

# Meeting Notes



West Cumbria Coking Coal Project Liaison Group		
Date: Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Time: 10:30 – 11:30	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	Stuart Trevaskis (ST), John Heneghan (JH), Sophie Badrick (SB), Keith Cartner (KC), Alice Gill (AG), Adam McNally (AM), Thomas Greer (TG), Jim Kirkpatrick (JK)	
Apologies	Graham Barwise (GB), Tom O'Fee, Tom Todd (TT), Tony Potts (TP), Sharon Blakeley (SB)	
WCM Update		
<b>Discussion</b>		
<p>KM opened the meeting and welcomed new members, who introduced themselves:</p> <p>Adam McNally – Planner for Story Homes, responsible for getting planning permissions for Story Homes sites. Sees the meetings as a way for information to be exchanged between West Cumbria Mining and Story Homes. Stated that Story Homes support the redevelopment of the Marchon site, and the investment into the local area.</p> <p>Alice Gill – PR and Communications Manager for Story Homes. Deals with getting information to customers etc.</p> <p>Keith Cartner – Co-ordinator of Mirehouse Community Centre &amp; Mirehouse Residents Group.</p> <p>Thomas Greer – Environmental Health Officer, Copeland Borough Council</p>		
<p>KM updated the Group on the progress of planning application preparation and Environmental Impact Assessment works. This included a visit in early January to Whitehaven from two USA companies – one a leading designer of coal processing plants, the other a leading designer of curved &amp; dome shaped buildings. West Cumbria Mining are working closely with Cumbria County Council, Copeland Borough Council, and other regulators to ensure timely submission of planning application, which WCM is aiming for a decision on by October 2017. A programme of offshore drilling will commence in April 2017 for approximately 6 months.</p>		
<p>AM asked if WCM are having discussions with Cumbria County Council about Section 106 Agreements for road improvements. KM responded that the discussions have not yet covered this aspect.</p>		
<p>CL explained that there will be a footpath created on the northern part of WCM's proposed site to connect the High Road to the coastal path.</p>		
<p>In response to a question from JH, KM explained that WCM have undertaken modelling of rail requirements for WCM along with all other proposed rail users. WCM's rail requirements do not push the line over capacity. Modelling for the future shows there is potential for over-capacity in some scenarios, for example if Nugen's requirements are included in the models. WCM is working with all potential future users of the line to determine the most appropriate way to deal with potential future capacity issues.</p>		
<p>ST asked when the rail sidings for WCM would be built. KM envisages this being early in the WCM construction programme.</p>		
<p>AM asked how many staff would be on the site once operational. KM explained that there will be a 3 shift system, with the mine operational all the time. Each shift would have about 120 underground workers and the day shift would be complemented by office staff of 100 people 5 days per week (a smaller office based team on Saturday mornings is likely). KM reported that interested people can pre-register their interest in potential jobs, and that a Training Manager has been appointed by WCM to start on 30 January. The Training Manager will register all the pre-registrations and CVs received and identify skill levels and training needs. KM reported that over 90% of pre-registered candidates live less than 20 miles away.</p>		

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AM asked about lighting design and visual impact. CL explained that the low-profile buildings will be carefully screened using earth landscape 'bunds', which will allow some views into site so that the building design can be seen in places, and which will protect the surrounding area from unacceptable noise and visual impact. Lighting will be sensitive and low-level – there is no need to light the buildings at height, and there will be no 'orange glow' at night that is so often seen on industrial sites.

JH asked if there would be a visitor centre. KM explained the WCM aspiration to maintain its lease of the Haig Museum & office space, however this is in the hands of the receivers. ST asked about the future of the museum and KM explained that the liquidators have had no interest from any other party in taking in the museum.

AM asked TG and JK about noise levels for the site. TG explained that the construction phase is likely to be noisier than the operational stage. Operationally TG expects no issues so long as the design includes noise control measures. TG explained there are occasionally complaints about noisy trains, and that the train loading facility planned by WCM could be noisy if not designed correctly. CL explained that the coal processing plant which will be on the Marchon site will be insulated to a high degree to suppress noise, and that the plant will be contained within a building, which will then be enclosed by a second building. WCM are looking at design options for the rail loader building.

## Name of the Mine

### Discussion

KM explained that this is under discussion. A few ideas had been suggested at WCM's last Project Update Event in October, and other suggestions had been made. The name should be decided before the planning application is submitted. The planning application will include the term 'metallurgical' coal instead of coking coal. The type of coal is still exactly the same, and it will still be used for steelmaking, but WCM have been advised that the term metallurgical is the correct way to describe the coal.

## Links with schools and colleges

### Discussion

KM explained that the Training Manager starts on 30 January and part of the remit of the role will be liaising with schools & colleges to help understand and communicate skills and knowledge needed. WCM will employ a number of apprentices, and that some machine manufacturers have training courses. JH asked how people are trained to work underground and KM & CL responded that bespoke training could be delivered.

AG mentioned the Cumbria LEP and potential links to educational establishments and placement schemes. ST mentioned the need to link with secondary schools to give pupils ideas about mining careers. KM mentioned that WCM have had visits with local primary schools and have also delivered talks to the Lakes College as well as the Energy Coast UTC in Workington (around 150 plus students) regarding the project and his career choices, university etc. WCM are also in discussions with other local groups (REACT based in Cleator Moor) to inspire children from Year 10/11 (GCSE level) to Year 13 (A level leavers) to look at engineering based roles or those related to the mining industry.

## Community Fund

### Discussion

KM reported that the mine will have a community fund once it's up and running, and this will be separate to the Copeland Community Fund. WCM have discussed the approach to the Community Fund with a number of different local organisations including Copeland Borough Council and others. KM explained that he would like to see the Liaison Group helping to administer the Fund once it's set up.

ST asked the size of the Fund, and KM responded it would be a six figure sum once the mine has reached full production. KM explained there are many different aspects to consider in how to run a Fund successfully, and that WCM will take advice on this. AG kindly offered to share the Story Homes Community Fund Guidelines.

JH asked about cycle track in Pow Beck Valley and KM reminded the meeting that this is an initiative raised by St Bees Parish Council.

ST asked if WCM workers could use the new train station proposed by Nugen – KM to ask Nugen.

Post-meeting note: after the meeting SB kindly emailed to KM and CL a list of grant awarding schemes. She has a good deal of previous experience including being a Trustee of a grant awarding charity.

# Meeting Notes



## Programme of Works

### Discussion

KM emphasized that the key focus of the work at the moment is finalising the planning application. This is expected to be submitted to Cumbria County Council in spring 2017.

KM said that WCM is also working on a Detailed Feasibility Study, which is a document aimed at the investment community to raise funding to build and operate the mine.

## Stakeholder Engagement Plans

The next Project Update Event is on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March at the Haig Offices.

## Date of the Next Meeting

To be arranged for the end of March or beginning of April – date to be announced in March.