

24th March 2016

Dear Resident

In light of the concerns of residents relating to the impacts of blasting on people and their property in the local area, Devon County Council (DCC), South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Wolf Minerals have jointly appointed a team of independent community liaison/mediation and blasting experts to work with all parties to help resolve or mitigate the issues that are giving rise to conflict and anxiety.

The independent team is drawn from GWP Consultants LLP¹ and Blast Log Limited² and is led by Ruth Allington, who is a chartered geologist and chartered engineer with 35 years' experience as a quarry and open pit mine designer and with significant expertise and experience in dispute resolution and mediation.

Ruth visited Drakelands Mine and Sparkwell village on Monday and met with the management of Wolf, Mr James Kershaw of SHDC, representatives of Sparkwell Parish Council and a number of residents of Sparkwell. She had previously met with Mrs Sue Penaluna of DCC who suggested to Wolf and SHDC that Ruth and her team might be able to help. All involved so far in these discussions have expressed support for the initiative, and it has been agreed that the cost of the project will be shared between DCC, SHDC and Wolf Minerals.

By way of introduction, there follows a message from Ruth Allington setting out the scope and objectives of the work of the independent experts, explaining what residents can expect to get out of the process, and describing the ways in which interested parties can participate and providing an invitation to do so. She has also provided contact details so that the team can be contacted directly.

The team expects to be in the local area on the 7th and 8th April to commence its work with the community in a series of meetings (which may be one to one, with small groups or with larger groups); the team will continue to be available to work with residents after that via email and phone and probably during at least one more visit to the village. The total duration of the planned work will be up to 3 months, ending with the production of a publicly available report.

Yours sincerely



For Devon County Council



For South Hams District Council



For Wolf Minerals

¹ www.gwp.uk.com

² www.blastlog.co.uk