**EGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk to the Council C Harrison

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Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held at

 6.30 pm on Monday 10 October 2022

Present: Cllrs S Shaw, A Jackson, T Boulton, S Harrison, R Grayson, J Deans, A Cockrem, County Cllr Clive Pearson and C Harrison, clerk. A number of residents were present and the representatives from Anglo American were H King, M Parsons and G Edmunds.

A number of residents were present and raised the following concerns and objections in relation to the planning application.

In summary, the residents said that this was an inappropriate development in an inappropriate location and that this goes against the legal duty of the National Park. There was a concern about the size of the workforce (400) compared to the population of Egton. The application would have a negative economic impact and a negative impact on the local community. It was stated that the pubs and other businesses would suffer from lack of tourism over the 5 year period. The impact on the reputation of the village might suffer and that it might not recover and the tourists might not come back. The term of 5 years was also questioned, stating this goes against policy BL12 and that projects often overrun. It was stated that residents had already suffered as a result of the mine, through the junction being changed, road works upheaval and noise.

There was also concern that no other sites had been considered and it would appear that no thought had been given to the impact the workforce would have on the local pubs and the overall impact on the village and safety of residents. The traffic this would generate was also a concern raised. The impact on wildlife was also raised with people being on site 24 hours and buses running early and late. It was also stated that caravans can move on or off site and that the tourist facility is not all year round. It was stated that this is a substantial change of use from a holiday resort to a workers dormitory and that the land should be for leisure and pleasure. There were also concerns raised about the possible behavior of the workforce drinking in the pubs and management of the workforce and that some people would stay on site when they were not working. The impact on the water and sewerage system was also raised. The issue of existing tourists being given 3 months notice to move off was raised as not reasonable. It was asked if they were to be compensated and Anglo American said this would be as issue for the site owner Overall residents thought this was not in keeping with the National Park policies and that it would have a negative impact on Egton, on the local community, the wildlife and economically for the businesses. There was also concern raised over 36 buses journeys a day.

Anglo American responded to the questions and acknowledged that this application has caused concerns. They stated it was a variation to accommodate up to 400 workforce for up to 5 years. They stated that NYMNP had been in contact with them and they were in the process of answering their questions. They stated that this site was the only site considered as there was no space at the mine site and there was a lack of alternatives within a reasonable travelling time. Their overall aim was to accommodate 400 workers close to the Woodsmith Mine site to help them minimise the impact of travel time on fatigue levels within the workforce. They said they did not want to monopolise other accommodations and impact on tourism elsewhere. Anglo American stated the site was a distance from the village and had no visual impact and that a legacy would be left for the caravan park. They also said they are committed to putting things right and working with the locals.

They are in discussions with Highways in relation to the junction and would arrange a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss concerns with the relevant stakeholders. They also said that they were in discussion with Yorkshire Water to assess the potential impact on the Egton waste water system, from the proposed change of use for the site. They said that they would isolate their waste from the village if necessary and manage this on site. Anglo American said that they did not envisage being at Lady Cross for any longer than the 5 years. Anglo American stated 1,300 working on the project and currently accommodating 250 people who do not reside in local area, but the workforce now needs to grow. Anglo American think that the vast majority will stay on the Lady Cross site. There will be food and alcohol on site. They stated that all workers are tested for alcohol every morning on arrival at each site. If the alcohol test is failed then the worker/contractor would lose their job. Random drug tests are also completed. A resident highlighted that some people could still drink alcohol and self test and then go off sick. Anglo American stated that contractors would not be paid, and would lose the job if they turned up over the limit. In relation to the fear of anti-social behavior, Anglo American stated that they have strict rules and they think they would manage this. Residents thought that this would be difficult to implement with Anglo American workers legally able to leave the site.

The Parish Council asked for further information on Anglo American HR policies for sickness absence, conduct and discipline and data to set out how many days sickness absence had been taken, and how many dismissals from alcohol and drug test failures. Anglo American thought that Egton would benefit in the longer term with an extended and improved caravan park. Anglo American stated that they are engaged with the communities and there is the Woodsmith Foundation, working with schools and Section 106 payments available. They said that they were open to discuss the possibility of additional money for Egton as a possible legacy. They said that they are thinking of ways to work with the businesses and that they want to do the right thing. They accepted in the short term there would be a loss of tourist income for Egton, but said over the long term this should be an improved caravan park with a long term net gain. Anglo American agreed to undertake a wildlife survey to assess the potential impact of their presence at the Lady Cross site.

The Parish council also asked Anglo American a number of questions, in relation to the workforce, the impact on the local community, the local objections and possible alternative solutions.

Anglo American answered some questions and stated they would get back to the Parish Council with answers to questions that were not answered at the meeting.

1. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence: No apologies received
2. Declarations of interest in respect of any of the agenda items to be discussed: - none

3 To consider planning application

NYM/2022/0634 **Application for variation of conditions 1 (material amendment), 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 11 of planning approval NYM/2018/0681/FL to allow the temporary use of Ladycross Caravan Park as an accommodation park for Anglo American workers for the duration of the shaft sinking stages of the Woodsmith Project (estimated to be up to five years). The proposal comprises the regularisation of the 'as-built' layout to the south west of the site, temporary siting of two person cabins on each of the 189 pitches with associated infrastructure, provision of a temporary welfare facility across six lodges, canopy to existing toilet block for use as bus drop off/pick up area, cycle store and bin store together with retention of four privately owned lodges and private house for continued use by caravan site operator at Ladycross Plantation Caravan Park, Egton**

The Parish Council listened to the concerns and objections from residents and listened to Anglo American. The Parish Council asked further questions to ensure that the proposal was fully understood. The questions raised by the Parish Council were in relation to the workforce, the impact on the local community, local objections and alternative options. Anglo American had answered some of the questions already and said that they would get back to the Parish Council on questions that could not be answered straight away.

It was then resolved that the Parish Council strongly object to the application for the attached reasons. The parish council will agree and consider any further comments at the next meeting.