

# Meeting Notes



West Cumbria Coking Coal Project Liaison Group		
Date: Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	Time: 15:00 – 16:00	Location: Haig Pit Museum
Meeting called by	West Cumbria Mining	
Type of meeting	Community Liaison Group	
WCM host	Kevin Murphy (KM), Caroline Leatherdale (CL)	
Attendees	Graham Barwise (GB), Sophie Badrick (SB), Tom O'Fee	
Apologies	Stuart Trevaskis (ST), John Cain (JC), Tony Potts (TP)	
WCM Update		
<b>Discussion</b>		
<p>KM opened the meeting and reported that in future meetings there may be an additional attendee, a resident from Sandwith. KM will inform them of the date of the next meeting.</p>		
<p>KM reported that there are two onshore drilling rigs on St Bees Head, one running a vertical drill and the other a directional drill. Results so far are encouraging and coal has been found at the Main Band (2.6 metres thick), Ten Quarter (1.5 metres thick) and the Bannock Band (2.6 metres thick). Three more holes are planned this summer. Rock strength measurements are being taken above and below the coal seams, as this rock will form the roof and the floor of the mine.</p>		
<p>KM and CL informed the group that the baseline environmental surveys (including noise monitoring, air quality monitoring, ecological surveys, hydrogeological and hydrological investigations) are about 80% complete now. The planning application is being developed, including the Environmental Impact Assessment. This will include 16 chapters on a range of issues.</p>		
Feedback from the latest Project Update Event		
<b>Discussion</b>		
<p>KM explained that around 400 people attended West Cumbria Mining's latest Project Update Event, held at the Haig Museum on 29, 30 and 31 July. Attendees included a significantly higher proportion of people in their late teens, twenties and thirties than the previous events, and these people were primarily interested in employment opportunities. Details of job roles that will be required were available, and employment interest registration forms were available for people to complete. Around 200 feedback forms were completed by attendees, who left feedback that is mostly very supportive of the development.</p>		
<p>A Community Update Newsletter will be issued in the next couple of weeks, and the next series of drop-in sessions to the offices at the Haig Museum are being planned for September (dates to be finalised).</p>		
<p>It was thought that the letter drop to a range of local areas contributed significantly to the success in the number of people attending the Project Update Event. West Cumbria Mining also have links with a local employment organisation called "West Cumbria Works", which directed people to the event.</p>		
Future Plans / Programme of Works		
<b>Discussion</b>		
<p>KM outlined the programme of work for this year as being the completion of the offshore drilling programme and finalising the planning application.</p>		
<p>Next year there is a planned programme of offshore drilling, for which the Marine Management Organisation have issued a licence.</p>		

# Meeting Notes



GB asked about levels of support for West Cumbria Mining from the Council. KM and CL explained that both Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council had given broad support, and that the due planning process must be followed. KM reported that West Cumbria Mining have arranged a meeting with the local MP, Jamie Reed. Mike Starkie, the local Mayor, is also supportive of the project, especially due to the employment opportunities.

## Stakeholder engagement plans – including Community Fund

### Discussion

KM reported that West Cumbria Mining are keen to support local projects aimed at youth obesity, with a focus on encouraging sporting activities. TO said that in his mining days the miners were required to contribute to a sports fund.

West Cumbria Mining have asked the Colourful Coast Partnership to provide a proposal for coast path improvements for a sum of money that West Cumbria Mining would like to donate to help upgrade/repair the coast path. SB is liaising with Colourful Coast partners to prepare a proposal and determine whether match funding is available.

KM and CL reported that the West Cumbria Mining geologists involved in the onshore drilling have identified that local beaches are polluted with plastic and litter, and they have suggested a Beach Clean. In 2015, West Cumbria Mining undertook several beach cleans, but on an informal basis only. SB mentioned there is a National Beach Clean, and she will liaise with CL over the date of this to determine whether a joint event can be organised.

KM explained that the mine still needs a name – and the attendees discussed an online poll or competition. It was agreed that West Cumbria Mining would consider approaching local schools for ideas, and then these would be put forward to an online poll.

KM reported that the next Project Update Event will be in 3 months.

## Any Other Business

### Discussion

TO asked whether local labour would be used, and/or would specialist skills be brought in from further away. KM explained that specialist skills often do not exist locally, so especially in the construction phase there would be specialisms brought in from elsewhere. However for the operational phase, WCM will train local people in conjunction with local colleges. West Cumbria Mining is aiming for 80% local workforce (i.e. from within a 20 mile radius).

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm, in the Haig Museum Office.

There being no other business KM thanked the meeting for their attendance and closed the meeting.