

Meeting Notes



West Cumbria Metallurgical Coal Project Liaison Group		
Date: Tuesday 14 th January 2020	Time: 11:00 – 12:30	Location: Haig office
Meeting called by	West Cumbria Mining	
Type of meeting	Community Liaison Group	
WCM hosts	Simon Zanker (SZ) – WCM (Chair), Kevin Murphy (KM) - WCM	
Attendees	John Greasley (JG), Tony Potts (TP), Tony Ross (TR), Jennie Taylor (JT) – Storey Homes, Keith Cartner (KC), Neil Messenger (NM), Thomas Greer (TG) – Copeland Borough Council, Sophie Badrick (SB) – National Trust, Carrie Rose (CR) - Atkins, Graham Barwise (GB), Dennis Rowland (DR) - WCM, Jasmine Nock (JN) - WCM	
Apologies		
A. WCM Update		
Discussion		
<p>SZ welcomed attendees and gave brief introduction of himself and his mining background.</p> <p>Introduction of all liaison group hosts and members, alongside their backgrounds.</p> <p>SZ updated the group on the use of Sandwith mine, explaining that it shall no longer be de-watered, the entrance will be utilised and the Woodhouse Colliery drift will run over the top of the flooded parts of the Anhydrite mine.</p> <p>KM described the unanimous granting of planning permission on 19th March 2019 and the necessary final legal processes that the team are working on including the completion of the Section 106.</p> <p>Cumbria County Council further unanimously ratified the original decision 31st October 2019.</p> <p>Tim Farron MP's call-in request to the Secretary of State in April, on the basis of too many energy projects, was dismissed on 1st November 2019.</p> <p>An individual on behalf of Keep Cumbrian Coal in the Hole has challenged Cumbria County Council through a judicial review as she believes the council's acceptance that the greenhouse gas footprint will be the same from Woodhouse Colliery as it would from an American coal mine was not logical, making the decision unlawful. On 8th January 2020, legal documents were submitted by Cumbria County Council and West Cumbria Mining regarding the challenge.</p> <p>Introduction of Atkins who are currently completing site investigation work for Marchon and an overview on the MMO license which is to be submitted following the closure of the onshore planning process.</p> <p>SZ reiterated the company commitment to the project and reassured funding for 2020 is available.</p>		
B. Atkins Presentation – Marchon Site Investigation		
Discussion		
<p>CR gave an introduction to the contaminated land investigation on Marchon site. These are to include shallow and deep groundwater investigations, alongside soil investigation.</p> <p>Phase 1 of the investigation included researching site history, geology, water and previous investigations. Phase 2 is currently being drafted to include a gap analysis from Phase 1 and the completion of information gaps. Phase 3 is to involve completing investigations through the use of boreholes and pits.</p> <p>TG enquired about contamination on the site. CR acknowledged that the extent and types of contamination are currently unknown, and concrete will be punctured to see what is beneath the Marchon Site.</p> <p>TG explained that the Environmental Agency recognised the northern part of the site as contaminated and will likely have an interest in spoil movement. CR stated that West Cumbria Mining continues to work closely with the Environmental Agency and they will clarify what they expect from the company.</p> <p>SZ stated that once the desktop study work is completed, a draft scheme is to be sent to the Environmental Agency before finalisation. This information will be passed on to TG through the Environmental Agency.</p> <p>KM mentioned that West Cumbria Mining must discharge 90 conditions before the mine can progress. Roughly 30 must be done before construction and site investigation is only one of them.</p>		

C. Updates to Terms of Reference

Discussion

KM explained that the revised terms of reference for the liaison meeting are part of a planning condition from Cumbria County Council. New terms of reference were sent to liaison group members along with the invite to the January meeting. The aim is to make the liaison group more interactive with community involvement. Members are to vote on topics and the outcomes will be reported to the West Cumbria Mining board.

JG highlighted that he did not receive the reviewed terms. KM actioned to attach the terms of reference with the meeting minutes email.

SZ read out the terms of reference previously distributed to liaison meeting members. The group gave general consensus to them, but this is to be firmly accepted by members when sent out with the minutes.

TP commented that he did not receive the meeting time on the email.

SZ suggested the next liaison meeting is move to 4.30 pm as this allows for community members with work commitments to attend. The suggestion was accepted by group attendees.

D. L-Group on WCM Website

Discussion

KM explained the meeting minutes are to be uploaded on to the West Cumbria Mining website alongside an accompanying liaison group photograph. The plan is for each group member to have a photograph with a brief description of themselves on the website which will allow members of the community to approach them with queries or information regarding the mine. Photographs and brief biographies to be collated at the next meeting.

E. Questions and Any Other Business

Discussion

JG clarified that the next liaison group meeting is to be held in 2 months.

TP identified the knowledge gap of the local community regarding coal and coking coal.

JT noted that Storey Homes has a large amount of landscaping materials left over and offered them to West Cumbria Mining. JT also queried the Section 106 payment requirements. KM invited JT to email further regarding the topic.

NM explained that he participates in local school talks on coal mining and highlighted the potential for collaboration with West Cumbria Mining.

SB asked when work will begin on Marchon Site. SZ explained that work will not begin until everything is in place, including the Section 106 agreement and a 42-day cool down period. KM added that the site investigation works may take around four months to complete.

JT enquired about the timescale of the judicial review. KM commented that it would take 4-6 weeks to hear back from the judge and the timescale is then answer dependent.

CR highlighted the potential of a Q and A session or presentation before the commencement of ground investigation, alongside the benefits of brownfield remediation on Marchon site.

TG raised a concern regarding dog walkers on Marchon site. SZ suggested refencing the site, introducing on-site security and creating a robust plan around working with the community within WCM’s plans. SB suggested the promotion of existing footpaths to dog walkers.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 17th March at 4.30 pm

There being no other business, SZ thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.