

Meeting Notes



West Cumbria Metallurgical Coal Project Liaison Group		
Date: Thursday 28 th March 2019	Time: 10:00 – 11:00	Location: Haig office
Meeting called by	West Cumbria Mining	
Type of meeting	Community Liaison Group	
WCM hosts	Kevin Murphy (KM), Caroline Leatherdale	
Attendees	Tom O'Fee (TO), Graham Barwise (GB), Tony Potts (TP), Sophie Badrick (SB), Duncan Crawford (DC)	
Apologies	Stuart Trevaskis (ST)	
WCM Update		
Discussion		
<p>KM welcomed the attendees.</p> <p>KM and CL updated the Group on the recent unanimous decision by the Development Control & Regulation Committee of Cumbria County Council (CCC) to resolve to approve the planning application for Woodhouse Colliery.</p> <p>The planning permission cannot be formally issued to WCM until various procedural matters are addressed, these being the finalisation and signature of legal agreements with the Council, landowners and WCM, known as a Section 106 agreement. This process is expected to take 2-4 weeks.</p> <p>After the completion of the Section 106, the Council are required to wait 42 days before the permission can be issued. The 42-day period is informally known as the 'challenge period' - i.e. the time in which objections may be raised on specific grounds for judicial review of the decision by CCC.</p> <p>After these processes are completed the planning permission can be formally issued to West Cumbria Mining.</p> <p>There are 98 planning conditions which will be issued with the planning permission, and WCM have commenced work on drafting the documents required to submit the required information to the Council for approval after the permission is issued.</p> <p>Site investigation will likely commence in early July. This will need to be completed and the land remediated (if required) before construction starts.</p> <p>Since the last Liaison Group WCM have appointed Simon Zanker as Operations Director, who has extensive previous experience in coal.</p> <p>KM thanked the members of the Liaison Group for their support. The support of the local community was essential in securing the planning decision. The Mirehouse Estate is one of the top 10 deprived wards in the country, and it is hoped that the WCM project will significantly improve the economic outlook for the area. Keith Cartner gave an excellent speech to the planning committee, as did the former Elected Mayor Mike Starkie.</p>		
Future of the Liaison Group		
Discussion		
<p>There is a planning condition relating to the Community Liaison Group. After this meeting WCM will send the new terms of reference to the members of this Group, and at the next meeting this will be discussed.</p> <p>One of the questions for WCM to decide in the future is how to manage the Community Fund to be established once the mine is operational. There may be changes to the Group's membership, and people can put themselves forward.</p> <p>The meeting discussed the option of seeking further members from the immediate neighbors as the construction programme especially would have the greatest impact on them.</p> <p>KM mentioned that the WCM were considering taking ownership of the Haig office and the Museum once planning had been fully confirmed</p>		
GDPR		
Discussion		
<p>KM mentioned that the majority of people on WCM's database contacted by WCM under the GDPR had replied to the effect that they wish their details to be kept on the database.</p>		

Next Public Engagement Event	
Discussion	
KM mentioned that the timing for the next update event would be in the early summer, once the final determination had been issued.	
Questions	
Discussion	
DC explained that people were asking when will the mine be up and running. KM explained that WCM are looking at around two years from the completion of the Site Investigation and remediation work which is planned for the later part of this year.	
TO asked if there was still gas, water, electricity etc on site. KM explained that new service connections are required for all utilities and discussions had already begun.	
TO asked how the mine would be ventilated. KM showed the site plan and explained where the fan house is proposed.	
TO mentioned the old drift to the east of St Bees Road. KM said WCM are aware of this and the plan is for the conveyor route to avoid that.	
TP asked if the vented air will be sampled for methane and CO ₂ . KM explained that a methane management scheme is included in a planning condition.	
Date of next meeting - to be arranged.	
There being no other business, KM thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.	