

**Statement made by Jeff Harrison of Wolf Minerals at**

**Sparkwell Parish Council on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Ruth Allington and Bill Birch with 2 colleagues attended site last week for 2 days. Whilst here;

- They audited Wolf's blasting procedures and monitored the actual blast on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- They made a presentation about blasting in an open meeting in Sparkwell Parish Hall on Wednesday evening 6<sup>th</sup> April and met with various residents of Sparkwell village to listen to their concerns and questions.
- Wolf provided them with all the information they required and they have confirmed that they were provided with everything they asked for and that they were pleased with the quality of information that was provided.
- Some of their monitoring equipment was placed next to Wolf's units and they have confirmed that the values recorded were consistent, thus indicating that Wolf's monitoring results for earlier blasts were reliable.
- In a conference call today, Ruth summarised the key issues and concerns of the residents for DCC, SHDC and Wolf.

They will be providing feedback for residents on preliminary findings from their visit (including the monitoring results from Friday's blast) next week – this feedback has not been forthcoming this week because members of the Blast Log team are on holiday.

At this point I should say that GWP's involvement is hopefully a watershed in our relationship with the local Sparkwell community. I think we need to acknowledge that we got blasting wrong to start with, and misjudged the strength of feelings locally, and I want you to know that we are committed to working hard to put things right. The level of mistrust evident has been difficult for Wolf to comprehend, but we must accept that this is genuinely how some local residents feel. We recognise that it is Wolf's responsibility to rebuild that trust. We still have more to do, but we have acknowledged the blasting issue and are now busy trying to resolve it.

Bill Birch on holiday this week, but future work being considered includes;

1. Blastlog has ideas where improvements may be possible and all agreed more blasts need to be monitored to provide additional data for analysis.
2. Blastlog has recommended Wolf to acquire 2 more monitors and to use them to monitor inside our site. For this purpose, we will construct several additional fixed site (Concrete blocks and fittings) measuring locations along the eastern perimeter of the mine planning boundary – pit side of the environmental bund. The monitors can then be moved to

different monitoring locations depending on the location of the blast. This monitoring within our site will enable a more reliable regression curve relating blast vibration and distance from a blast to be created. This is important not only for prediction of the effects of blasting in the future but also to allow evaluation of the impact of any design changes that are made to blasting within the site.

3. Blastlog will produce a template providing monitoring results after each blast. Part of this will be a histogram illustrating the size of each blast in tonnes so that residents can relate their experience of different blasts to their size.
4. Blastlog to review and map the current commentary by residents on their thoughts on how a particular blast went, to supplement the monitoring information. This will assist in understand how the ground and the houses are responding to blast vibrations and to pick up changes (hopefully improvements).
5. Trials are being considered with explosive suppliers and Blastlog which will include the use of different explosives and detonators and adjustment to firing patterns, orientation of free blast faces etc.
6. The current mine plan will be made available to GWP and information provided on Wolf's view on how the number and size of blasts will increase over the life of the mine. This can then be provided to residents.
7. Wolf is working with GWP on how to manage concerns over plaster cracks that several residents have identified.
8. A more detailed plan with dates will be prepared and GWP to hopefully provide feedback to the community and Parish Councillors within the next month and prior to the next PC meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
9. Alan Fearon gives his apologies for not attending tonight but he intends to make personal contact with members of the community over the next couple of weeks. He has tasked me and my team to work with the Parish Council and Ruth and her team to identify members of the community who might like to meet him.

**J Harrison**

**Operations Manager**

**Wolf Minerals**

**12 April 2016**