Feedback report on the public engagement events held in September 2017 about proposed mine water treatment schemes for discharges in Nenthead and Nentsberry

The Coal Authority and Environment Agency held a public consultation event on 21 and 22 September to provide an update on the proposed schemes to clean up polluted mine water from the Haggs and Caplecleugh adits.

The event was designed to update the public on summary proposals for a scheme for the Haggs site in advance of submitting a planning application. An update on the proposed Caplecleugh scheme will be provided in spring 2018.

The event was widely advertised using the GOV.UK website, letters to local residents, posters and notices in public spaces, local newspaper advertising and editorial and social media. Fifty-four people attended the event.

Feedback at the events was collected through evaluation questionnaires, comments made to the team during conversations and comments written on flip charts during the event.

Venue and arrangements

The event was in the form of an open house session which allowed people to drop in at their convenience from noon until 9pm on the Thursday and 8am until 8pm on the Friday.

The Nenthead Village Hall was chosen as the most appropriate venue because of the large open space that would easily accommodate the large maps and display boards.

Two sets of display boards for the Haggs site were available for people to have a look at and members of staff from the Coal Authority and Environment Agency project team were available to speak to on a one to one basis. Support was provided by Wilson Sherriff, consultation and engagement specialists.

The proposed site for Haggs had been chosen based on availability of land, technical considerations and previous feedback from stakeholders including local residents.
The display boards from the previous events were also made available to allow people to refresh their memories of the progress made to date, and to allow any new attendees to understand how the short listed sites had been identified.

**Purpose of the event**

The purpose of the event was to update members of the local community on plans for the Haggs scheme, and to gain their views before proposals are finalised and a planning application is submitted.

Although previous events had included proposals for Caplecleugh, plans for Haggs were the only ones sufficiently well progressed on which to present a preferred option.

**Summary of the themes discussed**

A range of viewpoints were expressed at the events and by submitting a feedback form by email or post. A detailed review of the comments can be viewed in the independent feedback report below.

[Independent feedback report from Nenthead public engagement event held in September 2017 regarding proposed mine water treatment schemes](#)

Below is a summary of the most frequent points raised.

**Choice of site**
A number of participants commented that the site was the most appropriate, causing the least disruption locally.

**Need for the scheme**
A number of those commenting did not accept that the benefits of the scheme would outweigh the costs in terms of amenity impact for the local community and value for money.

**Odour control**
The effectiveness of the abatement measures is still a major concern for the majority of the community and therefore the further away the site is from housing, the better.

**Construction**
There were a number of comments about ensuring that disruption, including road closures, was minimised during construction.

**Pipe routes**
Works will have to be planned carefully to ensure people can still get access to homes and to minimise disruption.
Next steps

Having listened to the public's comments during the events, the project team are continuing to prepare details for submission of a planning application for the Haggs site in the New Year. The plan will be made available for public comment prior to submission to the planning authority.

For the proposed Caplecleugh site, we plan to return to the local community in spring 2018 with the latest information on this project.

For any questions that you may have please contact:

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