainder of the shaft. GC confirmed that the foundations were for the permanent winders but explained that temporary winding facilities would also be used to sink the shafts.

6. Planning

Section 106

BF reported that a wide range of S106 funded projects had been undertaken this year, mainly on relatively small-scale projects. BF gave a presentation with examples of projects including drystone walling, conservation work, works to reduce coastal erosion and public rights of way restoration.

In relation to Core Policy D contributions, BF reported that 40,000 trees had already been planted in 2018 and that a further 33ha has been identified for planting over the coming months.

Questions

- Member of the public asked about the lighting at site and suggested that it had been brighter in recent weeks.
 - BF said that this was one of the anticipated impacts of the development and that NYMNPA, Sirius and its contractors were working together to keep lighting to a minimum, whilst ensuring that there was a safe working environment. S106 funding was contributing to schemes to reduce lighting elsewhere in the National Park.
- Member of the public asked whether the bridleway to Lilla Cross could be improved as it is in poor condition.

Action 3 - BF said that she would discuss with colleagues and report back.

7. Complaints and Correspondence

MP reported that there had been seven complaints associated with Woodsmith Mine over the last quarter and no complaints about Lockwood Beck. Three related to noise - one from a resident in Littlebeck and two from Sneatonthorpe. In all cases investigations found that no breaches of the noise thresholds set out in the planning conditions had occurred. Noise monitoring has been undertaken at Littlebeck over a four-week period and is currently underway in Sneatonthorpe.

Four complaints were about HGVs not using the approved route. In each case the sub-contracted delivery drivers had not received the correct delivery instructions. This has been resolved. In addition, a complaint was received regarding the geotechnical drilling works at Eskdaleside which was investigated and resolved.

Questions

- Member of the public said that she had started to hear reverse beepers and asked when the Park and Ride would be operational and whether it was optional.
 - GD responded that the P&R was up and running and explained that workers based at Woodsmith had to use the Park and Ride.
- Member of the public who lives in close proximity to the site complained that she regularly hears reverse beepers and that it tends to be early in the morning and late in the afternoon.
Action 4 – MP agreed that site plant should be fitted with ‘white noise’ reverse beepers and assured the meeting that he would ask the site team to rectify the issue.
- DB asked whether sanctions were taken against haulage companies who do not use the approved HGV route.
 - GD explained that individual drivers were banned from site and that there had been a case where a specific contractor was no longer used after its drivers repeatedly used the wrong route.
- Member of the public asked whether the Park and Ride was big enough to accommodate shift changes.
 - GD gave an assurance that it was and added that there was a further P&R facility in Guisborough.

8. Community Engagement

HK reported that Sirius had attended six parish and town council meetings during the quarter and had hosted a site visit at Woodsmith for councillors from Sneaton Parish Council. Sirius also took part in ten education outreach events, including a four-week project with young careers, and was the headline sponsor of Scarborough Science and Engineering Week for the seventh year in a row.

9. A.O.B

- Member of the public queried whether the LNG plant at Woodsmith would be in the same location as the permanent welfare facilities.
 - MP responded that it would be in a similar location and explained that the LNG plant would be a temporary facility for the construction phase only.
- Member of the public asked if the company would continue to track the level of local workers and whether it was possible to be clearer about the extent of the workforce from the Whitby area as the one-hour commute definition of local was very broad.
 - BF explained that this was a matter for Sirius as local employment is not a planning obligation.

Action 5 - MP to consider employment reporting and will feedback at the next meeting.