

AGENDA ITEM No. 4.1

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

30 JANUARY 2009

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICE

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - FULL APPLICATION – PROPOSED EXTRACTION OF FLUORSPAR ORE AND ASSOCIATED VEIN MINERAL BY OPEN PIT METHODS FROM AN EXTENSION TO THE WORKINGS AT TEARSALL, SOUTH DARLEY – GLEBE MINES (NP/DDD/0208/0104, M10213, 30/01/2008, 426201/360188 RJB)

Representations received since compilation of the report

Friends of the Peak District – Pleased that Glebe have increased the offer of a legally-binding amount of crude ore to be sourced from their permitted underground reserves (predominantly Milldam Mine). However, do not consider the revised offer is enough to guarantee a significant enough diminution of their future open cast impacts on the National Park's landscape. Would like Glebe to commit to guaranteeing their forecast summary of underground ore sourcing which increases from 15% in 2009 to 29% in 2012. Recognise that these targets will have to be met if the company is to maintain production levels and survive commercially but feel that this should be subject to a binding planning obligation to ensure that their impact on the National Park will be commensurate with the National Park Management Plan and the draft Regional Spatial Strategy.

Save Wensley Hillside – the proposed 125,000 tonnes per annum linked to vehicle loads is not consistent with their Forecast Summary Breakdown table of crude ore production. If Cavendish Mill were to be supplied at the percentages stated then the ore would be recovered in under a 4 year period. The planning gain would be much reduced as the requirement to use Peak Pasture would be immediate on the expiry of the 4 year moratorium period. Glebe infer 400,000 tonnes of crude ore available but this has not been rigorously tested. The offer of a legal agreement sourcing 15% from underground by 2011 is still inadequate and should be significantly increased in line with the figures quoted i.e. 29% production by 2012. Glebe state that DBERR support their assertion of a national need but DBERR's conclusions are not an unequivocal statement of national need overriding National Park purposes.

3 further individual objections raising the following additional issues:

A planning application should stand or fall on its own merits & should not be determined by 'horse trading' with another proposal. In exceptional circumstances it may be acceptable to trade against another which should never have been granted and which would cause far worse damage. However this should be used extremely rarely in a National Park or it would set dangerous precedents. The proposal is merely to delay quarrying at Longstone Edge rather than cancel it and the planning gain is therefore worthless. Permissions should be based on a long term view & not a mere 4 year delay. The offer to delay quarrying at Longstone Edge should be totally disregarded in determining the application at Tearsall.

The trade off with Glebe over working at Tearsall & Longstone Edge are quite separate proposals and should be judged as such. This may be legally invalid. Blasting has previously resulted in mortar being displaced on their roof due to vibration along the bedrock. The Authority should show it cares for the local environment rather than bending to pressure from doubtful commercial interests.

A full archaeological survey of surface and underground features should be undertaken because the loss of archaeological evidence will destroy the historical integrity of the area.

A letter has been circulated to members from the applicant reiterating & summarising previous comments reported and the following additional issue: the working open pits that have underpinned Glebe Mines over the last 9 years are virtually exhausted. Since October 2008, 33 scheduled plant operating days have been cancelled due to a lack of crude ore.

Ineos further reports that in the current economic climate they have not identified any redundancies or redeployments at Ineos Fluor.

Comment

Glebe Mines have confirmed that the minimum Cavendish Mill requirement is not 420,000 tonnes as indicated in the BGS report, which affects the assumptions made by Save Wensley Hillside. The data supplied by Glebe represents the anticipated various contributions in a percentage form but there will be a variable amount of ore needed reflecting what is available and higher ore grades from the underground mine. It assumes a steady offtake from Tearsall at the levels applied for and the percentage quoted for 2009 represents only half a years production at best due to the lead-in time required.

As previously reported, conditions can be imposed to control working at the site and could provide for six-monthly site surveys, volumetric assessments linked to phasing timescales, and output and vehicle numbers restrictions.