

UPDATE NOTE

IN LIEU OF FIELD HOUSE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE (CLC) SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

Circulation:

Denise Harland – Chair and representative of STOPWR
Steve MacQuarrie (SMQ) – Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited (Hargreaves)
Paul Davies (PD) – Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited
Trevor Meek (TM) – Field House Site Manager
Councillor Bill Kellett – Durham County Council (DCC)
Councillor David Hall – Durham County Council (DCC)
Claire Teasdale (CT) (Planning Officer) – DCC Planning Department
Mike Tweddle (MT) (Monitoring Officer) – DCC Planning Department
Gillian Patton (GP) – Pittington Parish Council
Peter Morson (PM) – West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council
Michael Hopper - Hetton Town Council
Jon Steer – Pittington Community Association
Arthur Dornan – West Rainton and Leamside Village Partnership
Jacky Worthington (JW) – Moorsley and District Community Association
Danielle Pearson (DP) (Planning Officer) – Sunderland City Council

Clerks of Pittington PC, West Rainton PC and Hetton TC.

Action

1. Preamble

In view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic it was previously agreed between the Chair and representatives of Hargreaves and DCC that it would not be appropriate to convene the usual Field House CLC meetings at the site offices. It was decided to prepare and circulate an Update Note relating to matters addressed at CLC meetings and this was done in respect of the June CLC meeting (see Item 2). This latest Update Note relating to the scheduled 3 September 2020 CLC meeting has been prepared and agreed following email consultation with all members of the CLC. Accordingly, it will be sent to the relevant Parish and Town Clerks for immediate public release.

AP31 SMQ

2. Previous Minutes

The Update Note in lieu of the meeting scheduled for 4 June 2020 was agreed and emailed to all CLC members on 12 June 2020. The June Update Note has been signed and forwarded to CT to upload onto the Council's website following necessary redactions.

3. Matters Arising

Nothing raised.

4. Review of Action Points

Circulation:

AP30 – Update Note in lieu of the CLC meeting scheduled for 4 June 2020 emailed to Parish and Town Clerks on 12 June 2020.

5. Community Fund Committee (CFC)

The last CFC meeting was held on 5 March 2020.

A total of £78,188 has been awarded to date and all awards have now been paid with the exception of an award to Pittington Parish Council to renew a play area. This is a substantial project and the award was made subject to confirmation being demonstrated that sufficient additional funds had been secured to allow the project to proceed. The distribution of these funds as previously reported is 40.64% (£31,780) West Rainton and Leamside; 40.63% (£31,768) Pittington; 18.72% (£14,640) Hetton.

Following reopening of the site on 11 May 2020 coal production resumed and has now been concluded. The final Community Fund total is £93,440 and deducting the £78,188 of previous awards (this includes the £4,000 for the Pittington play area) the balance available is £15,252.

There is one new CFC application pending at this time and a CFC Update Note is planned following consultation with all CFC members. The CFC Update Note will explain how the outstanding application is determined and also set out how remaining monies will be distributed.

6. Hargreaves – Project Update

An update was noted from TM explaining work carried out on site to date:

- Coal extraction finished on 26 June 2020 with removal of coal stocks from site being completed on 26 August 2020. Coal sales from site are now completed and a total tonnage of 467,201 tonnes has been despatched from site;
- Noise and dust monitoring. No noise complaints received in the last period. One dust complaint was received from a resident in West Rainton and this is explained at Item 8;
- Environmental Health have been notified of the end of coal handling and the PPC permit is to be surrendered;
- Site is progressing with excavated overburden now being placed at or below restoration contours.

Information from TM outlining upcoming work in the future was noted:

- Continue to excavate the overburden mound and backfill the void to restoration contours ready to accept soils;
- The RH120 excavators and Cat 777 dump trucks will be parked up in October 2020 and the final excavation of the overburden mound will be completed using smaller excavators and articulated dump trucks which are more suitable through the winter months;

Circulation:

- The early cessation of mineral extraction will not adversely impact upon the restoration period. It is unlikely that any soils will be restored this year due to weather and planning conditions, restoration of soils will start Spring 2021 and be completed by the end of July 2021 as required by the planning permission.

7. DCC Officer Update

In July 2020 the Council approved Discharge of Condition applications in respect of Conditions 3q (Restoration details) and 3r (Aftercare details). In addition, reviews to the noise and dust action plans were also agreed by the Council in July 2020. The next reviews are due by 6 January 2021.

Since the last update Mike Tweddle has undertaken two chargeable monitoring visits, these took place on 26 June and 28 August 2020. The August report found that the site is not raising operational difficulties and is presently working in accordance with approved documents (as amended). As no non-compliances have been identified as a result of this site visit the Council's High Grade Mark has been awarded.

The High Grade Mark is Durham County Council's way of recognising those sites and operators who adhere to the terms of the planning conditions attached to the planning permission for their site and if applicable, associated planning obligation(s). The criteria for the High Grade Mark is a clean slate. This means no non-compliances have been identified by the Council at the scheduled monitoring visits and reported in the resulting site monitoring report produced by the Council. Award of the High Grade Mark is reviewed at each scheduled monitoring visit. To retain the High Grade Mark it is therefore important that standards remain high and no non-compliances are identified.

The Council will continue to monitor the site during the restoration and aftercare phases of the development.

8. Issues / Complaints

The dust complaint referred to in Item 6 concerns a resident at Rainton Gate, West Rainton who alleges coal dust from the site has affected his property. Hargreaves have carried out enquiries relating to the nature of the alleged impact and reviewed operational activity, wind direction and weather conditions, also dust monitoring results. The matter is ongoing and the Environmental Health Officer is aware of the complaint, however Hargreaves do not consider that the complaint is justified.

9. Any Other Business

In the June 2020 Update Note it was reported that West Rainton and Leamside Village Partnership had asked for information regarding CFC awards made to groups in West Rainton and Leamside. The CLC considered this to be a matter for the CFC to decide. After careful consideration the CFC decided that it was appropriate to make public the decisions it has made regarding applications for CFC funds. However the CFC decided to delay issuing details until after the September CFC meeting which is expected to be the last CFC meeting. This will allow a full and final summary to be issued to all CLC and CFC members and the Clerks of Pittington PC, West Rainton PC and Hetton TC.

Circulation:

10. Date of Next Meeting

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions, the next CLC meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd December 2020 at 6pm at the Field House Surface Mine site office. Should a meeting not be possible then Hargreaves will advise the Committee in advance and alternative provisions will be put in place.

It was also agreed that a CLC meeting could be called at short notice, at the Chairperson's discretion, should circumstances arise which merit this.

Signed

Chairperson

Date:

Circulation: All CLC members, Clerks of West Rainton PC, Pitlington PC and Hetton TC.