

Minutes of the Public Meeting

held on the 16th February in the Main Hall at 7pm

Present: Cornwall Resources (Peter Wale, Jeff Harrison and Brett Grist)

Approx 140-150 members of the public

Welcome and Introduction

Portreeve and Mayor, Cllr Mark Smith, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the three representatives from Cornwall Resources, Alan Jones from Kivells, Mr Earl from Earl and Crocker and Cllr Gist from Gist Insurance.

Jeff then took the floor and gave a presentation explaining what the next six months could be like and what the company is planning to do.

Jeff is happy to provide monthly newsletters that can be shared with people, if they leave their contact details tonight.

Maps were displayed showing where previously drilling had taken place and the three targeted minerals lodes. The company would be doing rotary drilling and mud based, to reduce the level of dust. Each hole would take between two to three weeks. Samples of the core will be sent abroad for testing for metal content. Drilling and noise was discussed, and it was confirmed that the company does have a complaints procedure if anyone felt they had noise concerns. Jeff would handle such complaints.

Pictures of the machinery intended to be used were then displayed.

By the end of the year, Jeff suggested that another meeting similar to this could be held to explain what they have found. CLR are expecting approximately 60% of the metal value to be from tin, 30% to be from tungsten and 10% to be from copper at current metal prices.

Previous drilling has suggested that there are a further thirteen smaller lodes in the area and a low grade sheeted vein complex

Jeff went on to explain their future communication plans, they would like to share as much information as possible and happy to hold more meetings.

In conclusion, Jeff discussed that more exploration, a pre-feasibility study, a feasibility study and planning permission needs to be completed before any mining could commence.

Question Time

The next part of the evening Cllr Mark Smith invited questions from the floor. Prior to the meeting the office had received four questions which were taken first:

Question 1 Who will advise residents of regulation permitted noise levels, and who will be monitoring said noise levels?

Jeff explained that the Permitted Development Order would determine this – and this should be decided by the 27 February, by the Mineral Planning Officer at Cornwall Council.

Question 2 What is the Council's advice to residents who are close to the defined potential mining areas, regarding information to send to their property/contents insurers. Please consider no advice could invalidate residents' insurance cover, and full disclosure will almost certainly significantly increase premiums.

Cllr Gist responded to this, reading out a response provided by a senior underwriter. The key message was to tell your insurance company, as it is far better to discuss things from the outset. The underwriter felt that at this time it would have no effect upon the premium terms and conditions, but would need reviewing if the scheme progressed.

Question 3 It had been stated by Mr Harrison that no test exploration drilling will take place within 50 metres of any occupied property. What is the mining organisations policy regarding the stage 2 activity, drilling for metals, directly below occupied properties?

Peter confirmed that the fifty meters away from a property included fifty meters beneath a property.

Question 4 You are asking permission for drilling 12 hours a day, 7 days a week including bank holidays, but in practical terms are you actually going to be drilling that much? Would it not be possible for you to increase your investment in machinery or hire in extra machinery in order to keep the number of working days down, so allow the community at least 1 day out of 7 some peace?

CRL prefer two rigs, rather than three, and to keep them a distance apart. The aim is to make sure the process is quiet every day, so we don't need to give residents a rest on a Sunday.

Questions were then invited from the floor.

Mr Tate a mining engineer asked about mining at Holmbush and Kelly Bray mines. In response, Cornwall Resources don't have an Exploration Lease covering those mines.

Derek Prickett spoke about it being a virtual lode. Jeff explained that the historical mining would have already mined the surface.

Mr Kelly asked for a point of clarification, he had read that it was company policy not to drill under an occupied property. Jeff said that there was no need to drill any closer than 50 meters to a property, but he would be happy to have a conversation with any insurance company.

Someone asked, how do you anticipate getting the mineral out of the ground? Cllr Smith said that he was happy to briefly talk about it but we are still speculating at this stage. Jeff confirmed that it would be an underground mine. CRL have one million pounds to spend on drilling the exploration holes, if the results are encouraging it is possible that CRL will need to spend probably another ten million pounds on further work and Feasibility Studies to be able to get Planning Permission. Only then could mining commence.

A lady called Judith asked for clarification about stage two, and what will happen then? Cllr Smith totally understood her concerns but explained that he would rather have a further ten meetings based on facts rather than speculating now.

Once the drilling has been done and interpreted, and as information becomes available it will be put up in the hall and shared with the community.

Another person asked what effects will there be on the property prices, and would the mining company compensate for any losses? Alan from Kivells said that he didn't envisage a difference in the valuation of the properties, as people accept we are in a mining area and that there have been many advances in the mining industry.

Peter didn't foresee that there would be a negative impact on the property prices.

Employment opportunities were then questioned and discussed.

Peter said it was impossible to say how the property values would be impacted but if there is likely to be a really bad/detrimental impact, it wouldn't get planning permission.

Mr Earl of Earl & Crocker went on to explain the blight notice and that it could be part of the planning conditions for compulsory notices.

Jeff confirmed that fifteen properties had to be purchased at Hemerdon and land was also purchased at a good price. There are no plans to purchase properties in Kelly Bray.

Mike Moore asked if the mining goes ahead what will happen to the waste rock produced. Jeff explained that this would be an important part of any future planning application. One mining method called 'Cut and Fill' pumps much of the crushed, screened, waste rock back underground with cement added so it becomes hard enough as a future working platform. Other waste could be used for environmental bunds which can be planted with trees to act as a screen between any mine infrastructure and communities.

A lady questioned, do we want the project to go ahead? Will the Town Council act upon the people's views/voice? Selwyn stated that the Town Council advises Cornwall Council, but it is Cornwall Council that have the planning authority. Cornwall Councillor Andrew Long explained that a development of this size would go to Committee and will be decided on by policy guidelines. The Town Council can support the community voice if there is planning policy to support it.

Mr Maddever had two test drills in the 1980s and has had run water ever since, what will happen with these drills? Jeff explained what Cornwall Resources do with their holes and if water is found it is back filled with concrete and every hole is assessed.

Another resident went on to ask about subsidence and whether the insurance is invalid. Jeff confirmed they had five million pounds general liability insurance cover.

A local builder spoke about his experience of sink holes and in response Jeff said that this won't happen in solid rock.

The matter of arsenic was then raised and Jeff explained that it's already here and being monitored as from Target Tip. He went on to say that the company would not be doing anything to change the mineralisation and any holes would be back filled.

A lady asked, which route will the one truck take each day? Jeff explained that there will be a traffic management plan.

Mr Kelly summarised that there are some real concerns raised tonight, but there has to be goodwill on both sides. The key is communication. These meetings are fabulous and asked that in two months we hold another event which Cllr Smith could lead, and the questions can be answered based on fact not speculation.

Cllr Smith said that the Town Council could set up a specific mining email and information could be passed on through this.

It was suggested that a mining update is given bi-monthly at Full Council (fourth Tuesday in the month).

A gentleman asked if the map was available on the intranet. Jeff explained that he would rather speak to people direct so their questions and concerns can be correctly addressed, rather than maps being misunderstood. Cornwall Resources would give this further consideration.

Mr Earl explained that the planning application is on the Planning Portal for Cornwall Council which is available to the public.

Another gentleman asked if the company was considering exploring in the Callington area, the answer was no.

Jeff explained that this project won't go ahead unless there are local jobs, 200 people are employed at Hemerdon (of these only 20 are technical, and 17 of those were trained at the Camborne School of Mines).

It was agreed that the display boards would be available in the Council Chamber foyer tomorrow and Saturday for the public, and Jeff would be in attendance tomorrow between 2pm-4pm to take any questions.

There being no further questions the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.