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Dear Residents

**Appointment of independent community liaison/mediation and blasting experts**

Following a series of meetings on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March with residents, members of the Parish Council, Wolf Minerals and the County and District Councils, the following scope of work has been agreed:

1. **Independent monitoring of a production blast**, and associated analysis and comparison with Wolf Minerals' monitoring results for the same blast. This is planned to take place during a visit to site (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April) by blasting specialists from Blast Log Ltd.
2. **A detailed audit of the procedures associated with current blasting practice** at the site, including:
  - a. a detailed review of all available blast design and blast monitoring results (ground vibration and air overpressure) seeking to understand the impacts being experienced;
  - b. meetings with all personnel involved in planning, executing and monitoring blasts;
  - c. a review of all available community feedback and records (including community feedback and records given to our team) relating to experience of the blasting carried out to date.
3. **Benchmarking of the operator's blasting practice and performance against best available techniques and practice.** This will take account of any changes that the operator may make as a result of the independent audit and related feedback from the expert team.
4. **Confidential meetings, email and telephone communications between the experts and individual residents or groups of residents** to listen to their points of view and concerns, to provide access to technical expertise and accessible explanations of concepts and results, to help foster realistic expectations of what the future holds and what is acceptable going forward and to facilitate agreement as to how the operator will work with the community in future (*e.g.* in terms of raising and discussing concerns, sharing information *etc*). This process will commence with opportunities for residents to meet the experts in person on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup>, daytime or evening on 7<sup>th</sup> and daytime on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016. We will arrange a further visit for more meetings between residents and the experts and we will present our report in a public meeting at the end of the project. Between our visits, we will be available to answer emails and telephone calls from residents throughout the period of the project.
5. **A public report written by the independent experts** including the following information:
  - a. A record of all the meetings that took place and a list of the specific issues discussed. We would identify matters that were resolved in the course of the process (if so, how), what discussions were still ongoing at the time of writing (with the help of the facilitators or without), and matters that could not be resolved, with the positions of the parties set out as neutrally as possible.
  - b. A non-technical explanation of the blasting process, the meaning of monitoring results, the key factors that influence the nature and magnitude of blasting impacts, and a description of 'best available techniques' for blast planning and execution.
  - c. An assessment of the operator's blasting practice and performance against the benchmark of 'best available techniques'.

Participation in this process is open to any resident or representative of Sparkwell or Hemerdon with concerns about blasting, whether or not you have previously raised complaints or concerns. You can participate by making an appointment to meet us when we are in the area, by email, by post, or by telephone (or a combination of these methods). **If you would like to be involved, please contact me using the details at the top of this letter.**

Yours sincerely

Ruth Allington (Joint Senior Partner, GWP and Director, Blast Log Limited)