

NOTES ON THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE HUNTINGTON LANE SURFACE MINE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE (CLC) ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2010 IN LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr Prof Patrick Pietroni (interim chairman), T&W Cllr Jacqui Seymour, Juliet Esp, Roger Seymour, John Ferrington, Peter Whittle, Janet Higgs, Warwick France, Julia Kaminsky, Pete Lambert (SWT).

IN ATTENDANCE: John F. Marcham (Parish Clerk and note taker).

APOLOGIES: None.

Patrick Pietroni welcomed all present and then each member outlined their interests and reasons for being on the CLC.

Patrick Pietroni made the following points:

- We are not an opposition group; our object should be to get the best out of the situation.
- We are here on behalf of the residents and especially those directly affected by the surface mine.
- We need to hold open meetings for all the residents.
- The early communications and resolution of complaints is essential.
- There should be a newsletter and telephone access for residents.

He reported that meetings with UK Coal had taken place and that they had been very responsive to our needs. The most recent meeting had been held on Thursday 14th January with the 12 objectors to the RoW closures and diversions. UK Coal had met the objectors and made constructive suggestions to their concerns and as a result the objectors had verbally withdrawn their objections. (A copy of the notes of that meeting will be circulated to CLC members.)

Roger Seymour suggested that the CLC should have a “down to earth” function being a reception for the concerns of local residents, a trouble shooting forum as issues were raised. He felt that if there were good relations between UK Coal and the CLC then issues should be able to be addressed very quickly.

Communications:

T&W had offered to service the CLC. It was felt that servicing by an outside authority may result in the loss of some sensitivity and that the CLC required its own communications strategy framework. There was the need for someone to support and work for the CLC for between 8 – 10 hours a week. It was felt that such a person would:

- Liase with the site manager.
- Work at a local level supporting residents and their concerns/complaints.
- Record and feed back information on problems to all parties.
- Service the CLC – agenda, minutes, email updates, keep appropriate data bases etc.

Discussion followed on how to finance a “Communications Officer” and whether this could come from the Community Fund. However Jacqui Seymour stated that this may not be appropriate use of the fund. However monies would be required to service the CLC.

Patrick Pietroni had talked to T&W about servicing the committee but it may not consistently be the same person and he would prefer to keep that role “in house”.

Peter Whittle felt that it might be churlish to turn down T&W’s offer of help. Jacqui Seymour stated that it would a democratic officer who would send out the agenda, take the minutes and then circulate them to CLC members in liaison with the chairman.

The matter was not fully resolved.

Julia Kaminsky had agreed to edit a newsletter.

All members of the CLC, other than Janet Higgs and John Ferrington, were happy to receive information electronically.

Community Fund (CF) Sub Committee:

The original concept was that 5 or 6 members of the CLC should have delegated powers to deal with this.

The following points were raised:

- Some members felt that they would be happier with a large CF sub committee.
- Restoration work funded by UK Coal and not the CF.
- Not to end up with the local authority for some “pet scheme”.
- For people most adversely affected.
- What does “community” mean?

Was there a CF at Ravenstone (UK Coal's surface mine in Leicestershire)? If so ask their chairman to come and talk to us.

There followed a discussion on the make up and structure of the CF sub committee.

It was **resolved** that all members of the CLC should be members of the CF sub committee with the exception of UK Coal officers. Pete Lambert also stated that he would not wish to be a member. It was **resolved** that the CF meetings would follow on immediately from the CLC meetings.

The following points were made:

There is no urgency to spend the £500k. With that amount of the money we could do something very powerful with it.

Could be used to pump prime other projects.

Interest will accrue on the money which will be held by T&W.

Legal document to be drawn up by T&W.

Grant application form and procedure to be agreed.

Suggestion of improved broadband access to the area.

Meetings:

Initially monthly meetings to take place.

Hold an open forum for residents once every 3 or 4 months.

Technical reports to be available from UK Coal at each meeting – progress, problems, monitoring results etc.

Appropriate officer from T&W to give technical inputs.

T&W to carry out independent monitoring and to report back to the CLC.

Environmental Agency to be involved.

Site meetings and inspections from time to time by the CLC.

To create the right relationship with the site manager & UK Coal.

7 members to be present for a quorum.

Should a member not be able to attend a CLC meeting then it would be permissible for a member of their family to make a statement on an issue on their behalf, but they would have no voting rights.

Areas of concern as listed by residents:

It was felt that the process of communication was essential and that residents need quick and detailed responses to their concerns.

It was proposed that all residents be given a list of the conditions imposed on UK Coal as set out in Annex A of the letter from the Secretary of State for Communities dated 6th October 2009.

T&W must ensure that the conditions are met and take quick and appropriate action if they are not.

In some cases the technical language, for example with blasting, is presented in layman's language.

Areas of responsibility and expertise:

NOISE:

Roger Seymour.

VIBRATION AND BLASTING:

Peter Whittle.

DUST & AIR QUALITY:

Warwick France and Janet Higgs

HIGHWAYS & ACCESS:

John Ferrington

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

}

BIODIVERSITY PLAN

}

Pete Lambert &

ANCIENT MONUMENT

}

Julia Kaminsky

RESTORATION

}

RIGHTS OF WAY

Debbie Goodman

WATER

Juliet Esp

LIAISON WITH T&W

Jacqui Seymour.

Patrick Pietroni summarised the meeting and asked members to send him agenda items.

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 22nd February in Little Wenlock Village Hall.