

**FFOS-Y-FRAN LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING
27 September 2007**

**MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE, MERTHYR TYDFIL**

ATTENDEES:

Cllr. Ian W. Clark	MTCBC Councillor Town (ED) Deputy Chairman
Cllr. Mark Elliott	
Cllr. Derek D Games	MTCBC Councillor Plymouth (ED)
Cllr. Helen Thomas	MTCBC Bedlinog (ED)
Cllr. Phil Williams	Dowlais Electoral Division (ED)
Mrs Alyson Austin	Bradley Gardens Resident
Mrs Jane Flower	Japonica Drive Resident
Mr Philip Murphy	Dowlais Resident
Mr Alan Rees	Merthyr Resident
Mr Ron Yandle	Mountain Hare Resident
Mr David Griffiths	Environment Agency Wales
Ms Lucinda Hall	Environment Agency Wales
Mr Norman Davies	MTCBC Head of Planning
Mr David Dier	MTCBC Environmental Health
Mr James T. Poyner	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Mr Stephen Tillman	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Mr Robert Jones	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Mr Bob Edwards	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Miss Kylie Jones	Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Chairman confirmed that a quorum existed.
- 1.2. The Chairman referred to Cllr. Ray Thomas's recent accident and Cllr. Phil Williams gave an update on Cllr. Thomas's recovery.
- 1.3. Miller Argent was asked to send a letter to Cllr. Thomas's family on behalf of the committee sending best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

2. Attendance

- 2.1. Attendees were asked to sign the attendance register.
- 2.2. Miss Kylie Jones was introduced as Miller Argent's Environmental Liaison Officer, and would be attending all future meetings.

3. Apologies

- 3.1. Apologies were received from the following:- Cllr. Tony Rogers (who also had expressed disappointment and annoyance at not receiving the notes of the previous meeting, which would have advised him of this meeting). Mr W. L. Humphries sent his apologies.

4. Confirm The Notes Of The Previous Meeting.

- 4.1. Mr Poyner explained that he personally was responsible for the failure to get the notes of the previous meeting out ahead of this meeting and apologised for this oversight.
- 4.2. Mr Poyner handed out copies of the notes of the previous meeting. The Chairman allowed attendees time to read the notes.
- 4.3. The Chairman asked if anyone had any comments relating to the notes of the previous meeting.
- 4.4. Various comments/corrections were made (and the notes were duly amended and circulated the following week).

5. Matters Arising From The Notes Of The Previous Meeting

- 5.1. Mr Alan Rees sought clarification as to when trains would first start to move coal down the railway line. Mr Jones stated that this was likely to be during the month of November, although test trains may use the railway line earlier.
- 5.2. It was reported that the trees/shrubs surrounding the monitoring station at Mount View had not been cut back. Mr Dave Dier said that he would make the necessary arrangements on behalf of the Council to have the works carried out. Mr Edwards said that if Mr Dier liaised with him he would explain what was required.
- 5.3. Mr Edwards reported that Miller Argent had re-located the monitor as far from the effect of the trees as they were able within the limits of the compound.
- 5.4. Mr Yandle asked what progress had been made regarding the strategy for carrying out of structural surveys ahead of blasting commencing. Miller Argent reported that they were still taking advice on the matter and had in fact had a meeting with members of the Leeds University team on the Monday previous (who are employed to advise MA on blasting) and the subject was discussed at that meeting. Miller Argent explained that no blasting will be carried out this year and that a strategy will be agreed before blasting commences.
- 5.5. It was confirmed that Miller Argent would be giving a similar PowerPoint presentation to the Community First Group at Bedlinog at 6.30pm on Thursday 18th October 2007 as they gave to Dowlais. Cllr. Ian Clark asked if one could be carried out also in Town Ward to which Miller Argent replied they would be delighted to and asked for someone to contact them to make the necessary arrangements.

6. Résumé of Site Report

- 6.1. Mr Rob Jones talked through his written site progress report, a copy of which he distributed to all committee members.
- 6.2. Mr Rees and Mr Jones reported on a fire that had occurred on site on the Saturday previous to the meeting. Apparently person or persons unknown who had trespassed on site had set fire to some tyres that had been unlawfully dumped. Fortunately no damage was caused.
- 6.3. Mr Rees questioned whether signs were in place fastened to the boundary fencing. Mr Jones assured Mr Rees that they were.
- 6.4. Cllr. Phil Williams asked that the Council check that culverts were clear from obstruction following the recent periods of very heavy rain.

7. Recruitment

- 7.1. Mr Rob Jones explained that the recruitment process was continuing and that he and his team would be carrying out interviews and job assessments for some time to come. Mr Jones reported that 15 new starters will commence employment next Monday (1st October) and that will enable the start of the double shift system to be worked.
- 7.2. Mr Philip Murphy asked if Miller Argent would in future report on the employment statistics of their sub-contractors as that would complete the overall picture. Miller Argent agreed.
- 7.3. Mrs Austin questioned the statistic for local people employed suggesting that not all were local people and some may just be using an accommodation address and expanding her point saying that in fact some recruits may be immigrant labour.
- 7.4. The Chairman explained that this hypothesis was straying into a legal minefield and cut the debate short explaining that it was not within the remit of the Liaison Committee.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. Mr Poyner reported that no relevant correspondence had been received in the period.

9. Complaints Received

- 9.1. Mr Jones confirmed that no complaints had been received in the period.
- 9.2. Cllr. Mark Elliott stated that he had not received any complaints.
- 9.3. Mr David Griffiths reported that the Environment Agency had received a report that afternoon (27th September) from a member of the public complaining of odours in the vicinity of the old bridge on the Bogey Road.
- 9.4. Miller Argent confirmed that they had not been advised of this and were unaware of the allegation.
- 9.5. After some debate Mrs Austin advised that in fact it was her who had made the complaint and that she had contacted both the EA and Merthyr Tydfil

Environmental Health Department. Mr Dier said that he was unaware of her call. Mrs Austin admitted that she had deliberately not contacted Miller Argent as she wanted to test the reaction of the officials.

- 9.6. It was explained to Mrs Austin that unless she advised Miller Argent at the time they would not be in a position to investigate the problem and could not therefore take any corrective actions should the problem be down to them.
- 9.7. The procedure for addressing complaints was restated: that is to contact Miller Argent as well as the authorities.
- 9.8. Cllr. Clark suggested that the Miller Argent contact number should be advertised in the Merthyr Express and included in the Council's Contact magazine.
- 9.9. It was reported that someone had tried the Miller Argent emergency number on Tuesday 25th September but no one answered it, Mr Tillman thanked the person for raising this point and undertook to investigate the problem/procedure.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1. Miller Argent was asked to detail the membership of the committee on their web site and include their telephone numbers. They were also asked to detail the approved copy of the meeting notes on the web site too.
- 10.2. Cllr. Elliott suggested that now activities on site had commenced it would be good to have a site visit and because of the winter evening darkness suggested that a Saturday morning may be appropriate. Mr Jones said that this would not be a problem and looked for a few days advanced notice so that he could arrange the necessary site transport.
- 10.3. Mr Tillman was asked when the training and visitor centre would be commissioned; he explained that planning consent had been granted and that a contract was currently being negotiated for its construction. He anticipated that it will be complete in 6 to 9 months time.
- 10.4. Mr Poyner was asked to write to Ms Laura Edwards to enquire after her well being as she has not yet attended a liaison meeting and the committee were anxious in case she was not well.

11. Agree The Date Of The Next Meeting

- 11.1. The next meeting is to take place on Thursday 25th October 2007 at 7.15 pm in the committee room 1, Civic Centre, Merthyr Tydfil. It was also confirmed that the November meeting is to be held on Thursday 22nd November 2007.
- 11.2. There being no other business, Cllr. Ian Clark thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at approximately 8.50pm.

Signed as a correct record: Chairman Date