

Public
Consultation
Statement

Nant Llesg Surface Mine

Incorporating Land Remediation





Nant Llesg Surface Mine Incorporating Land Remediation

Public Consultation Statement

Prepared on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited.

July 2013

© PPS (Local & Regional) Limited 2013

This document is protected by copyright in the UK and in other countries. No part of this document may be copied or reproduced in any form without the prior consent of PPS (Local & Regional) Limited. PPS (Local & Regional) Limited fully reserves all its legal rights and remedies in respect of any infringement of its copyright.

Contents

Contents	2
1. Executive Summary	3
2. Introduction	5
3. Programme	8
4. Phase One: Initial pre-application engagement	10
5. Nant Llesg Community Forum	16
6. Phase Two: Formal pre-application consultation	22
7. Feedback received	26
8. Developer Responses	32
9. Common Land Consultation	37
10. Conclusion	41
Appendix 1 – Phase One: Initial pre-application engagement	45
Appendix 2 – Nant Llesg Community Forum	71
Appendix 3 – Phase Two: Formal pre-application consultation	93
Appendix 4 – Further Engagement	135
Appendix 5 – Comments Forms	143
Appendix 6 – Common Land Consultation	215

1. Executive Summary

- Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited (Miller Argent) appointed consultation specialists PPS Group to undertake the community consultation programme on its proposals for the Nant Llesg surface mine incorporating land remediation.
- The consultation process was designed to meet the criteria set out in the Welsh Government's guidance document - MTAN2: Coal. While UK policy sets the overall agenda for involvement, the only actual guidance on consultation relevant to this scheme is that in MTAN2: Coal, which is very limited. Local authorities in Wales do not have any specific consultation requirements. However, Miller Argent has set out to undertake a comprehensive consultation in line with UK best practice.
- Two phases of consultation were undertaken between August 2011 and February 2012.
- The first phase of initial pre-application engagement and consultation included sending out an information leaflet and a series of themed stakeholder workshops on community, health and environment.
- The second phase, which formed the formal pre-application consultation, took place between January and February 2012 and included another information leaflet and five public exhibitions.
- Of the 201 people who attended the public exhibitions over the five days, 33 returned comment forms outlining their views on the scheme.
- There were a number of clear areas of interest or concern with the proposals, which were commented on by the majority of respondents. These included visual impact, health concerns from air quality, the positioning of the overburden dumps and environmental impacts on the local wildlife and ecology.
- Potential benefits of the scheme of most interest to respondents were the potential to provide jobs for local people, the possibility of local training provision, a community benefits fund and potential aid for local groups and schemes.
- A number of methods were used in advance of the exhibitions in order to encourage public attendance, including sending out invitation letters to local stakeholders; sending out information leaflets to more than 4,700 local residents living or working in proximity to the site; securing advertisements in the local newspaper and issuing press releases to the local and regional media.
- A dedicated consultation website was launched in August 2011 to introduce the proposals, keep visitors informed on the progress of the proposals, and provide materials including the exhibition boards, comments form and copies of the information leaflets and plans used in the consultation. The website address is www.nantllesg.co.uk and was advertised on all publicity material including letters, leaflets, posters and press releases.
- The Nant Llesg Community Forum was also set up, as a liaison committee between Miller Argent and the local community. Chaired by an independent, former planning

inspector, the inaugural Nant Llesg Community Forum took place on 14 December 2011, with the second on 15 March 2012. A third took place on 12 July 2012 with more scheduled to take place in 2013.

- Over the course of the consultation programme, Miller Argent has held meetings with local groups and businesses including Caerphilly County Borough Council, Fochriw Community Council, Rhymney Residents Association, Richards & Appleby, Convatec, Sirius Skills, Darran Valley Community Council, Rhymney Community Council, Huw Lewis AM and Dai Havard MP to hear their views and inform the proposals.
- In addition to the public consultation programme, Miller Argent has undertaken consultation with various bodies in relation to the Common Land Application under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006. This consisted of Commoners and the Commoners' Association, tenant farmers and land owners, officers of Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils, Caerphilly Local Access Forum, Open Spaces Society, Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales), Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, Cadw and Bedlinog, Rhymney and Darren Valley Community Councils.
- Miller Argent will continue to engage with and update the community and key local stakeholders as the application progresses through the planning process.
- This report provides a full breakdown of all consultation activity undertaken by Miller Argent. It also details feedback received during the consultation and how Miller Argent has responded to that input from the community and key stakeholders.
- The information contained within this report sets out how the consultation undertaken by Miller Argent has fulfilled, and in most areas, exceeded the objectives and requirements set out for projects of this nature in Wales.

2. Introduction

Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited, hereafter referred to as 'Miller Argent', appointed consultation specialist PPS Group to undertake the community engagement programme on its development proposals for the Nant Llesg site. This report outlines the activity that was undertaken for and on behalf of Miller Argent throughout the consultation process.

Site Background

Situated to the north of Fochriw and west of Rhymney, the site lies in the area known as Nant Llesg, close to Miller Argent's existing site The Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme.

The site has previously been mined (underground and surface) for coal and iron. Miller Argent proposes to surface mine to extract c. 6 million tonnes of the remaining coal.

As a result of the region's rich industrial and mining heritage, parts of the site and surrounding area still have a number of mine shafts, adits and spoil tips situated within them, which would be remediated and made safer as part of the proposals.

Miller Argent undertook exploratory works at the site during the second half of 2011 and early 2012 and has ascertained the conditions below ground on the site to assess viability for a potential scheme. These initial proposals were presented to the surrounding communities and formed the basis of this consultation.

Purpose of Community Engagement

Planning shapes the places where people work and live, so it is right that people should be enabled and empowered to take an active part in the planning process. Community involvement is an integral and important component of developing planning applications.

Central Government and Local Authority advice on public consultation

The Welsh Government has no specific guidance on community engagement and public consultation and Caerphilly County Borough Council does not have any policy or specific guidance on how it would expect developers to consult on proposals in the County Borough either.

Miller Argent therefore utilised the brief policy guidance given in MTAN2: Coal (below) and designed a consultation programme in discussion with local stakeholders, which was put forward to relevant officers at Caerphilly County Borough Council for review prior to the beginning of the project.

Minerals Technical Advice Note 2: Coal (Wales)

Minerals Technical Advice Note 2: Coal (Wales) (MTAN2) sets out advice on the mechanisms for delivering the policy for coal extraction through surface and underground working by mineral planning authorities (MPAs) and the coal mining industry.

MTAN2's section on 'Public Participation and Liaison' states:

68. The MPA is well placed to encourage discussions between applicants and the community about proposed projects and listen to their concerns, needs and suggestions. The process should ideally begin with exploration, and continue throughout the life of the project, centred on the community. The strategies to avoid or minimise impacts –environmental, social and economic – should be discussed with the stakeholders and their solutions canvassed.

69. MPAs should set out how the community will be able to participate with respect to coal working throughout the processes of application, the monitoring of permissions during working, and post closure. The affected community should be involved in Health Impact Assessment (HIA), in considering mitigation, specific controls, thresholds, monitoring, and community benefit for operations, particularly those within 500m of settlements, and in restoration, aftercare and afteruse.

In addition to the information set out above, MTAN2 also states that where a permission is granted, a Site Liaison Committee should be set up to provide a forum for discussion and explanation. The Liaison Committee should act as a forum for local representatives, to discuss site matters and any impact of site operations beyond the site boundary with the operator. As a pre-cursor to this, Miller Argent has created the ‘Nant Llesg Community Forum’, which is explained in more detail in Chapter 5.

Miller Argent is committed to fulfilling these principles, and engaged PPS Group to manage the consultation strategy and to organise the public consultation, reporting back on the results. This report summarises the activities and their results, and explains how Miller Argent has considered and, where possible, sought to accommodate the feedback received.

PPS and Community Engagement

PPS is an independent communications company that specialises in community consultations relating to planning applications. PPS was one of the first companies to understand the need for consultation on planning applications and has become an expert at developing tailored programmes to ensure that its community consultations contribute positively to the planning process. PPS is an active member of both the Association of Professional Political Consultants (which promotes transparency and openness in public affairs consultancy, through the promotion of a strong ethical code) and the Consultation Institute, which helps all those engaged in public and stakeholder consultation to develop and promote best practice.

Scope of the Consultation

Miller Argent’s consultation programme sought to explain the scheme and the initial proposals to the local community whilst gaining feedback and input into the further design.

Miller Argent has particularly sought to proactively engage with those communities in the upper Rhymney Valley closest to the site.

The communities Miller Argent sought to reach are as follows (the number relates to how many households received the two newsletters, the latter of which included details of the five public exhibition events):

Rhymney	2,649
Fochriw	516
Pontlottyn	886
Pentwyn	19
Pant Y Waun	5
Abertysswg	635
Cwmbargoed	4
Troedrhiwfuwch	3
Total	4,717

Members of the wider community across North Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil were also notified of the consultation process through stakeholder engagement activity and media advertising.

3. Programme

Methodology

The consultation and engagement activities were undertaken between August 2011 and January 2012 and followed the 'PPS Consultation Plan' below, designed to promote transparency.

- **Identify:** Undertake a stakeholder identification exercise to map all sections of the community who should be engaged, including seldom-heard groups.
- **Sign-off:** Discuss and agree the consultation and engagement plan with the local authority prior to implementation.
- **Notify and inform:** Notify all of those to be consulted through the appropriate and agreed channels and inform them of the proposals.
- **Consult:** Consult with stakeholders through a variety of communications techniques determined by the specifics of the scheme, the local area and the local authority.
- **Measure:** Measure and analyse the responses to the consultation process.
- **Respond:** Use the on-going consultation and engagement process to respond to feedback received.
- **Report and publish:** Prepare a report on the consultation process to be submitted with the planning application. Notify all participants of the outcome of the consultation and publish findings.

A detailed report on the consultation programme can be found below.

Our approach

Miller Argent recognises the need to build understanding, involvement and trust of the local population, stakeholders and authorities through a programme of clear, open and honest engagement.

With this in mind, a clear and extended programme of pre-application consultation was undertaken, giving extensive opportunity for local communities and stakeholders to hear about, and comment on, the proposals. The programme, which was submitted to Caerphilly County Borough Council prior to its commencement, was broken down into two stages explained below. Due to the nature of the scheme and the consultation programme, a degree of overlapping between the two stages was inevitable.

Phase One: Initial pre-application engagement and consultation

This stage was aimed at introducing Miller Argent and the proposals to local communities along with an explanation of the exploratory works being undertaken on site. Whilst an initial letter and information leaflet was distributed to all households in the neighbouring locality, the emphasis at this stage was stakeholder engagement and discussion with the local authorities. A number of stakeholder workshops were organised and a 'Community

Forum' was set up to discuss various aspects such as health, the environment and community issues to gain a better understanding of local issues from local community representatives. The initial dialogue established at this stage was designed to enable a more informed and tailored discussion on the proposals as the consultation progressed.

Phase Two: Formal pre-application consultation

Following on from and continuing the initial engagement exercises, a formal period of consultation was undertaken during January and February 2012. This formal consultation enabled Miller Argent to present its plans to the local population at a series of public exhibitions. Attendees to the exhibitions were encouraged to provide written feedback, which is summarised in this document, and which will be fed into the planning and design process prior to an application being submitted. An updated information leaflet was also distributed to inform the local community of the proposals and invite people to the public exhibitions.

Miller Argent has responded to all community enquiries about the proposals made throughout both stages.

Miller Argent is committed to on-going community engagement and will continue to meet with and discuss the proposals with stakeholders and members of the community throughout the planning application process.

4. Phase One: Initial pre-application engagement

At the beginning of the project Miller Argent, along with its consultant team, met with Caerphilly County Borough Council in order to discuss the project and the consultation programme.

The meeting took place on 20 October 2011 and PPS explained the consultation programme to the officers attending the meeting and presented an outline plan of the consultation process. The Council did not provide any formal feedback or amend the proposed consultation programme. The agenda for the meeting can be found in Appendix 1.i.

Due to the large scale of these proposals, it was important to engage with a range of groups and representatives from across Caerphilly and provide them with the opportunity to view Miller Argent's proposals and discuss their thoughts and ideas with members of the project team.

Key non-statutory stakeholders in the local area with a likely interest in the development of the site were identified and contacted at an early stage, including local Caerphilly County Borough Council members, local AM and MP, Community Councils, Communities First Partnerships, and other local community groups. The key stakeholders identified are listed in Appendix 1.ii.

Website

Miller Argent launched a dedicated consultation website on 22 August 2011, which has been regularly updated throughout the consultation process to keep visitors informed on the proposals.

The website can be viewed through the web address www.nantllesg.co.uk and there was also a link from the Miller Argent main website www.millerargent.co.uk. Further information about the website can be found in Chapter 6.

Leaflet

As part of the initial pre application engagement, a leaflet was produced introducing Miller Argent and the proposals. This leaflet was sent via Royal Mail to 4717 local residents and identified stakeholders in the local area in August 2011.

A letter was also sent out to all stakeholders to accompany the leaflet outlining the public consultation and offering meetings or to discuss the project in more detail. This letter can be seen in Appendix 1.iii.

The leaflet can be seen in Appendix 1.iv.

In addition to being posted to local residents, stakeholders and businesses, leaflets were also distributed to public buildings across the area for people to pick up. These locations are listed below:

- Bargoed Library
- Elliot Town Post Office

- New Tredegar Library
- New Tredegar Post Office (x2)
- Aberbargoed Post Office
- Pontlottyn Post Office
- Pontlottyn Community Centre
- Abertysswg Post Office
- Lower Rhymney Community Centre
- Puddlers Arms
- Fochriw Post Office
- Rhymney Post Office
- Rhymney Social Club
- Rhymney Library
- Rhymney Post Office
- Prince of Wales Inn
- The Windsor Arms
- Mount Pleasant Inn
- Deri Library
- Fochriw Community Centre
- Blast Furnace Inn
- Farmers Arms

In addition to information about the project, the leaflet also provided contact details including a Freepost address, Freephone enquiry line, website and email address to enable local residents to find out more about the plans or ask any questions.

The leaflet also included a tear off Freepost response card to enable people to comment on the proposals or register an interest in a specific element of the scheme including:

- Community benefits
- Traineeships
- Supplier opportunities
- Employment opportunities
- Educational visits
- Other

The newsletter also asked residents to make suggestions for how the site should be restored upon completion of the works.

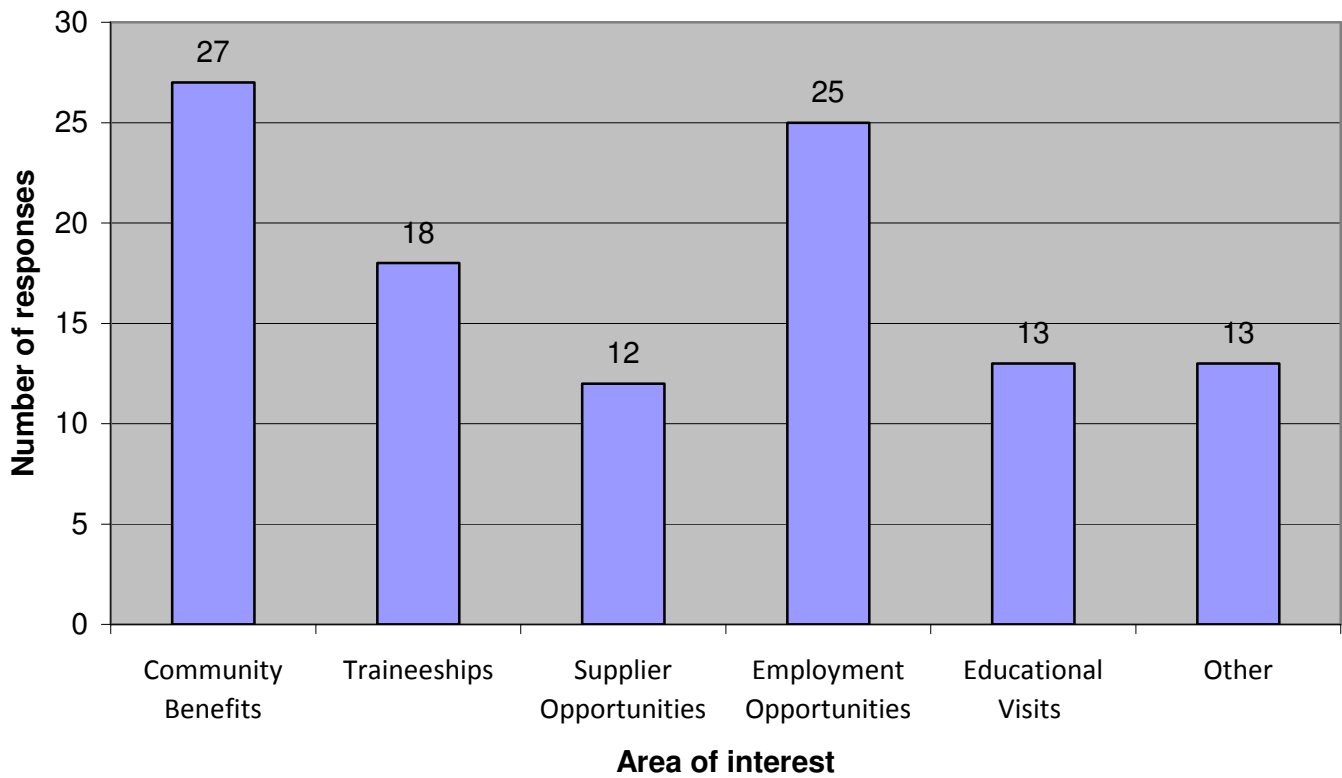
Leaflet response

The number of completed and returned response slips was 66. From a distribution of nearly 5,000, the results of these responses are not statistically significant, so any interpretation should be treated with caution. Nevertheless, we have included feedback received, as this still indicates some of the areas of community interest and concern.

In response to the question asking what people would like to know more about (see table below), the area of most interest to local respondents was the community benefits, closely followed by employment opportunities and traineeships.

(Further information can be seen overleaf)

Areas of interest



The newsletter also gave residents and businesses the chance to ask other questions and to make their views known. Comments received included:

- “We are also interested in business opportunities”
- “More local employment”
- “Local workers not foreigners!”
- “Jobs for local people”
- “Looking forward to the improvement etc”
- “It will be a great benefit to walk the area without being threatened with trespassing”
- “How will open cast mining affect my view and environment”
- [Interested in]“All future plans involving yourselves and other outside industries especially Cyfanta [sic]”
- “Extra health problems caused by the dust”
- “We'll do without”
- “No benefit”
- “Just leave it alone”

All respondents who returned a comments form received a letter acknowledging receipt of their comments. Any specific questions asked were answered in this letter.

Media

In addition to the leaflets and letters, Miller Argent also issued a press release and met with journalists from the Merthyr Express and the Rhymney Valley Express to brief them fully on the project. A copy of the press release and media coverage generated can be found in Appendix 1.v and Appendix 1.vi.

Stakeholder Workshops

At the beginning of December 2011, key stakeholders were invited to attend a series of stakeholder workshops. A letter was sent to each inviting them to one of the three theme-specific workshops:

- **Community** (including employment, training and community benefits/impacts); Wednesday 11 January 2012, 6.30-8.30pm
- **Health** (covering the Health Impact Assessment approach and surrounding issues); Thursday 12 January 2012, 6.30-8.30pm
- **Environment** (including ecology and landscape); Wednesday 18 January 2012, 6.30-8.30pm

All workshops were held in a central location, at Miller Argent's Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, near Fochriw.

Stakeholders were invited to attend the workshop likely to be of most interest to them; however stakeholders were made aware of the details of all the workshops in case they were unable to attend the one they were invited to. The stakeholders invited included: all members of Caerphilly County Borough Council, council officers, local MP and local and regional AMs, local schools, Community First Partnerships, local community councils, JobCentre Plus, local sports and youth clubs and centres, the Environment Agency and the Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) and environmental groups and local services including Gwent police and Rhymney Fire Service. A full list of invitees can be found in Appendix 1.vii.

The format of each meeting followed the same agenda, designed to generate debate amongst attendees. After a brief introduction and explanation of the process and timetable of the workshop, Miller Argent gave a presentation on the proposals and some background to the scheme.

PPS then outlined the public consultation programme before opening the floor up to attendees to raise any issues or query aspects of the proposals. Specific themes, topics and issues raised are outlined below. A full meeting report for each workshop can be found in Appendices 1.viii – x.

Workshops – Key points arising

Workshop 1: Community

Attendees:

Councillor David Hardacre – *Deri and Groesfaen Community Partnership and Fochriw and Pentwyn Community Partnership*
Steve Bacchioni – *South East Wales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club (SEWHGPGC)*
Norris Sheldon – *South East Wales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club (SEWHGPGC)*
Richard Hewitt – *South East Wales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club (SEWHGPGC)*

Douglas McMahon – *Rhymney Residents Association (RASG)*
David Morgan – *Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA)*
Gwyn Matthews – *Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA)*

Key points raised:

- SEWHGPGC stated that the main concern for the Club is the height and size of the overburden dumps from Ffos-y-fran (and potentially at Nant Llesg) as these features can directly affect the wind patterns.
- Access to Merthyr Common is important for the local community as is the access road to Rhymney across the common.
- There are a number of walking routes across the site and it is important that these, or alternatives to these, remain available for local walkers.
- General concerns about the potential effect of the proposals on local businesses in the area, specifically loss of jobs if factories decided to relocate from the industrial estates in Rhymney were raised.
- There was also concern that the timeline stated for the project would overrun.
- Concerns were raised over the impact of dust on Fochriw.
- The environmental impact is a significant concern for the local area and particularly the impact on the local rivers.
- The need to protect Parc Cwm Darran is important for the local community.
- Any potential community benefits fund should benefit local people and should not be centrally administered. The creation of a local forum was suggested to administer the fund and ensure that the money stays local.

Workshop 2: Environment

Attendees:

David Griffiths - *Environment Agency (EA)*
Richard Jones - *Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)*

- The EA asked if issues with the watercourse could be resolved.
- A local culvert was still open to local children and presented a real danger. It was commented that the local fishing community would be pleased if the culvert issue could be resolved, as the water quality was very poor.
- The EA asked if it is Miller Argent's intention to discharge from the scheme into the Rhymney River.
- The EA raised the issue of waste and waste permits and confirmed that this issue could be discussed after the planning application.
- The CCW asked questions about the content of the scoping document and what areas outside the main project boundary have been surveyed.
- In terms of final potential remediation of the site CCW suggested this should generally be returned to its original landscape.
- The EA also asked if there was scope for mixed grazing to help repair over-grazing in winter by sheep.

Workshop 3: Health

Attendees:

Chloe Chadderton - *Welsh HIA Support Unit*
Carl Cuss - *Pen Y Dre Residents and Tenants Association*
Councillor Gaynor Oliver - *Caerphilly County Borough Council*

- It was suggested that the project could lead to positive benefits for the community but that a high level of local concern does exist in relation to health impacts. Part of this is due to the local area having been let down historically with regards to the health of miners and miners' children.
- Concern was expressed regarding the dust potentially caused by overburden dumps when the wind blows in particular directions towards local populations and how this would be managed.
- It was commented that local communities are particularly concerned about the visual impact of overburden mounds and that people may not understand they would be temporary.
- It was agreed that perceptions were a problem and that site visits were a good idea; it was also stated that trust was a major issue that had to be overcome.
- It was asked whether the team was aware of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2008 within which Upper Rhymney falls into the third most deprived ward in the country. It was added that this was largely linked to diet and lifestyle.
- Chloe Chadderton confirmed that her organisation was specifically interested in the health impact and added that they had been contacted by a local business in October 2011 with concerns regarding the health impacts.
- Councillor Gaynor Oliver (as a local school governor) enquired about the possibility for engagement with local schools.

It was concluded that jobs and training were the most important potential health benefits of the proposals.

5. Nant Llesg Community Forum

The Nant Llesg Community Forum was established to give Miller Argent a point of contact with representatives of the local community and stakeholder bodies during the planning process as a precursor to the Site Liaison Committee.

The aim is for members of the Community Forum to discuss and advise Miller Argent on key issues affecting the local community and to help Miller Argent minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of the proposal on the local area.

Although the MTAN2 states that a site liaison committee should be set up on granting of permission, Miller Argent felt that it would be useful to similarly engage with the local community and stakeholders through the medium of a Community Forum at an early, pre-application stage in order to ensure that local communities were kept informed on, and involved with, the development of the planning application and exploratory works.

The Community Forum is independently chaired by a former planning inspector, unrelated to Miller Argent, who lives outside of the area that could potentially be affected by the proposals.

The purpose of the Community Forum – as set out in its Terms of Reference agreed with members as part of its inauguration is:

‘To provide a mechanism for regular engagement and discussion between Miller Argent, representatives of the local community and key stakeholders on the proposed surface coal mine, incorporating land reclamation, at Nant Llesg, near Rhymney, during the planning phases, as well as general matters relating to Miller Argent’s interests in the area.’

The Community Forum will:

- Allow Miller Argent to keep the local community and key stakeholders informed of relevant issues throughout the planning phases.
- Provide a vehicle for community engagement, to enable the local community to influence Miller Argent’s plans as they progress (although the Forum will not have any direct decision making powers in matters outside the Forum).
- Enable community representatives and other relevant stakeholders to ask Miller Argent questions and raise issues of concern.
- Help Miller Argent to understand the concerns of the local community and stakeholders, and thereby minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of the surface coal mine and land reclamation at Nant Llesg.

The purpose of the Community Forum is:

‘To consider and advise on issues that might affect the local community and key stakeholders as a result of Miller Argent’s surface mining activities at Nant Llesg and subsequent restoration works. To ensure the Forum maintains focus, consideration of issues relating to coal mining in general and the use of fossil fuels is not within the scope of the Forum.’

The full Terms of Reference were agreed by attendees to the first Community Forum meeting, which took place on 14 December 2011, and can be found in full in Appendix 2.i.

Membership of the Forum is flexible and designed to evolve over time to ensure the community is properly represented at all times.

The membership consists of representatives of the local community and relevant stakeholder organisations drawn principally (but not exclusively) from the upper Rhymney Valley.

The initial stakeholders invited to attend the Community Forum were:

Caerphilly County Borough Council	UNITE
Merthyr Tydfil Council	JobCentre Plus
Environment Agency	South Wales Chamber of Commerce
Countryside Council for Wales	Caerphilly Business Forum
CADW	Caerphilly Health Alliance representative
Darran Valley Community Council	Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Rhymney Community Council	Gwent Police
Rhymney Communities First	Rhymney Comprehensive School
Pontlottyn Communities First	Abertysswg Primary School
Fochriw Welfare and Communities First	Bryn Awel Primary School, Rhymney
Abertysswg Communities First	Deri Primary School
Rhymney Area Residents' Association	Pontlottyn Road Primary School, Fochriw
Pen-y-dre Tenants and Residents Association	Pontlottyn Primary School
Fochriw Youth Centre	Upper Rhymney Primary School
Rhymney Youth Centre	Ysgol y Lawnt, Rhymney
Pontlottyn Boys and Girls Club	Merthyr Tydfil College Ltd
Caerphilly and District Ramblers	The College Ystrad Mynach, Rhymney
Rhymney RFC	University Heads of the Valleys Institute
Gelligaer and Merthyr Commoners Association	Huw Lewis AM
	Dai Havard MP

The Deri Regeneration Group was added to the list of invitees at a later date.

Inaugural Nant Llesg Community Forum Meeting – 14 December 2011

In addition to Miller Argent and PPS, five stakeholders attended the first Community Forum¹:

- Councillor Richard Pugh - *Caerphilly County Borough Council*
- Carl Cu** – *Rhymney, Pen Y Dre Tenants and Residents Association*
- Caroline Hawkins - *Environment Agency Wales*
- Gemma Beynon - *Environment Agency Wales*
- David Griffiths - *Environment Agency Wales*

The first meeting was aimed at introducing the concept, agreeing the Terms of Reference and setting out the parameters and aims of the Forum. The main topics of conversation and issues that arose were:

- The Draft Terms of Reference were agreed upon by all present and a number of stakeholders were suggested to be added to the invitation list.
- It was also suggested that Miller Argent should offer the use of the Community minibus to attendees who may find it hard to reach the Cwmbargoed Disposal Point. Miller Argent has since offered the use of the community mini-bus to attendees of all Forums.

¹ The low attendance at the initial meeting may have been due to the heavy snowfall that occurred on 14 December 2011, making the journey to the site difficult.

- **Engagement with local businesses:** It was questioned whether Miller Argent has been engaging with local businesses, in particular on the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate.
- **Concern over impact of the project on local business:** It was explained that there was local concern that the project would force Richards and Appleby as a major local employer to relocate, causing local job losses.
- **Importance of information:** The point was highlighted that it is important the local community has accurate facts regarding the development, to ensure local people fully understand what is being proposed, and that local rumour does not dominate and influence local opinion.
- **Depth of the mine:** It was asked how deep the mine would be.
- **Air quality:** Concern over the impact on air quality was highlighted as a key local concern.
- **Further public exhibition:** It was suggested that a further public exhibition be arranged to accommodate people living in the north of Rhymney, in addition to the four proposed.
- **HIA report:** It was asked whether the HIA report would be independently reviewed.
- **Local health service provision:** The point was made that it is currently very difficult to get a doctor's appointment in Rhymney.
- **Ageing population:** The point was raised that there is an increasingly older population in the area that is putting increased pressure on local health resources.
- **Potential health impacts of surface mine:** There is likely to be local concern about the environmental impact of the development, and any impacts this could have on local health.
- **Local health issues:** It was acknowledged that the local area already suffers from a higher than average level of poor health, due to a range of issues including lifestyle, education and employment, and it is important that the project does not exacerbate this further.

Copies of the minutes from this meeting were made available on the project website and can be seen in Appendix 2.ii.

Nant Llesg Community Forum Meeting – 15 March 2012

In addition to Miller Argent and PPS, fourteen stakeholders attended the second Community Forum:

- Councillor Richard Pugh - *Caerphilly County Borough Council*
- Carl Cuss – *Rhymney, Pen Y Dre Tenants and Residents Association*
- Martyn Evans – *South Wales Chamber of Commerce*
- Councillor Dave W Morris – *Rhymney Community Council and Rhymney Angling Society*
- Ann Williams – *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Doug McMahon – *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Councillor David Williams – *Rhymney Community Council*
- Peter Beaseley – *Miller Argent Worker Representative*
- Councillor David Hardacre – *Deri and Groesfaen Community Partnership and Pentwyn Community Partnership*
- Councillor Gaynor Oliver – *Pontlottyn Community Partnership*
- Councillor Roy Oliver – *Rhymney Community Council*
- Linda Evans – *Deri Partnership*
- Councillor Bob Griffin – *Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council*

The second meeting had a number of aims, including discussion and feedback from the consultation programme, a further update on the scheme from Miller Argent, discussion around jobs, skills and training and discussion around the community benefits fund. The key topics and issues raised are detailed below:

Community Engagement:

- **Clarification of terms:** A clarification of the terms 'engagement' and 'consultation' was sought.
- **Engagement with Caerphilly County Borough Council:** It was asked why the County Borough Council officers were not present at the Forum and one attendee stated that they hoped that Miller Argent was engaging with them directly whilst developing the proposals.
- **Exhibition attendees:** It was asked whether Miller Argent and PPS were happy with the number of attendees and level of response to the public consultation. One representative believed that the figures were low as a percentage of the population living in the local area.
- **Residents' public meeting:** A number of attendees requested that Miller Argent attends a meeting to discuss the local issues with residents of Rhymney as some people feel more comfortable meeting with Miller Argent in this setting.

Nant Llesg Update:

- **Road Networks:** It was asked whether the road networks would be put back following completion of the project. It was explained that at that time no changes were proposed to be made to the road networks (pending a Traffic Impact Assessment).
- **Merthyr County Borough Council:** Clarification of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's role in the planning process was sought.
- **Boundary Commission proposals:** It was asked how the proposed boundary changes could affect the project.

Employment and Training:

- **Engagement with local colleges:** One respondent stated that they believed in the importance of engaging with local colleges and further education establishments.
- **Impact on the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate:** Clarification was sought on the situation and progress in discussions that had been made between Miller Argent and Richards & Appleby (situated in the Heads of the Valley Industrial Estate).
- **Impact on Convatec:** It was asked what the stance of Convatec was in relation to the proposals as they are located on the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate near to Richards & Appleby. It was explained that Miller Argent is in liaison with Convatec regarding the potential mitigation measures required should there be any proved impact on the dust filtration systems as a result of Nant Llesg.

Community Benefits Fund:

- **Size of fund:** Clarification was sought on how much money has been provided for the Merthyr Community benefits fund generated by Ffos-y-fran so far and if the proposed new community benefits fund would be based on similar parameters.
- **Origin of the coal:** It was queried how it could be ensured that the money set aside for coal from the project would be kept separate from that of Ffos-y-fran because all coal would be handled through Cwmbargoed Disposal Point.
- **Management of the Community Benefits Fund:** Many concerns were raised over the handling of the community benefits fund. It was felt that it should be spent in the immediate area and not elsewhere in the County Borough.

Copies of the minutes from this meeting were made available on the project website and can be seen in Appendix 2.iii.

Nant Llesg Community Forum Meeting – 12 July 2012

In addition to Miller Argent and PPS, twelve stakeholders attended the second Community Forum:

- Ann Williams *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Doug McMahon *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- John Hughes *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Sue Hughes *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Michael Smith *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Brian Rees *Rhymney Angling Club*
- Peter Beasley *Miller Argent (Worker representative)*
- Cllr David Jones *Merthyr Tydfil CBC*
- Cllr David Davies *Merthyr Tydfil CBC*
- Cllr David Hardacre *Deri and Groesfaen Community Partnership and Fochriw and Pentwyn Community Partnership*
- Linda Evans *Deri Partnership*
- Cllr Carl Cuss *Caerphilly CBC*

The third meeting's main aim was to provide an update on how the feedback received during the consultation had influenced the design of the preferred proposals, and to give an update on the education and training plans. The key topics and issues raised are detailed below:

Nant Llesg Update:

- **Visual and Acoustic Bund:** A clarification of the specific details and effectiveness of the visual and acoustic bund was sought.
- **Overburden mounds:** It was asked how the overburden mound would impact views from Rhymney.
- **Monitoring:** A number of attendees expressed concerns about the effectiveness of monitoring and asked for clarification about how noise and dust would be monitored locally.
- **Dust:** Dust from the site was a clear concern for attendees who were worried that large amounts of dust would have detrimental impacts on the local area.
- **Loss of Common Land:** The loss of Common Land was raised as an issue by a few attendees who ride their horses on it.
- **Operating Hours:** A clarification of mine working hours was sought.
- **Impacts on local businesses:** One attendee asked for an update on Miller Argent's engagement with local businesses.
- **Court Cases:** A clarification of Miller Argent's court case history was sought.
- **Rhaslas Pond:** It was asked what the impact on Rhaslas pond would be due to the reduction in size and whether this would affect other local water drainage/storage.

Employment and Training:

- **Number of jobs:** Clarification of job numbers was sought.
- **Location of employees:** It was questioned whether the number of workers employed locally on Ffos-y-fran lived there previously, or moved there following work.
- **Training:** It was agreed that there was a need to promote the opportunities for training locally.

Feedback:

- **Health Impact Assessment (HIA):** It was asked whether the HIA would be made public and in an easy to read format.
- **Interactive image:** A photomontage or representative cross section of the site was requested.

Full meeting reports and agendas from all three Community Forums are included, in full, in Appendix 2.ii-iv. All issues raised at the meetings have been taken on board by the project team and have been used to inform the design of the proposals. Responses to specific queries and questions have been described in the minutes, and have been dealt with in the Developer Responses section, in Chapter 8.

The next Community Forum is scheduled to take place shortly after submission of the Planning Application.

6. Phase Two: Formal pre-application consultation

Following on from the initial consultation exercises described above, a formal period of consultation was undertaken during January and February 2012. This formal consultation enabled Miller Argent to present its amended plans to the local population at a series of public exhibitions. A number of methods were utilised to engage the local communities and inform them of the progress of the plans and the public events.

Toolkit

Letter: All stakeholders were sent a letter on 9 January 2012 reminding them of the stakeholder workshops and informing them of the planned schedule of public exhibitions, their venues, timings and dates. A copy of the letter can be seen in Appendix 3.i.

Following the public consultation period another letter was sent out to all stakeholders on 12 March 2012 giving a brief summary of the level of response and thanking those who contributed for their input. In addition to this, all respondents who completed a questionnaire were sent a letter thanking them for their views. A third letter was sent to those who identified themselves as having an interest in the job opportunities that the project could bring to the area. All three versions of the post consultation letter can be found in Appendix 3.ii.

Stakeholder Workshops: At the beginning of December 2011, key stakeholders were invited to attend a series of stakeholder workshops which took place in January 2012. A full description of these workshops can be found in Chapter 4.

Information leaflet: In addition to the letter sent to all stakeholders, a second information leaflet was produced and sent to 4717 local residents and businesses in the local area. As with the first leaflet, a number of leaflets were left in the same strategic locations in the surrounding area. The leaflet can be seen in full in Appendix 3.iii.

Poster: A poster advertising the exhibitions was also created and displayed in the local area. The poster can be seen in Appendix 3.iv. Posters were put up at the same locations as the leaflets. A list of these locations can be seen below.

- Elliot Town Post Office
- New Tredegar Library
- New Tredegar Post Office
- Pontlloftyn Post Office
- Abertysswg Post Office
- Puddlers Arms
- Fochriw Post Office
- Rhymney Post Office
- Rhymney Social Club
- Rhymney Library
- Rhymney Post Office
- Prince of Wales Inn
- Fochriw Community Centre
- Aberbargoed Newsagent
- The College@Bargoed
- White Rose Information and Resource Centre
- Elliot Town Colliery Wheelhouse Centre
- The Village News
- Pontlloftyn Surgery
- Pontlloftyn St Tyfaelog's Church
- The Cake Shop, Rhymney
- Tydfil Training
- Town and Park Communities First Office, Merthyr

Advert: Miller Argent placed adverts in the Merthyr Express and the Rhymney Valley Express for two consecutive weeks prior to the first public exhibition. The first advert appeared in both papers on Thursday 19 January 2012, followed by the second on Thursday 26 January 2012. The advert was an eighth of a page, colour advertisement publicising the dates, times and venues of all five public events. It also included the web address for the dedicated project website for the consultation, the freephone community line number and the enquiries email address. A copy of the advert can be found in Appendix 3.v.

Press Coverage: Miller Argent prepared and issued a press release, sent to the Rhymney Valley Express and Merthyr Express announcing the public consultation and giving details of the dates of the exhibitions. A copy of the press release can be found in Appendix 3.vi.

A small piece of editorial was included in the Rhymney Express the week of the first exhibition, and a journalist from the paper attended the Rhymney exhibition on the 27 January 2012 to talk to members of the public and interview a representative from Miller Argent. This was followed by an article on the 2 February 2012 which helped raise the profile of the consultation process further and listed the dates and times of the public exhibitions. All press coverage can be found in Appendix 3.vii.

Exhibition: Miller Argent hosted five exhibitions at various venues in the communities surrounding the proposed Nant Llesg site. The dates, times and addresses of each exhibition are detailed below:

- **Exhibition 1:** Pontlottyn Parish Community Hall, next to St Tyfaelog's Church, Merchant Street, Pontlottyn, CF81 9PS. Wednesday 25 January 2012. 2pm – 7pm.
- **Exhibition 2:** Rhymney: St David's Community Centre, High Street, Rhymney, NP22 5NB. Thursday 26 January 2012. 1pm – 8pm.
- **Exhibition 3:** Abertysswg Community Centre, Arthur Street, Abertysswg, Rhymney, NP22 5AN. Friday 27 January 2012. 1pm – 7pm.
- **Exhibition 4:** Fochriw Community Centre, Pontlottyn Road, Fochriw, CF81 9NH. Saturday 28 January 2012. 10am – 4pm
- **Exhibition 5:** Rhymney: Ael Y Bryn Sports and Community Centre, Aneurin Terrace, Rhymney, NP22 5DR. Thursday 2 February 2012. 1pm – 6pm.

The location of each exhibition was chosen to ensure that all the local residents in the communities surrounding the site would have an opportunity to attend and discuss the proposals with members of the project team.

Initially, four locations were decided upon to host exhibitions; however, following a request from a local representatives at the inaugural Community Forum, it was decided that a further exhibition would be held in north Rhymney as it was felt that people from north Rhymney were not likely to attend an exhibition situated further away in St David's Community Centre on the High Street.

The exhibition consisted of 12 display boards introducing the scheme, detailing the site's background and explaining the various constraints and opportunities that arise with the proposals. Members of Miller Argent's project team were on hand over the five exhibitions to answer questions. A copy of all the boards can be seen in Appendix 3.viii.

Comments Form: A comments form was made available to members of the public, asking for people's views on the proposals, the community benefits and the long-term vision for the site. Further space was provided for any general comments that respondents would like to record. There were also a number of questions designed to record some general information about the respondents such as name, age, address and areas of interest in the scheme. A full analysis of the response from comment forms can be found in the next chapter and a copy of the comment form is in Appendix 3.ix.

A total of 33 comments forms had been returned by the deadline of 20 February 2012 (there were no late submissions), and a copy of the form was available to be completed online on the project website (see below) for those unable to attend an exhibition. A full breakdown of the response received from the comments form can be found in the next chapter.

Stakeholder Meetings

Since August 2010 Miller Argent has engaged, and met with, a number of local community groups, businesses and individuals. These are listed below:

- **Fochriw public meeting:** September 2011 (minutes can be found in Appendix 3.x)
- **Rhymney Residents public meeting:** October 2011 (minutes can be found in Appendix 3.xi)
- **Richards & Appleby:** October 2011 and February 2012
- **Convatec:** October 2011, September 2012 and February 2013
- **Sirius Skills:** October 2011
- **Dai Havard MP:** November 2011
- **Darran Valley Community Council meeting:** February 2012
- **Rhymney Community Council meeting:** February 2012
- **Huw Lewis AM:** February 2012

All concerns raised at these meetings have been taken into consideration by Miller Argent when developing the project. Key concerns raised in the public meetings can be found in the minutes in Appendix 3.x and 3.xi. The other meetings have been to update local businesses and individuals on the proposals and to explain the points about the project.

Consultation website

The website was updated a number of times at this stage (Winter/Spring 2012) to contain up dated information on the proposed scheme and the progress of the consultation, along with consultation materials such as exhibition boards, comments form, both leaflets and site plans from the public consultation. Visitors to the website also had the opportunity to fill in the comments form online (during the formal consultation period) and send in comments or questions.

The website was promoted on each leaflet, on the press adverts, posters and letters to stakeholders. Copies of the web pages can be seen in Appendix 3.xii.

Community hotline

All materials relating to the public exhibition carried a freephone community information number, 0800 169 6507, to allow local residents and other stakeholders to comment on the proposals and put any questions they had to the project team. A total of 25 enquiry calls were received on the information line and the issues and queries raised ranged from

requesting further information, requesting a meeting and registering their views or interest in certain areas such as future job opportunities.

The community information number will remain available to members of the public throughout the pre-application consultation and after submission of the planning application.

7. Feedback received

Summary of feedback from formal pre-application public consultation

As set out above Miller Argent hosted five public exhibitions between 25 January 2012 and 2 February 2012 at various venues surrounding the Nant Llesg site. Over the course of these five exhibitions **201** people attended. This is broken down in the table below.

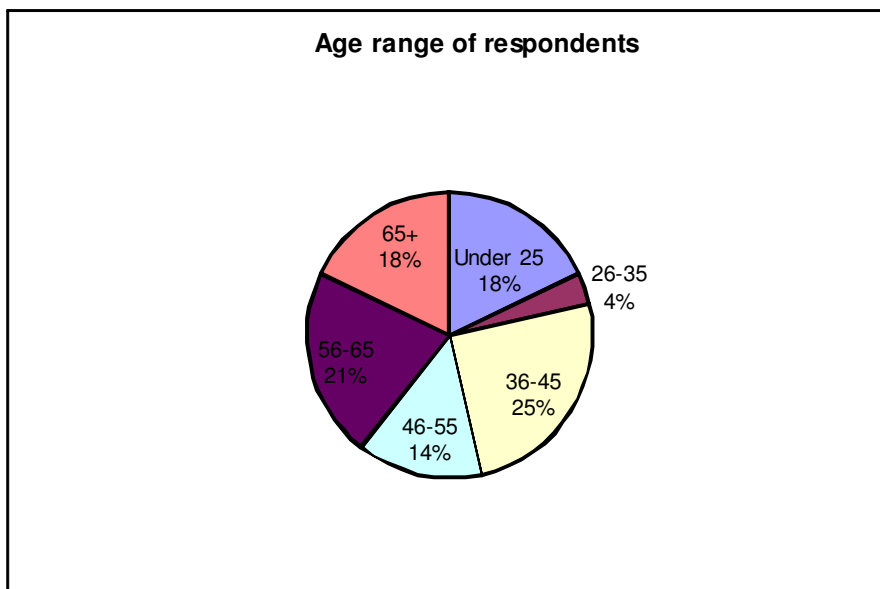
Date	Venue	Number of attendees
25.01.12	Pontlottyn Church Hall	45
26.01.12	St David's Community Centre (Rhymney)	49
27.01.12	Abertysswg Community Centre	25
28.01.12	Fochriw Community Centre	43
02.02.12	Ael-y-Bryn Community Centre (Rhymney)	39
Total		201

33 questionnaires were submitted before the requested date of the 20 February 2012. Only one of these was submitted via the website. Key data from the responses received so far is outlined below.²

In analysing these 33 responses, it is important to state this is a small self-selecting sample that is not statistically representative of the local population, and any conclusions drawn from the responses must be treated with due caution. However, the responses provide a useful gauge of local feelings towards the proposal. Scans of the questionnaires can be found in Appendix 5.

Age of respondents

There has been a good spread in age range of respondents to the questionnaire, as can be seen from the initial chart below. The most active age range has been the 36-45 year old respondents, closely followed by the 56-65 year olds, whereas the least engaged were the 26-35 year olds.



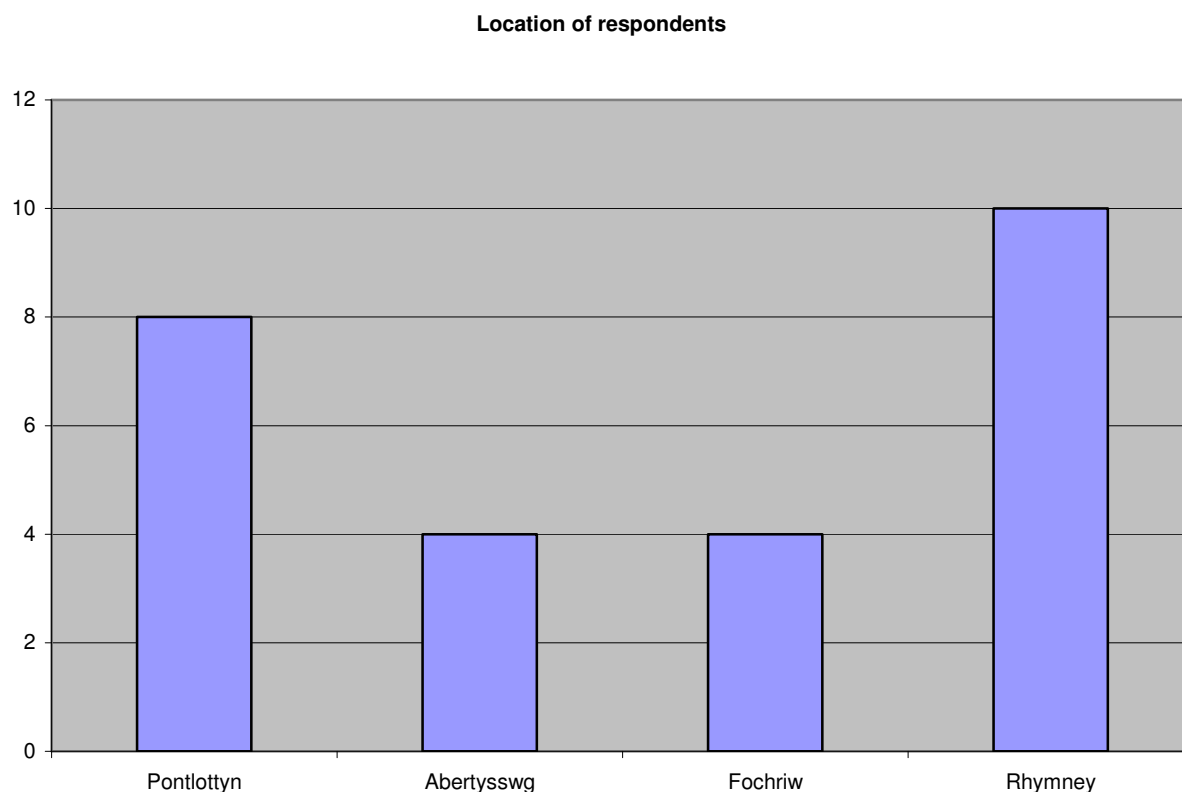
² Two further questionnaires were returned spoiled and contained no useable information

Gender of respondents

Of those that indicated their gender, it is clear that there was a greater majority of male (63%) to female respondents (37%).

Location of respondents

Twenty-six people provided their addresses on the comments form and of these the majority of respondents were from Rhymney, with the least from residents of Abertysswg and Fochriw.



Key Themes

The main themes and issues raised from the 33 returned questionnaires are summarised below.³

Due to the fact that many people did not write their answers directly in response to the questions, a mix of comments and suggestions were recorded. Therefore, in order to provide a coherent overview, the responses have been consolidated and summarised into a few key themes.

These key themes include comments made via the Community hotline.

³ The deadline for responses was 20 February 2012

General

- Opposition: There were 14 questionnaires upon which one or more general comments were made in opposition to the project. These comments were not specific and stated that, for example, the surface mine was not wanted by local people.
- Support: In contrast to this, 11 questionnaires contained one or more comments of general support for at least one aspect of the proposals. The most commented on benefit related to the socio-economic benefits, such as job provision and community benefits.

Siting

- Site boundary: Eight respondents raised the specific concern that the mine and site boundary was too close to local houses and schools.
- Overburden dumps: Four respondents commented that they felt that the overburden mounds would be too large and imposing where they are currently sited. One respondent suggested adding them to the Ffos-y-fran overburden mounds or positioning them closer to the existing mounds.

Visual Impact

- Size and appearance: A total of 11 respondents made reference to the visual impact of the mine on the local area. This included the mine itself and the overburden mounds which were felt by some to be too large.
- Dust: Four respondents also made reference to the impact of dust on their houses, cars and washing, for example. They were concerned about having to clean their properties and vehicles more regularly.

Health Impacts

- General: Ten respondents stated specifically that they had a number of health concerns related to the proposed surface mining in the area.
- Air quality: Six respondents were concerned about the impact of air quality and dust on local health. One person specifically mentioned the concern at the existing high rate of cancer and lung disease in the area and was concerned that the scheme would exacerbate these problems.
- Quality of life: Two respondents stated that local quality of life would be impacted by the proposals and a number of people suggested that this might be a health impact.

Transport

- Coal transportation: Four people commented that they were concerned about the issue of transporting the coal and raised concerns over the potential damage to roads.
- Traffic: One respondent indicated that so long as he was not inconvenienced by road changes or impacts, he was not concerned about the proposals.

Noise

- General: Eight respondents raised noise as an issue when commenting on the proposals. People were concerned about the noise generated on the roads from HGVs and the potential noise from mine workings and plant machinery.

Environmental Impacts

- Environment: Eight respondents made it clear that they were concerned about the impact the proposals may have on the surrounding environment.
- Wildlife: The majority of people who mentioned environmental concerns cited the impact on wildlife due to the loss of habitat as a key issue.
- Rhaslas Pond: Four people wrote that they were concerned at the loss of Rhaslas Pond and the impact that would have on the local habitat.

Economic Considerations

- Local jobs: Nine respondents stated specifically that they would like to see the jobs produced by the project going to local people due to the high rate of unemployment in the area.
- Training and skills: Six comments were made on the questionnaires relating to the wish to see training and skills development for local young people in the area; one respondent stated it was important for the skilled jobs to be given to local people who should be trained for the role, and not outsourced.
- Loss of local business: The concern that the proposals would result in other established businesses moving out of the area and the subsequent loss of other local jobs was raised by six respondents to the questionnaire.
- Local investment: Other respondents suggested that they hoped that the proposed project would result in more investment in the local area.
- House prices: Six respondents also raised concerns over the potential impact of the proposals on local house prices.

Local Community Benefits and Nant Llesg Vision

- General: Local community benefits were raised as a key consideration by a number of respondents to the questionnaire.
- Local groups/projects: Nine respondents stated specifically that they would like to see some support, financial or otherwise, for local community groups and projects.
- Specific suggestions: A number of specific community projects and long term suggestions were made by a number of respondents. These included:
 - A swimming pool
 - A skate park
 - A guarantee of retained public use of the site afterwards
 - Picnic areas
 - Cycle routes
 - A 'safe' play area for children
 - Footpaths and trails over the mountainside
 - A new community centre for Pontlottyn
 - A tourism centre
 - A commemorative mining statue

Other

The proposed length of the project was raised by a number of respondents who felt that the project duration was too long.

Further Information

A number of respondents indicated that they would be interested in receiving more information on a number of options listed on the questionnaire. These options and levels of response are listed below:

Option	Respondents
Community benefits	7
Traineeships	7
Employment opportunities	7
Site tour of Ffos-y-fran	7
Educational visits	4
Supplier opportunities	2

As can be seen from the numbers above, approximately a fifth of respondents to the questionnaire indicated that they were interested in the jobs, skills and training that could be provided should the proposals go ahead.⁴

There was also interest from people who would like to find out more information about the possibility of a site tour of Ffos y fran, and the potential for community benefits.

Late responses

There were no further public responses received outside of the formal consultation period however one local community group submitted its response.

United Valleys Action Group (UVAG) Response – Jim Davies

Jim Davies gave an oral response to the proposal on behalf of UVAG. His response is summarised below:

- **Biodiversity:** UVAG is concerned about how the site will change the biodiversity, and how much of the biodiversity will be lost. He will also put this in context of other sites in the area and the biodiversity that has been lost due to this.
- **Mitigation:** UVAG is interested in the mitigation that will be put into place for the scheme and the mitigation that had ready been carried out (if any).
- **Rhaslas Pond:** UVAG are particularly concerned about Rhaslas Pond in relation to biodiversity in and around the pond, and in particular some rare birds that use the pond.

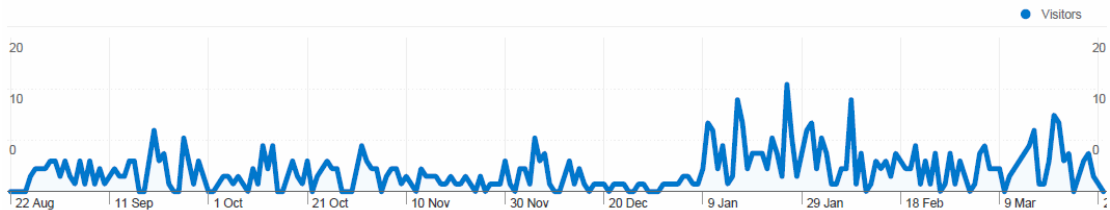
There were no further stakeholder responses received.

⁴ It must be noted that respondents sometimes ticked more than one box if a number of topics interested them. Consequently, the number of times a topic of interest was chosen adds up to more than 33, the number of comments forms returned.


Website


As of 30 March 2012 www.nantllesg.co.uk had received 447 unique visitors. The website has been updated at numerous stages during the consultation, and was most recently updated in April 2013. A breakdown of the unique page views from Google Analytics during the peak consultation stage (Aug 2011 to March 2012) can be seen below:

www.nantllesg.co.uk **22 Aug 2011 - 30 Mar 2012**
Visitors Overview Comparing to: Site



 **659** Visits

 **447** Absolute Unique Visitors

 **2,324** Pageviews

8. Developer Responses

Miller Argent amended its scheme to take into account considerations raised during the formal pre-application consultation exercise. The table below contains the key issues raised during the formal pre-application consultation, with Miller Argent's response to each issue in the right hand column.

Concern Raised	Miller Argent Response
Positioning	
<p>Site boundary: The mine and site boundaries are too close to local houses and schools.</p>	<p>The operational site boundary has been withdrawn to 500m away from the settlement boundary. Consequently, coal working excavations and overburden storage will now not take place within 500m of the settlement boundary, and is now some 689m from the nearest residential area of Rhymney. The planning boundary remains the same, however, the area between the coal working excavation area and the site boundary being partly used for environmentally driven features such as a visual and acoustic screening bund and water treatment facilities. The remainder would be subject to early remediation works, which would be completed within 12 to 24 months of the commencement of coaling operations to locate and make safe the existing historic shafts and adits and carry out other minor surface remediation and landscaping works. Permissive public access and connectivity to the rest of the common would be provided through these peripheral early remediation areas with discreet parcels being fenced out for land remediation and environmental works.</p>
<p>Overburden mounds: The overburden mounds will be too large and imposing where they are currently proposed.</p>	<p>The overburden mounds have been re-designed and consolidated into one mound and kept a minimum of 500m from the settlement boundary.</p>
<p>Overburden mounds: Can the overburdens be added to the Ffos y fran overburdens or positioned closer to the existing mounds?</p>	<p>This has been considered. However, it has proven impractical to do so due to archaeological interests associated with the Dowlais Free Drainage System; constraints to crossing the highway imposed by the nearby gas main; and Miller Argent's continuing involvement in monitoring the vegetation and hydrology of the area in question for the continued maintenance of the Tair Carreg Moor SINCC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation), which was protected under the planning application and permission for the Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme.</p>

Visual impact	
Size and appearance: The mine and overburdens will be a large visual intrusion; what will be done to lessen their impact for local communities?	A visual and acoustic screening bund has been introduced into the design, which will provide additional screening of the excavation area from a greater area of Upper Rhymney and the industrial estate. The bund will be rounded off and grassed as soon as possible.
Dust: Will there be a visual impact due to dust on local houses and cars? Will they need to be cleaned regularly?	No. Due to the distances from the operational area to the nearest properties, there should be minimal dust that will reach local houses and cars. Specialist Fog Cannon dust suppression equipment and water bowsers will be employed on site during dry periods to ensure minimal dust is released from the mine. This has been strictly assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In addition, Miller Argent, in conjunction with the Local Authorities, will be undertaking air quality monitoring in the surrounding areas and will publish the results at regular intervals as they have done on Ffos-y-fran. Miller Argent will also undertake to cease certain activities on site should there be a significant risk of dust due to weather conditions.
Health	
Health: What is being done to combat the health implications of the mine?	In keeping with best practise, and to facilitate a joined up approach to planning, the environment and health – Miller argent has prepared a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Health Action Plan (HAP) to investigate, assess and address potential health issues and concerns that have been raised by the local community. There will be no significant health implications as a result of a mine at Nant Llesg.
Air quality: What impact will the proposals have on air quality locally?	The operation of the mine will be consistently and closely monitored to ensure that environmental variables, including air quality, remain within strict parameters. All potential local impacts have been assessed as part of the EIA and meet the requirements of MTAN2. Monitoring will continue via monitoring stations situated in the surrounding area.
Air quality: Will the dust affect local health? Will it increase the cancer, lung disease and asthma rates in the local area?	There is no evidence to suggest that the site would increase the cancer, lung disease and asthma rates in the local area. This has been assessed as part of the HIA.

<p>Quality of life: Will Miller Argent's proposals impact the local quality of life?</p>	<p>Quality of life is hard to quantify as it is measured on an individual basis. All local health related impacts or concerns have been assessed and addressed in the HIA. While there will be some negative impacts of the scheme, Miller Argent believes that due to an increase in local economic activity driven by an influx of wages and local business activity supplemented by education and training support, the negative impacts will be outweighed and there will be a neutral, if not a positive overall impact on the quality of life in the locality.</p>
<p>Noise: What will be done to mitigate and assess the noise impacts from mine workings on local communities?</p>	<p>A number of noise prevention, control and mitigation methods will be employed on site to monitor and reduce operational noise. An acoustic bund, acoustic kits attached to excavators and trucks, and low noise mining methods will be used to reduce noise. This has been assessed in the EIA and HIA and meets the requirements of MTAN2. In addition, no evening operation is proposed. Operating hours will also be restricted to 7am-7pm on weekdays and 7am-2pm on Saturdays to reduce the noise impacts on the wider community. The CDP will continue to operate its current hours. With the exception of water bowsers operating during dry and windy conditions, or works for emergency or maintenance purposes, there will be no operation on Sundays or Bank Holidays.</p>
<p>Noise: Will the noise from road traffic (such as coal lorries) be taken into account, in addition to the noise from mine workings?</p>	<p>All road traffic has been taken into account and assessed. There will be road traffic generated from activities on site, mainly due to the delivery of coal from the site to the CDP. The large majority of coal will be transported out of the CDP by rail. There is no intention to increase the coal by road tonnage, which currently stands at 50KT/year.</p>
<p>Vibration: Will the mine workings (blasting) cause local vibrations that could damage houses/cause health damage?</p>	<p>The excavation area is over 500m from the nearest settlement boundary with the nearest residential property within the settlement of Rhymney being some 698m away. The extent of impacts from vibration on the local area will be minimal, being assessed as low to negligible on local properties due to the distances involved and the weights of the explosives used in the charge (maximum instantaneous charge).</p>
<p>Vibration: When will blasting be taking place?</p>	<p>It is proposed that blasting takes place on a similar timetable to Ffos-y-fran. This will be over periods of very short duration between 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm on weekdays and 10am-1pm on Saturdays. There will be no blasting on Sundays or Bank Holidays.</p>

Traffic	
Traffic: Will the lorries cause traffic delays in the area?	This has been assessed as part of the Traffic Impact Assessment and there would be no traffic delay caused by coal lorries. Part of the site proposals is to improve the vertical alignment of the Bogy Road / Fochriw Road junction.
Coal transportation: Will the coal lorries damage local roads?	All coal will be transported the short distance from the mine to Cwmbargoed Disposal Point. Once there, the vast majority of it would be dispatched to market by rail. The limited export of 50KT/year by road would remain unchanged. Traffic movements would be closely monitored to ensure that there would be no adverse impacts to the road network or surfaces.
Environment	
Environment: What will be done to reduce the impact that the proposals may have on the surrounding environment?	A number of steps have been taken to ensure that there is minimal impact on the surrounding environment. These steps included: moving the operational boundary back, further visual and acoustic screening, early reinstatement and remediation of Caerphilly Council land and improvement of habitats. Miller Argent will also provide areas of land that will be available for permissive public access and grazing for the duration of the works, together with a number of permissive bridleways and footpaths to provide further access to help mitigate the temporary loss of some areas of Common Land. In the longer term, the common will be restored and improved links to it and across it created.
Wildlife: What will be done to reduce the impact that the proposals may have on wildlife due to the loss of habitat?	This issue has been extensively assessed and will be monitored throughout the scheme. Interesting habitats lost due to the excavations will be restored on a phased basis as work progress and following completion of coal extraction. In order to reduce the impact on local wildlife, Miller Argent has retained as many of the ponds as possible, and full surveys and translocations of amphibians (e.g. Great Crested Newts) will be undertaken. Further to the south-west, off-site ecological compensation works would be carried out at Bryn Caerau Farm as part of the proposals.

<p>Rhaslas Pond: What will be done to mitigate the loss of Rhaslas Pond and the impact that would have on the local habitat?</p>	<p>Following consultation, Miller Argent has amended the proposals so that Rhaslas Pond will not be completely removed; the southern half of the pond will be retained during site operations, including the southern embankment, which has been identified by Cadw for consideration as a Scheduled Monument. It is therefore being treated as such within the project proposals. As a part of its restoration strategy, Miller Argent will incorporate a wetland area in the northern part of the restored pond with the outline of the northern being marked in the restored landscape.</p>
<p>Birds: What will happen to the local bird populations?</p>	<p>Miller Argent aims to reduce the impact of the project on local bird populations and has taken a number of steps to mitigate any effects locally. Following the identification of a lapwing nesting area on land adjacent to the junction of Fochriw Road and the Bogey Road, Miller Argent has moved a number of offices and buildings from this area in order to preserve that habitat for these birds. Miller Argent will also undertake a number of habitat improvements off-site to mitigate lost habitat. Mitigation steps will be put in place to avoid impacts on breeding birds when works commence on site.</p>
<p>Drainage: What will the drainage impact on local waterways/Parc Cwm Darran be? How will this affect local wildlife?</p>	<p>The project will aim to improve drainage in the local area. An extensive area of colliery spoil material north of Fochriw that has been badly scoured by surface water run-off will be remediated; this will result in less silt being washed down into the Parc Cwm Darran lake. There will be no change to any other watercourses and the water quality will, in many areas, be improved due to the works being carried out. There will be full and strict quality monitoring and limits set by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).</p>

9. Common Land Consultation

In addition to the public consultation programme detailed above, Miller Argent undertook a separate informal consultation exercise in respect of their strategy for the application to be made under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006.

This took place between February and May 2013 and involved meeting with a number of representative organisations, land owners and tenants to discuss the proposals and the impacts on the Common Land. A presentation on Miller Argent's 'Common Land Strategy' was given, which explained:

- the area of common land that would be affected by the Nant Llesg project;
- the common land to be occupied in the short term, for approximately 12-24 months, and that to be occupied for the full 19 year duration of surface mining and aftercare operations;
- the land to be offered as temporary public access land for the duration of mining operations in compensation for the temporary use of part of the common;
- the land to be offered as both temporary access land and temporary common grazing land in compensation for the temporary use of part of the common;
- the land to be offered as permanent additional common land on completion of the Nant Llesg scheme;
- a summary and comparison of the areas of land to be occupied by the scheme and those to be offered in compensation;
- a summary of the benefits offered by the Nant Llesg scheme.

A copy of the presentation given at these meetings can be found in Appendix 6.i.

These meetings are detailed below:

25th February 2013 – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
27th February 2013 – Caerphilly County Borough Council
27th February 2013 – Gelligaer and Merthyr Commoners Association
28th February 2013 - Cadw
1st March 2013 - Dowlais Top Investments Limited (Land Owner)
14th March 2013 – Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
15th March 2013 - Caerphilly Local Access Forum
27th March 2013 - Bedlinog Community Council
3rd April 2013 – Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)
4th April 2013 - Open Spaces Society

In addition to these meetings Miller Argent has contacted all tenant farmers who would be affected by the application to provide information and offer meetings. Written consultation documents were also sent to the Rhymney and Darren Valley Community Councils.

Responses

Only two written responses were received as a result of these meetings (See Appendix 6.ii).

These were from the Caerphilly Local Access Forum and the Open Spaces Society. The key points from these responses are summarised below followed by the main points of feedback received verbally at the other consultation meetings:

Open Spaces Society:

The Organisation was satisfied with the presentation (4th April) and does not anticipate objecting to the plans. The Organisation felt that Miller Argent had assessed the scheme thoroughly and that the public interest is generally protected, and that in the long-term the area will be improved.

Caerphilly Local Access Forum:

The Caerphilly Local Access Forum set up a sub-group to assess the Nant Llesg proposals following the presentation on 15 March. The points they noted were:

- The land being offered as a replacement during the period of the scheme and restoration phase is sensible and would provide the necessary access, connectivity, rights of way and was not too steep or inaccessible.
- The Forum highlighted that preferred mode of access to these sites would be an open gap, then a kissing gate, and finally a stile.
- The Forum identified a couple of issues with regard to conflicts of land use and land management, such as where active agricultural use was to continue in a more 'pastoral' landscape e.g. internal boundaries and the ability to roam.
- The Forum also raised the question of how the new areas of land would be promoted as areas of new usage. It was felt that signage and promotion on the internet would be of most use.
- The condition of access was also raised and by what means the access and associated facilities would be maintained.
- The Forum also highlighted few specific areas where access points onto the road network would need to be carefully thought about (Sites 7, 8 and 9), as well as the suggestion of a picnic area and parking at Site 9.
- The Forum felt that Site 11 offered good access from Pentrebach, especially for the less able.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

- Commons Registration Officer asked how would MTCBC best inform any member of the public or a commoner if contacted post permission;
- MTCBC informed the meeting that they are currently processing a claimed footpath over Area 12;
- It was noted that additional land previously provided by Miller Argent to the commoners was yet to be added to the common;
- It was queried whether any of the Areas under consideration had any ecological constraints;
- Enquired about the method of informing the public of their ability to access the land.

Caerphilly County Borough Council

- Vehicles over the common. Would there be a track over the common to Rhaslas Pond and acceptability to the commoners;
- Queried the method of peat storage, depth and time;
- Could Miller Argent assist in the repair to Pentwyn Cemetery wall and the extension of the cemetery;
- Possible management of ecological restoration in perpetuity.

Gelligaer and Merthyr Commoners Association

- Position of secure stock-proof fencing for site;

- Facilities needed to take stock out of the site if they get into the surface mine. Waiting until Sunday morning when the site is not working was not acceptable. More consultation needed;
- Queried whether land restored for grazing would be made available to those who grazed it previously;
- Queried whether the common could sustain FLRS and Nant Llesg being taken out of common together;
- Common presently over-stocked – particularly the southern end;
- Not happy with compensation land on FLRS not being dedicated as common land;
- FLRS is an opencast site not a land reclamation scheme;
- Tips on CCBC land should be restored to grazing land. They weren't previously;
- Queried availability of surplus soils from main site to improve the CCBC area of tips. If not, queried whether soil could be imported. As much as possible should be put back to grazing;
- Queried whether there would be a bond;
- Called for good quality grass to graze;
- Queried route for coal and whether road would be faster;
- Queried how much of the coal is to be dispatched by rail and whether there was capacity on the railway to take Nant Llesg coals;
- Compensation payments for the removal of stock from the common were not indexed to the price of coal on FLRS. They would want to do so on Nant Llesg.

Cadw

- Noted the limited number of known archaeological assets within the proposed exchange compensation areas, resulting from the comprehensive desk based assessment.
- The merits of fencing cultural heritage features out of the compensation areas was discussed at length. It was generally concluded that there was no overriding need. It was noted that fencing could draw attention to barrow locations and could result in vandalism and unwanted growth of vegetation. It was felt that the barrow size and form would be no more vulnerable to grazing than as-found today.
- Boundary markers of the Bute Estate should also be left in situ for the benefit of the public rather than being temporarily fenced out, removed, replaced by replicas or buried;
- Requested sight of further survey detail of Rhaslas Pond. They felt strongly that the investigation and recording of archaeological features should be incorporated into the scheme and it was good to hear that it would be and that the southern embankment was being treated as if already scheduled;
- It was generally felt that public roaming access would not cause decay and damage within the proposed compensation exchange areas and to the designated Commons landscape forming their setting, and that proper gating and repaired fences would support preservation of the as-found historic character.

Dowlais Top Investments Limited (Land Owner)

- Approved the proposals and were pleased to be kept informed of developments;
- Enquired about the proposed future use of Rhaslas Pond as a reservoir and the prospective scheduling of the southern embankment;

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)

- Enquired about what is proposed for the additional areas of access land in ecological terms and the timing of the application;

- Queried what was to be done with the heath areas and any long-term mitigation or compensation. Requested map of what is there. What would be disturbed. Would like to see minimum soil disturbance;
- Queried what was to happen with the lapwing nesting area;
- Queried confidence of Areas 7 and 8 coming forward;
- Asked about ownership of areas of land involved;
- What is the proposed use of Area 2;
- Referred to possible benefit of grazing to archaeological features;
- Queried size of compensation area and requested a plan;
- Wanted to know more information about the historical landscape and cultural heritage interests.

Bedlinog Community Council;

- Asked whether there would be more trains as a consequence of working Nant Llesg;
- Asked whether anything could be done for other watercourses carrying silt to Cwm Darran Park lake;
- Reported that there had been claims that the silt was coming from Ffos-y-fran site;
- Asked whether a fund could be provided for the lake;
- Acknowledged that Miller Argent had already visited the area to carry out works on a couple of occasions;
- Requested copy of presentation material.

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)

- Noted the limited number of known archaeological assets within the proposed exchange compensation areas, resulting from the comprehensive desk based assessment.
- A marker stone of the Bute Estate is to be found in Area 8. GGAT would like to do something to link into the markers. Prefer to leave the marker stone alone rather than replicate or physically protect it. Interested in doing something with the other marker stones (outside the project area) – possibly a ‘Boundary Stone Project’;
- Considerable discussion took place on the access to the areas and the possible effect on heritage;
- Areas 11 and 12 offered opportunity for further archaeological and historic research related to the history of upland farming;
- Requested copy of presentation;
- Was in agreement with the proposed mitigation options that could be implemented should any induced decay and damage be identified as a result of alternative uses within the proposed compensation exchange areas.
- Was supportive that there could be opportunities for community-based cultural heritage activities within the proposed compensation exchange areas.

Rhymney Community Council

- No written response received.

Darren Valley Community Council

- No written response received.

There were no formal responses from the tenant farmers in relation to the proposals.

These comments have all been recorded and taken into account where possible by Miller Argent.

10. Conclusion

The community engagement activities outlined in this document were designed to build awareness of Miller Argent's consultation on the proposals for the Nant Llesg Surface Mine, Incorporating Land Remediation, and enable members of the local community to influence the development of the scheme's design and operation.

Consultation process

The first phase of initial pre-application engagement focused on key stakeholders, specifically through three workshops which were themed around community, health and environment. A newsletter was also sent to nearly 5,000 local households and stakeholders and distributed to key local community hubs. There were 66 response slips sent back as a result of this newsletter.

The Nant Llesg Community Forum was also set up, as a liaison committee between Miller Argent and the local community. The inaugural Nant Llesg Community Forum took place on 14 December 2011, with the second on 15 March 2012, and a third in July 2012. The next Forum is scheduled to take place shortly after submission of the final Planning Application. Topics discussed at the Nant Llesg Community Forum to date have included the proposals, the public consultation programme, the health considerations, employment skills and training, and the community benefits fund.

The second phase of consultation - the formal pre-application consultation - took place between January and February 2012 and included extensive advertising and promotion and five public exhibitions.

Of the 201 people who attended the public exhibitions over the five days, 33 returned comments forms outlining their views and aspirations for the scheme.

During the course of the pre-application consultation, Miller Argent has met with many local stakeholders and businesses in order to discuss the proposals. These have included residents groups, Rhymney Community Council, Darran Valley Community Council, a Fochriw public meeting, Caerphilly County Borough Council and local AM's and MP's.

Key Issues

During the public consultation process, there were a number of key recurring issues that were raised in relation to the proposals. These were:

- The positioning and scale of the overburden mounds
- Concern the site boundary would be too close to local communities
- The loss of the Rhaslas pond as an amenity and environmental asset
- Visual impact on the works
- Environmental impacts on the local wildlife and ecology due to loss of habitat
- Concerns about the impact on the local road network due to increased traffic
- Issues surrounding the community benefits fund and how this would be allocated. The view locally is that the allocation of money and resources should be focused on those local communities most impacted by the proposals and not be distributed further afield

- Call for on-going commitment to consultation and community engagement as the project progresses.
- Concern about the potential for a negative impact on local businesses
- Concern about the potential health impact of the surface mine operations on neighbouring communities
- Concern about the impact of dust on local communities
- Concern about the impact of noise on local communities
- Impacts on the local economy (both positive and perceived negative impacts)

There were also a number of benefits associated with the scheme that were commented on by a significant number of respondents, including:

- Creation of new jobs (and whether these can be targeted at local people)
- The possibility of local training provision
- A community benefits fund and potential aid for local groups and schemes.

Miller Argent's response to key concerns

Miller Argent has taken these issues on board and has amended the proposals to address concerns where possible. Below is a summary of the key changes made to the scheme in response to the feedback received.

Positioning was a key concern to local people as it was felt that the site boundaries were too close to the community with the overburden mounds too imposing in their formation. Miller Argent has therefore changed the layout of the scheme to lessen the local impacts; including moving the site boundary to 689m from the nearest residential receptor of the Rhymney settlement and redesigning the overburden mounds to be consolidated as one mound set a minimum of 500m from the settlement boundary.

Linked to these concerns were comments related to visual impacts that the project may have on the local area. Concerns about the size and appearance of the project locally were mentioned by respondents to the consultation. As a result, Miller Argent has introduced an visual and acoustic screening bund to the design, which will be landscaped to hide the excavation area from a greater area of Upper Rhymney.

Fears about the impact of dust on local areas was raised by a number of respondents. Miller Argent will employ specialist fog cannons and other dust suppression equipment in order to ensure that this is minimised as far as possible through the mitigation. Miller Argent will also monitor the operations carefully and respond to dust complaints, ultimately by shutting the down the site at times when unacceptable dust conditions arise that cannot be mitigated.

Health was also a key topic raised by stakeholders and respondents to the consultation. In order to fully assess the potential health impacts of the scheme as part of the planning process, Miller Argent has prepared a Health Impact Assessment in line with best practice guidelines to ensure that any potential problems are identified, assessed and addressed. Concerns about air quality and impacts on quality of life have all been fully investigated in this assessment and Miller Argent will ensure that the project will meet all Government requirements.

Noise and vibration concerns have also been taken on board and have been assessed as part of the planning submission. Miller Argent will ensure that all possible measures will be taken to minimise noise and vibration impacts locally to conform to MTAN2 guidelines. This includes the installation of the visual and acoustic screening bund, acoustic kits attached to

machinery and low noise mining methods. Road traffic will be party to the same strict control measures as the site and this has been assessed as part of the proposal. Working hours have been restricted to between 7am and 7pm on weekdays, 7am to 2pm on Saturdays and, with the exception of water bowsers operating to suppress dust during periods of dry weather there will be no work on Sundays or bank holidays. Similarly, blasting has been restricted to between 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm on weekdays and 10am-1pm on Saturdays. The CDP will continue to operate its current hours.

A number of steps have been taken to ensure that there is minimal impact on the surrounding environment, which was raised as an important issue during the consultation. This includes moving the operational boundary back from potentially sensitive residential receptors, visual and acoustic screening and early reinstatement of areas of land. All habitats lost as a result of the works will be reinstated as work progresses and further off-site ecological mitigation will be provided. Key areas identified as important for local wildlife, such as the lapwing habitat area on land adjacent to the Bogey Road, have been taken into account and, where possible, accommodated to reduce impacts. Miller Argent has moved roads, offices and buildings to preserve this area.

It is clear that Rhaslas Pond is important to local people, and as a result Miller Argent will not remove the whole pond; the southern half of the pond will be preserved during site operations, including the southern embankment, which is being considered for scheduling by Cadw as a monument. The northern part of the pond will be restored on completion of the project with the northern part forming a wetland area. An outline of the northern embankment of the pond will also be reinstated.

Finally, some respondents to the consultation highlighted concerns about drainage from the land south of the mine causing problems with silting at Parc Cwm Darran Lake. Miller Argent will aim to improve drainage in the local area and remediate areas to reduce silt run off. This will result in improved water quality and less silting up of the lake.

Further engagement - Next steps

On 3 April 2013, Miller Argent held a meeting for Caerphilly County Borough councilors and members of the public in order to provide an update on the progress of the project. Exhibition boards accompanied the presentation and both can be viewed in Appendix 4. The aim of this event was to present the proposals to local stakeholders and members of the public and to explain how the consultation responses have influenced the design of the project.

An informal consultation programme with the Commoners and other interested parties has also been undertaken with regard to the Common Land Application to be submitted under the Commons Act 2006 (see Chapter 9, above). The responses to the consultation exercise have been recorded and taken into consideration in the proposals.

Miller Argent will continue to engage with the local communities and commoners and take their views into consideration. Following submission of the planning application, there will be a Community Forum and a public information exhibition to present the final scheme and explain the changes made from the initial proposals. This will be advertised locally closer to the time.

Appendix 1 – Phase One: Initial pre-application engagement

i) Council meeting agenda – 20 October 2011

AGENDA: Nant Llesg Surface Mine & Reclamation Scheme Preliminary Meeting

Caerphilly CBC & Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited

Tredomen Business Centre - 20 October 2011

- 1 Miller Argent:**
 - Introduction
 - Update on current progress
 - Timescales

- 2 Policy Context:**
 - Heads of the Valley – A vision for change
 - Wales Spatial Plan
 - Turning Heads – A strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020
 - Upper Rhymney Valley Holistic Area Regeneration Plan
 - Local Development Plan – key objectives
 - Landscape Strategy for Rhymney Valley 1994?

- 3 Key Assets:**
 - Loss of Common Land
 - SINC – lapwing, dragonflies

- 4 Key Issues:**
 - Landscape
 - Ecology
 - Recreation & Tourism
 - Drainage
 - Mitigation opportunities - Land and Training

- 5 Options for after use:**
 - Country Park?
 - Common Land Conflict?
 - Lake District?
 - Earth / Water Sculpture?
 - Mitigation Land

- 6 Application area:**
 - Operational Area
 - Fochriw Tips
 - Land to west of Rhymney
 - Land to south of Heads of the Valleys Road
 - Coal Haulage Road
 - Cwmbargoed Disposal Point

- 7 Public consultation**

- 8 Next Steps**

ii) Key stakeholders

Mr Huw Lewis AM
Mr Carwyn Jones AM
Mr John Griffiths AM
Ms Edwina Hart AM
Mr Lindsay Whittle AM
Mr William Graham AM
Ms Jocelyn Davies AM
Mr Mohammad Asghar AM
Mr Dai Havard MP
Mr Derek Vaughan MEP
Dr Kay Swinbourne MEP
Mr John Bufton MEP
Ms Jill Evans MEP
Caerphilly County Borough Council members
Caerphilly County Borough Council officers
Merthyr County Borough Council members
Merthyr County Borough Council officers
The Maerdy Industrial Estate
The Heads of the Valley Industrial Estate
The Lawns Industrial Estate
Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate
Capital Valley Eco Park
(Biffa) Trecatti Landfill
Village Farm Industrial Estate
Bedwas High School
Blackwood Comprehensive School
Cwmcarn High School
Heolddu Comprehensive School
Lewis Girls Comprehensive School
Lewis School Pengam
Newbridge School
Oakdale Comprehensive School
Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School
Rhymney Comprehensive Form
Risca Community Comprehensive
St Cenydd Comprehensive School
St Martins Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni
Aberbargoed Primary School
Abercarn Primary Scholl
Abertysswg Primary School
Bryn Awel Primary School
Bryn Primary
Cefn Fforest Primary School
Crumlin High Level Primary School
Deri Primary School
Pontlottyn Road
Vere Street
Glyn Gaer Primary School
Phillipstown Primary School
Pontlottyn Primary School
St Gwladys Bargoed School
Tynewydd Primary School
Upper Rhymney Primary
White Rose Primary School
Ysgol Bro Sannan
Ysgol Y Lawnt
CCW
CADW
GGAT
United Valleys Action Group
Greenpeace Cardiff
Campaign Protect Rural Wales
Coal Authority
Welsh Water
Environment Agency
Rhymney Communities First Partnership
Pontlottyn Communities First Partnership
Rhymney Community Council
Darren Valley Community Council
Gwent Police
Gwent Police
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust
South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Rhymney Fire Station
Merthyr Tydfil Fire Station
Aneurin Bevan Health Board
Ebenezer Chapel
Elim Community Church
The Parishes of New Tredegar and Bedwellty
Abertysswg Community Centre
Ael-y-bryn Rhymney Community Centre
Bargoed Community Centre
Deri Community Centre
Fleur-de-lis Community Centre
Fleur-de-lis Community Centre
Fochriw Community Centre
Lower Rhymney Community Centre
Pontlottyn Community Centre
Phillipstown Residents' and Community Association
Ysgwyddgwyn Tenants Association
Fochriw Social Club
Abertysswg OAP Association
Brithdir 55 Club
Rhymney Valley Young at Hearts
Upper Rhymney Valley NOAP
Helping Hands (Rhymney Cancer Self Help Group)
Redwood Hospital League of Friends
Aberbargoed Ladies Choir

Rhymney Silurian Male Choir
Caerphilly and District Ramblers
Abertysswg Aces
Bargoed Rugby Football Club
Deri Rugby Football Club
New Tredegar Nomads Cycling Club
New Tredegar Rugby Club
Rhymney RFC
Tredegar and Rhymney Golf Club
Morlais Castle Golf Club
Rhymney Community Time Bank
Rhymney Valley Voluntary Sector Forum
GAVO Community Transport Heads of the Valley
Service Dial-a-Ride
Labour Club, Fochriw
Rhymney Social Club
Abertysswg Working Men's Club
Helping Hands Drop-in Centre
Lower Rhymney Community Centre

Oaklands Day Centre
2nd New Tredegar Scout Group
Abertysswg Beaver Scout Group
Rhymney Youth Centre
Action For Children
Ael Y Bryn Sports & Community Centre
Hafod Deg Day Centre
Pontlottyn Boys Club
Whitbread Sports & Social Club
Family Employment Initiative Office
Merthyr Tydfil College
The College Ystrad Mynach
Coleg Gwent
Jobcentre
University Heads of the Valleys
Glamorgan University
South Wales Chamber of Trade
Bargoed Chamber of Trade
Newbridge & District Chamber of Trade

iii) Stakeholder letter to accompany leaflet – August 2011

Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Cwmbaroged Disposal Point, Fochriw Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4AE
tel: 0870 1115600 fax: 01685 845029
email: ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk



Prefix Name Surname
[Organisation]
Address
Address
Address
Town
Postcode

Your ref:
Our ref: KH/2011-07-31

August 2011

Dear [prefix] [surname],

Nant Llesg Surface Mine and Reclamation Scheme

As you may be aware, Miller Argent has been successfully working the Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme since 2007 and has been working in South Wales for over 10 years. We currently employ over 200 people of which around 80% are from the local area.

We are now exploring a potential new opportunity at Nant Llesg, near Rhymney and Fochriw and, whilst we are in the early stages of looking at this project, we wanted you to be aware of our intentions. We will be commencing exploratory site works over the next few months to see if a scheme can be developed and brought forward for planning.

As well as sending a newsletter to approximately 5,000 local residents (please see enclosed), we are also contacting key stakeholders in the community to make sure you are kept informed and to ask for any views that you may have at this stage.

Whilst there will be a formal public consultation and engagement process later this year, including a number of stakeholder events, we would like to explore at this early stage what benefits we could bring to the local community through the regeneration of the site.

In this regard, please feel free to contact us on 0800 169 6507 or fill in the reply section of the enclosed newsletter.

Additionally, if you have any immediate queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We will contact you again in the near future with further detail on the project, at which point it may also be beneficial to meet to discuss the proposal.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Tillman
Joint Managing Director

Encl



Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Registered in England and Wales, No. 4261274
Registered Office: Cwmbaroged Disposal Point, Fochriw Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4AE

Reclaiming Nant Llesg

Edition 1

Nant Llesg

Surface Mine and
Land Reclamation Scheme

Involving the local community

We are committed to keeping the local community informed about our plans, including conducting a public consultation exercise as part of the planning application process. There will be various ways throughout the project where we will seek to keep you informed of our plans and ask for your views.



Example of old mine shaft.

Exploratory works begin at Nant Llesg

Situated to the north of Fochriw and west of Rhymney, the area known as Nant Llesg has a proud history of coal and iron mining.

That underground mining legacy also has its issues. Not only is Nant Llesg home to old mine workings, including more than 120 hazardous mine shafts and entrances, but parts of the site are also covered with colliery spoil tips.

If these issues were resolved, Nant Llesg could be returned to its pre-industrial landscape, and become part of the Valleys Regional Park for local communities to enjoy for generations to come.

However, the huge cost of remediating Nant Llesg can only realistically be funded by surface mining the remaining coal beneath.

In early August, local company Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited is starting exploratory works at Nant Llesg to determine conditions below ground.

You may see our engineers undertaking exploratory drilling on site over the next six months to potentially help us put together a planning application for submission next year.

These exploratory works should not impact local residents and will take place during normal working hours. However, if you have any problems or concerns then please call our community helpline on **0800 169 6507**.

What does this mean for the local community?

Nant Llesg

Surface Mine and Land Reclamation Scheme

We estimate that work to reclaim Nant Llesg would be done by Miller Argent over a 15-year period.

We are committed to working closely with our neighbours to ensure our plans bring as much benefit as possible, as well as minimising any potential effects.

These measures would include:

- Reclamation of derelict parts of the site
- A community benefits package
- Training opportunities for local young people
- Regular community meetings over the life of the project

The proposal would also create:

- Approximately 200 new jobs
- Significant opportunities for local businesses

In the long term, the project has the potential to transform the site into a safe, green parkland for both local communities and tourists.



Heads of the Valley Road A465

Rhydney

Pontllytyn

Abertysswg

Fochriw

Aerial image of the indicative area subject to exploratory works.

The Vision - your views

The future of Nant Llesg belongs to everyone in the local area - and we want you to help shape it.

As part of the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area, both the Welsh Government and Caerphilly County Borough Council have identified the importance of this area in terms of regeneration, landscape and tourism.

The newly landscaped site could become part of the Valleys Regional Park, providing new leisure facilities for local people and helping attract tourists.

This is a major opportunity and we would like your ideas. Some suggestions are:

- A lake for water sports or fishing
- A nature reserve
- Mountain bike trails/centre
- Land sculptures
- A community farm
- Safe walks

These are just ideas - please let us have your suggestions by filling out the form on the next page.



Proposed Timeline

Summer/Autumn 2011
Exploratory works

Autumn/Winter 2011
Public consultation

Spring/Summer 2012
Submission of planning application

2014
Commencement of work on site

2029
Reclamation complete

Welsh coal for generating electricity in Wales

Most of the coal produced at Nant Llesg would be transported by rail to Aberthaw Power Station in the Vale of Glamorgan, which currently supplies approximately 40% of South Wales' energy needs.

Local coal would significantly reduce our reliance on imports from other parts of the world, increasing Wales' energy security.

While recognising the great importance of reducing carbon emissions through renewable energy, Nant Llesg would play a vital role in addressing the energy gap we face in Wales.

If you have any queries or comments, please contact us:

Call freephone 0800 169 6507
(during office hours)

Email ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk

Visit www.millerargent.co.uk/nantllesg

Write to
FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE
(no further address or stamp required)

These contact details will put you in touch with PPS Group which coordinates our Nant Llesg public consultation activity.

If you would like us to provide a copy of this leaflet in Welsh then please get in touch.

Thank you for reading our newsletter - we will send updates as our plans progress.



Vision for Nant Llesg

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Comment

We will be keeping all local residents and community members updated on our proposals including further newsletter mailings.

If there are any areas you would be particularly interested in being updated on, then please let us know.

Please tick any of the boxes below if they apply:

- Community benefits
- Traineeships
- Supplier opportunities
- Employment opportunities
- Educational visits
- Other (please specify) _____

Please tear off this postcard and place in a postbox - no stamp or further address details required.

FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Media release

Issue date: Friday 29 July 2011

MILLER ARGENT STARTS EXPLORATORY WORKS AT NANT LLESG

Local company Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited will start exploratory works next week (w/b August 1) to assess the viability of surface mining coal and reclaiming the land known as Nant Llesg.

Subject to the results of the exploratory works, set to last about six months, Miller Argent will then start preparing a planning application to both mine the coal and to fully reclaim the site, which is situated to the north of Fochriw and the west of Rhymney.

If planning permission was granted, approximately 200 new jobs could be created - including a number of apprenticeships for local young people – as well as opportunities for local businesses. Miller Argent would also set up a community benefit fund to finance local community projects.

The site, once heavily mined for coal and iron when the area was at the heart of industrial Britain, currently has more than 120 potentially hazardous disused mine shafts and entrances as well as parts being covered in old colliery spoil tips.

These issues need remediating before the land can be transformed back into safe and beneficial use, but the cost of that work can only be met through mining the remaining coal. Work to reclaim Nant Llesg would be done – and funded - by Miller Argent over a 15-year period.

Mining the remaining coal at Nant Llesg would address these safety issues and be the first step in returning the site it to its pre-industrial landscape, potentially becoming part of the Valleys Regional Park.

“Miller Argent is committed to working closely with our neighbours to ensure our potential plans bring as much benefit as possible, as well as minimising potential impacts,” said Miller Argent’s joint managing director Steve Tillman.

“We are committed to keeping the local community informed about our proposals for Nant Llesg. If we decide to make a planning application we will be undertaking a full public consultation to hear the views of local people, and we will be engaging with the community to see what additional benefits we could also bring.”

- More follows -

Most of the coal produced at Nant Llesg would be transported by rail to Aberthaw Power Station which currently supplies approximately 40 per cent of South Wales' energy needs.

"Local coal significantly reduces Wales' reliance on imports from other parts of the world, increasing the country's energy security. While Miller Argent recognises the great importance of reducing carbon emissions through renewable energy, Nant Llesg would play a vital role in addressing the short-term energy gap Wales faces over the coming years," said Steve Tillman.

Any planning application is likely to be submitted to Caerphilly County Borough Council next year and would follow public consultation. Miller Argent would also ensure any planning application complies with the Welsh Government's Minerals Planning Policy Wales and Minerals Technical Advice Note (MTAN) 2: Coal.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Miller Argent's plans can contact its community Freephone helpline on 0800 169 6507, email ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk or visit www.millerargent.co.uk/nantllesg.

Media: for more information contact Andrew Smith or Clare Jones at PPS Group on 02920 660194 or 07585 903816

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited has been in business in South Wales for more than 10 years. As a local business it already employs more than 200 people of which around 80 per cent are local, to carry out the Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme.
2. Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited is a joint venture between the Miller Group Limited and Argent Group Plc.

NEW OPENCAST SITE IS REVEALED



Chris Cousens

chris.cousens@walesonline.co.uk

A NEW opencast coal mine – nearly as big as the controversial Ffos y Fran site – is planned for the upper Rhymney Valley, it has been revealed.

Miller Argent, the company which runs the 1,000 acre Ffos y Fran site on the edge of Merthyr Tydfil, started test drilling on a 950 acre area of the valley known as Nant Llesg on Monday.

Test drilling already under way on 950 acres of land

The company plans to create a second opencast on the land – pictured above – which has boundaries 500m away from the towns of Rhymney, Fochriw and Pontlottyn.

Bosses say they hope to ex-

cavate up to 10 million tonnes of coal from the site over a 15-year mining period, which would make the operation almost as big as the Ffos y Fran opencast on the other side of the mountain.

Miller Argent, who have staved

off criticism since Ffos y Fran opened in 2007, say the project will create 200 jobs and pump £70m in wages into the local community before 2029.

James Poyner, joint managing director, said: "There is nothing for people to fear and much for them to embrace."

But the start of test drilling has rung alarm bells with some nearby residents, who fear the fallout from another huge opencast mine on their doorstep could blight com-

munities. Phil Duggan, of Glan y Nant, Fochriw, said: "The residents of Rhymney, Pontlottyn and Fochriw are worried to death about it."

"This is going to set us back years. With Ffos y Fran and the incinerator up here, we're starting to wonder what next."

"All this money that has been ploughed into regenerating the area for tourism, but who is going

■ Turn to page 2

'There is nothing to fear'

— Miller Argent joint managing director, James Poyner

'We will fight this'

— Phil Duggan, resident of Fochriw



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Write to the Express at 32-33 Gwendolyn Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 5AT or email dymynyw@valleyexpress.co.uk

From page 1

to want to come here with that on top of us?

"We are going to have to fight this."

Miller Argent joint managing director Steve Tillman said: "Miller Argent is committed to working closely with our neighbours to ensure our potential plans bring as much benefit as possible, as well as minimising possible impacts."

The public consultation process will start in September.

The exploratory drilling is scheduled to last six months. If

suitable coal is found, a planning application will be submitted to Caerphilly County Borough Council next year, with excavation due to begin in 2014.

Between five and 10 million tonnes of coal will be recovered from the area before 2029, with 95% being

transported to Aberthaw Power Station by rail. The other 5% will leave the site on lorries.

Miller Argent say a "signific-



James Poyner

ant" amount of the profits from the mining will be spent restoring the land to its pre-industrial state and ready it to be part of the Valleys Regional Park south of 2029.

Terry Evans, chairman of residents against Ffos y Fran, said: "The communities of the Rhymney Valley are going to be looking at

this thing for 15 years.

"No-one is going to want to live there and nobody is going to be associated with there.

"Miller Argent are becoming the barons of the mountain."

Mr Poyner said: "We are not going to pretend that we are not doing this to make profit, but that will not be at other people's expense. It will be a win win situation for everyone."

Miller Argent says that the scheme will create up to 200 jobs for the first three years of the project and 150 for the remaining 12 years until completion in 2029.

They hope the majority of the 200 new employees will come from the local community and a training programme will be devised

to make sure local people have the necessary skills to take the posts.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the local community," said Mr Poyner.

"Merthyr is an area which struggles with unemployment. This will give some people another opportunity in life."

Darren Valley councillor David Hardacre said: "It would create jobs, we would be saving on importing coal and using a natural resource and those are all compelling arguments, but that does not take into consideration the effect it will have on people's lives."

Group action against Miller Argent fails leaving residents with legal bill

HUNDREDS of local residents who say their lives are blighted by noise and dust have failed in their bid to launch a 'group action' against opencast company Miller Argent.

The decision by the Court of Appeal is a huge setback for the 519 local people – some of them children – who claim Miller Argent's Ffos-y-Fran project amounts to a "legal nuisance".

The 15-year scheme is designed to remove coal and slag heaps and return the 367 hectares to moorland.

An earlier court hearing saw

residents hit with a financial bombshell when they were ordered to pay Miller Argent's legal costs – which the firm's solicitors have said already come to more than £257,000.

The hefty bill will see every adult claimant in the case face more than £360 costs, although the court heard Miller Argent will "not seek to enforce its costs order" against those claimants who now drop out of the case.

The residents' legal team, headed by David Hart QC, argued their access to justice was being inhibited by the

"prohibitive expense" of the case.

But, in another blow to their campaign, Lord Justice Jackson, sitting with Lords Justice Pill and Gross, refused to place a cap on their legal bills.

James Poyner, joint managing director of Miller Argent, said: "We are pleased that the Court of Appeal has supported what has been our view from the outset, that there was no basis for a group litigation order.

"Ffos-y-Fran is one of the most highly-regulated and monitored land-reclamation schemes of its type in the UK.

"We are very aware that if we fail to show due consideration for the local community in the way we operate the site, we may be open to challenge – both from the local authority and residents.

"We sincerely hope that this small group of objectors will now stop their crusade against us and start to embrace the benefits the scheme brings that are there to be seen and enjoyed."

Rebecca Rees, a solicitor at Merthyr-based law firm JNP Legal, said: "This case highlights the all-too-common problem of balancing an individual's right to

access justice with the ability to fund their legal case"

The Appeal Court ruling means that, with a group action ruled out, individual residents must now decide whether to pay their £360 bills and press ahead with the case. If they do not succeed, they may be faced with the prospect of far larger legal costs.

The Express contacted the action group's solicitor and several of those involved in the legal action, but no-one was available for comment at the time of going to press.

vii) Stakeholder Workshop Invitees

Mr Huw Lewis AM
Mr Lindsay Whittle AM
Mr William Graham AM
Ms Jocelyn Davies AM
Mr Mohammad Asghar AM
Mr Dai Havard MP
Councillor Michael Adams - CCBC
Cllr Elizabeth Aldworth - CCBC
Cllr Harry Andrews - CCBC
Cllr John Bevan - CCBC
Cllr David Carter - CCBC
Cllr Hefin David - CCBC
Cllr Wynne David - CCBC
Cllr Tudor Davies - CCBC
Cllr Ray Davies - CCBC
Cllr Nigel Dix - CCBC
Cllr Michael Gray - CCBC
Cllr David Hardacre - CCBC
Cllr Alan Higgs - CCBC
Cllr Graham Hughes - CCBC
Cllr Ken James - CCBC
Cllr Stan Jenkins - CCBC
Cllr Gerald Jones - CCBC
Councillor Janet Jones - CCBC
Councillor Gaynor Oliver - CCBC
Councillor Rhianon Passmore - CCBC
Councillor David Poole - CCBC
Councillor Denver Preece - CCBC
Councillor Dianne Price - CCBC
Councillor Richard Pugh - CCBC
Councillor Les Rees - CCBC
Councillor Keith Reynolds - CCBC
Councillor Betty Toomer - CCBC
Councillor Allen Williams - CCBC
Councillor Tom Williams - CCBC
Councillor Robin Woodyatt - CCBC
Councillor Lyn Ackerman - CCBC
Councillor Alan Angel - CCBC
Councillor Kath Baker - CCBC
Councillor Phil Bevan - CCBC
Councillor Roger Bidgood - CCBC
Councillor Lyndon Binding - CCBC
Councillor Dennis Bolter - CCBC
Councillor Anne Collins - CCBC
Councillor Jim Criddle - CCBC
Councillor Don Cullen - CCBC
Councillor Michael Davies - CCBC
Councillor Colin Elsbury - CCBC
Councillor John Evans - CCBC
Councillor James Fussell - CCBC
Councillor Rob Gough - CCBC
Councillor Lynne Hughes - CCBC
Councillor Martyn James - CCBC
Councillor Vera Jenkins - CCBC
Councillor Stephen Kent - CCBC
Councillor Keith Lloyd - CCBC
Councillor Colin Mann - CCBC
Councillor Mark Newman - CCBC
Councillor Malcolm Parker - CCBC
Councillor Rosa Potter - CCBC
Councillor Michael Prew - CCBC
Councillor Allan Pritchard - CCBC
Councillor Judith Pritchard - CCBC
Councillor John Roberts - CCBC
Councillor Margaret Sargent - CCBC
Councillor John Taylor - CCBC
Councillor Lindsay Whittle - CCBC
Councillor Linda Williams - CCBC
Councillor Peter Bailie - CCBC
Councillor Anne Blackman - CCBC
Councillor Kay Presley - CCBC
Councillor Phyl Griffiths - CCBC
Councillor Dave Rees - CCBC
Councillor Jonathon Wilson - CCBC
Councillor Ron Davies - CCBC
Councillor Colin Hobbs - CCBC
Councillor Marlene Tucker - CCBC
Councillor Jeff Edwards - CCBC
Councillor Robert Griffin – MTCBC
Councillor David Jones – MTCBC
Councillor Amy Kitcher – MTCBC
Councillor Gareth Lewis – MTCBC
Mr Roger Tanner - Strategic Planning and Urban
Renewal Manager, CCBC
Mr David Whetter - Principal Engineer, Project
Development Team, CCBC
Mr Colin Jones - Head of Performance and Property
Services, CCBC
Mr Norman Davies - Head of Planning, CCBC
Mr M James - Rhymney Comprehensive Form
Mr Owain Ap Dafydd - Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni
Mr G Wells - Abertysswg Primary School
Mrs J Davies - Bryn Awel Primary School
Mrs N Williams - Deri Primary School
Mr G Hicks - Pontlottyn Road
Ms H Leaman - Pontlottyn Primary School
Mr R Parry - Ysgol Y Lawnt
The College Ystrad Mynach
The College @ Rhymney
The College Ystrad Mynach
The College @ Bargoed
Coleg Gwent
Ebbw Vale College
Merthyr Tydfil College LTD

Dr Andrew Rogers - UHOVI
 Ms Helen Marshall - UHOVI
 Ms Bernadette Jones – JobcentrePlus
 Nic Perkins - Family Employment Initiative Office
 Ebenezer Chapel
 Elim Community Church
 St Davids Church, Rhymney
 Councillor John Bevan - Abertysswg Community Centre
 Mrs E Williams - Ael-y-bryn Rhymney Community Centre
 Ms G F Williams - Deri Community Centre
 Mrs S Enyon - Fochriw Community Centre
 Mrs D Bradley - Lower Rhymney Community Centre
 Fochriw Social Club
 Mr Neville Sheperd - Abertysswg OAP Association
 Mrs Amy Hollifield - Upper Rhymney Valley NOAP
 Mrs Derwyn Evans - Helping Hands (Rhymney Cancer Self Help Group)
 Mr Peter Brice - Caerphilly and District Ramblers
 Mr Andrew Lobodzinski - Abertysswg Aces
 Mr Michael Iles - Deri Rugby Football Club
 Mr Dale Zdzieblo - Rhymney RFC
 Mr Will Price - Tredegar and Rhymney Golf Club
 Ms Eleanor Lewis - Rymney Community Time Bank
 Ms Leanne Marsh - Rhymney Valley Voluntary Sector Forum
 Labour Club, Rhymney
 Rhymney Social Club
 Abertysswg Working Mens Club
 Lower Rhymney Community Centre
 Oaklands Day Centre
 Mr Brian White - 2nd New Tredegar Scout Group
 Mrs Vicki Davies - Abertysswg Beaver Scout Group
 Rhymney Youth Centre
 Ael Y Bryn Sports & Community Centre
 Ms Ann Lang - Pontlottyn Boys Club
 Whitbread Sports & Social Club
 Ms Jennifer Render - Gwent Association of Voluntary Associations (GAVO)
 Mr Carl Cuss - Pen y Dre Residents' Association
 Ms Julie Hickman - Rhymney Area Residents' Association
 Mr Steven Evans-Jones - Rhymney Communities First Partnership
 Councillor Gaynor Oliver - Pontlottyn Communities First Partnership
 Mr Tyrone Powell - Fochriw Welfare and Community Group
 Abertysswg Communities First Partnership
 Mr Geraint Williams - Rhymney Community Council
 Mr Geraint Williams - Darren Valley Community Council
 Mr Neil Mayland - GGAT
 Ms Helen Rice - Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
 Ms Sue Miles - Gelligaer and Merthyr Commoners Association
 Mr Julian Amos - Civic Centre
 Mr Simon Reed - Coal Authority
 Ms Gemma Beynon – Environment Agency
 Ms Catrin Jones – Environment Agency
 Mr David Griffiths - Environment Agency
 Mr Richard Jones - Countryside Council For Wales, Eastern Valleys
 Mr Johnathan Berry - CADW
 Ms Cheryl Merrick - Rhymney Health Centre
 Mr Bob Hudson - Public Health Wales
 Professor Gareth Williams and Dr Eva Elliot - Caerphilly Health Alliance
 Dr Gill Richardson - Aneurin Bevan Health Board
 Mr Graham Morgan - South Wales Chamber of Commerce
 Mr Rob Taylor - Merthyr Business Club
 Caerphilly Business Forum
 Mr David Lewis - UNITE
 PC Jane Evans - Gwent Police
 Inspector Hew Jones - Gwent Police
 Mr Steve Bowen - Rhymney Fire Station
 Mr Nigel Williams - Merthyr Tydfil Fire Station



viii) Community Workshop Meeting Report

Meeting Report

Regarding:

Stakeholder Workshop - Community

Date:

11 January 2012

Attending:

- Councillor David Hardacre *Caerphilly County Borough Council*
- Steven Bacchioni *South East Wales Hang-gliding and Paragliding Club*
- Norris Sheldon *South East Wales Hang-gliding and Paragliding Club*
- Richard Hewitt *South East Wales Hang-gliding and Paragliding Club*
- Douglas McMahon *Rhymney Area Support Group*
- David Morgan *Long Distance Walkers Association*
- Gwyn Matthews *Long Distance Walkers Association*
- Stephen Tillman *Miller Argent*
- David Mason *Miller Argent*
- Kylie Jones *Miller Argent*
- Bernard Llewellyn *Miller Argent*
- Roger Leek *Leek & Weston*
- Andrew Smith *PPS*
- Will Morgan *PPS*

Item
1. Introductions, workshop objective, process and timetable
Andrew Smith (AS) introduced himself and welcomed attendees, briefly outlined the objective of the workshop and asked all attendees to introduce themselves. AS then invited Stephen Tillman (ST) to give a presentation on the Ffos-y-fran project and the proposals for Nant Llesg.
2. Presentation
ST ran through the presentation which covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Merthyr Land Reclamation Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Abandoned sub surface hazards ○ Dust suppression ○ Employment ○ The completed restoration plan ○ Ffos-y-fran project programme ○ Cwmbargoed Disposal Point • Nant Llesg surface mine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberthaw Power Station ○ Environmental monitoring ○ Potential timescale



Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Commitments○ Community issues <p>A full copy of the graphical presentation is attached.</p>
3. Summary of public consultation programme
<p>AS explained the public consultation programme and the types of activity undertaken so far with regard to the proposals for Nant Llesg, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 5000 newsletters distributed August and January (Rhymney, Pontlottyn, Abertysswg, Pentwyn, Deri, Fochriw)• Community Forum established Regular updates and meetings held with community groups and local businesses• Stakeholder workshops on three themes (Community, Health and Environment)• Public exhibitions: five exhibitions to be held starting 25 Jan (Rhymney (x2), Pontlottyn, Fochriw, Abertysswg).• Website (www.nantllesg.co.uk), freephone community helpline and freepost set up• Formal consultation period to take place 25 Jan – 20 Feb.• All responses recorded and included in Public Consultation Statement, which will accompany the planning application. <p>AS asked if there were any questions with regard to the public consultation programme or the Nant Llesg proposals</p>
4. South East Wales Hang-gliding and Para-gliding Club (SEWHGPGC)
<p>SEWHGPGC stated that the main concern for the Club is the height and size of the overburden dumps from Ffos-y-fran as these features can directly affect the wind patterns. The Club was happy that the overburden dumps would not be increasing in height and that the Nant Llesg overburden dumps would be of a similar nature.</p> <p>Access to Merthyr Common was also very important for the club and questioned whether the access road to Rhymney across the common would be affected in any way. David Mason (DM) confirmed that although there will need to be a crossing point for works traffic, the road will otherwise remain unchanged.</p> <p>The Club stated that most of its fears about the proposals had been allayed; one member - a Pontlottyn resident - said if the project is similar to Ffos-y-fran , he would not be overly affected, apart from a slight increase in traffic.</p>
5. Long Distance Walker's Association (LDWA)
<p>The LDWA gave an overview of the organisation, explaining it is a national body that has been running for 40 years holding events every weekend. The club's flagship event is an annual 100 mile walk hosted by different local groups every year. The South Wales group has won the event for 2014; it has been named the 'Valleys' 100' and is estimated to bring £35,000 to the local economy over the weekend of the 24th-26th May 2014.</p> <p>The LDWA explained the key issue is that the hardest section of this walk will take place across the Nant Llesg site in the dark. The last checkpoint before the mountain is at Deri and the next one is at Bute Town, with walkers</p>



Item

entering onto the mountain at Pontlloftyn. If the route cannot be walked on this specific weekend, the whole event is in jeopardy.

ST replied that the Nant Llesg proposals are unlikely to be fully underway in 2014. ST asked for a detailed plan of the route to be sent to him in order to ensure that the route will be available to be walked. **ACTION LDWA**

The group explained that any alternative route to the one currently planned would not be suitable due to safety.

DM responded that Miller Argent will work closely with the LDWA to ensure that a safe, suitable route would be available for the event. The event will take place just prior to the main period of work and so should be relatively easy to ensure safe passage.

Councillor Hardacre (CllrH) added that it would be useful for the LDWA to contact Cearphilly County Borough Council to discuss the event as it has responsibility for the footpaths and routes in the county.

6. Rhymney Area Support Group (RASG)

The RASG representative explained he had a number of concerns about the Nant Llesg proposals, some of which he would leave to the subsequent workshops on environment and health..

He explained that a number of local people were concerned about the potential effect of the proposals on local businesses in the area, specifically loss of jobs if factories decided to relocate from the Rhymney Industrial Estate. Richards & Appleby, located on this estate, has suggested that it will close the factory due to the close nature of the Nant Llesg site boundary.

DM stated that there is no good reason why the Nant Llesg proposals would cause factories to close . ST explained that Miller Argent had met with the owners of Richards & Appleby and that it is Miller Argent's belief that the effects of the proposals would not warrant the business being relocated.

RASG stated that the owner had indicated that he would move the business. He explained that there are a great of local people working in that factory who are frightened of losing their jobs. RASG suggested that the most effective resolution to this issue would be to hold a public meeting to which Miller Argent and Richards & Appleby hold a question and answer session with the local community. RASG said that they would be holding meetings in any case. **ACTION – MA & RASG**

RASG also raised the concern that the timeline as stated for Nant Llesg would over run. ST explained that the timeline is a worst-case scenario and that currently the plans are already ahead of schedule.

7. Deri and Groesfaen Community Partnership and Fochriw and Pentwyn Community Partnership

CllrH explained that he was attending the workshop on behalf of Fochriw Community Council and Deri Community Council, not as a representative of the County Borough Council.

CllrH raised concerns over the impact of dust on Fochriw. He stated that the environmental impact is the most



Item

significant on the local area and particularly the impact on the local rivers. The local fishing club and fishermen have raised issues in the past about where the water from the site will be diverted. The need to protect Parc Cwm Darren is important for the Council and for the local community.

CllrH also commented that the impact on local jobs was also an issue. He referred to the concern about certain factories moving due to the proposals and the need to ensure that local people were involved in specialist training to ensure that the next generation could find work at Nant Llesg.

ST explained that Miller Argent has already commissioned work to review all training requirements to ascertain what types of training is already available for young people and what types are in demand in the local area. CllH requested that training be done on site to allow people to use the necessary equipment; ST confirmed this was already being looked at.

8. Community Benefits

CllrH said he wanted any potential community fund to benefit local people and did not want it to be centrally administered. The creation of a local forum was suggested to administer the fund and ensure that the money stays local.

CllrH also suggested the fund be reflective of the price received for coal. Miller Argent said the price of coal goes down as well as up.

RASG suggested that the Communities First Partnerships (or their replacements) be involved in the handling and distribution of the funds.

9. AOB

AS ran through all comments made about the proposals and asked for any further questions or queries.

AS thanked all attendees and closed the workshop.



ix) Environment Workshop Minutes

Meeting Report

Regarding:

Stakeholder Workshop - Environment

Date:

12 January 2012

Attending:

David Griffiths *Environment Agency*

Richard Jones *Countryside Council for Wales*

Stephen Tillman *Miller Argent*

David Mason *Miller Argent*

Kylie Jones *Miller Argent*

Bernard Llewellyn *Miller Argent*

Colin English *Curload/The English Cogger Partnership*

Keith Jones *RPS*

Andrew Smith *PPS*

Leander Clarke *PPS*

Item
1. Introductions, workshop objective, process and timetable
Andrew Smith (AS) introduced himself and welcomed attendees, briefly outlined the objective of the workshop and asked all attendees to introduce themselves. AS outlined the consultation process to put the workshop into context. AS then invited Stephen Tillman (ST) to give a presentation on the Ffos-y-fran project and the proposals for Nant Llesg.
2. Presentation
ST ran through the presentation which covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• East Merthyr Land Reclamation Scheme<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Abandoned sub surface hazards○ Dust suppression○ Employment○ The completed restoration plan○ Ffos-y-fran project programme○ Cwmbargoed Disposal Point• Nant Llesg surface mine<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Aberthaw Power Station○ Environmental monitoring○ Potential timescale○ Commitments○ Community issues



Item
A full copy of the graphical presentation is attached.
3. Update on ecological studies
RPS's Keith Jones (KJ) outlined the findings of initial ecological studies, and the further studies proposed within the scoping document, including on-going winter bird survey.
4. Project discussion
<p>A discussion followed these updates, which is summarised below:</p> <p>ST explained the updated scoping document had been submitted and said he would forward this to the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), as it had not yet been forwarded by Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC).</p> <p>The Environment Agency (EA) asked if issues with the water course could be resolved. ST explained the extent of the problem; caused by old mine workings and that Miller Argent believes it would be a significant benefit if it could be resolved. The culvert was still open to local children and presented a real danger. It was commented that the local fishing community would be pleased if the culvert issue could be resolved, as the water quality was very poor.</p> <p>The EA asked if it is MA's intention to discharge from the scheme into the Rhymney River. David Mason confirmed that it would, but it would use attenuation to manage flow.</p> <p>The EA said it had no further issues; it confirmed MA would need the appropriate waste permits but said this should be straight-forward. MA explained there are two existing waste permits for the site, one which is still active. The EA asked if it was worth removing all waste from the site; ST explained this was very complex and that you need to relocate the waste; he said MA was looking into what exactly was on the site, before making a recommendation. DM asked the EA if this matter needed to be dealt with fully before an application could be made; the EA confirmed it could be dealt with afterwards.</p> <p>The CCW asked questions about the content of the scoping document. KJ set out the key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern end pond (the northern end pond has little ecological value) – potential loss of heath and grassland • Reptile & amphibian protection • Great crested newt – none found during survey, but one found under a stone later; KJ expects MA will require a licence to remove • The team's ecologists will be looking for areas to locate ponds <p>CCW asked what areas outside the main project boundary have been surveyed: KJ said the 'blue' sites had been surveyed, but the 'yellow' were yet to be surveyed. Both the blue and yellow sites are those added at CCBC's request for remediation. At the 'blue' areas lapwings have been found, which will have to be considered in deciding on potential improvement works for CCBC, KJ said.</p> <p>KJ said no bat roost has been found, though it is likely they shelter in the Valley.</p> <p>In terms of final potential remediation of the site CCW suggested this should generally be returned to its original</p>



Item

landscape.

KJ said they'd considered the question of recreating the ponds, used largely by the gulls which feed at Trecatti; he said a series of smaller ponds would offer more ecological benefit. CCW agreed.
--

The EA asked if there was scope for mixed grazing to help repair over grazing in winter by sheep; ST said a management strategy was currently being consulted on with the commoners' association, which recently took on a warden to help deal with such issues.
--

5. AOB

AS thanked all attendees and closed the workshop.



x) Health Workshop Minutes

Meeting Report

Regarding:

Stakeholder Workshop – Health

Date:

18 January 2012

Attending:

- Chloe Chadderton, *Welsh HIA Support Unit*
- Carl Cuss, *Pen Y Dre Residents and Tenants Association*
- Councillor Gaynor Oliver, *Caerphilly County Borough Council*
- Stephen, *Tillman Miller Argent*
- David Mason, *Miller Argent*
- James Poyner, *Miller Argent*
- Andrew Buroni, *RPS*
- Clare Jones, *PPS*
- Ross Pearson, *PPS*

Item
1. Introductions, workshop objective, process and timetable
<p>Clare Jones (CJ) introduced herself and welcomed attendees, briefly outlined the objective of the workshop and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.</p> <p>CJ outlined the consultation process to put the workshop into context, and then invited Stephen Tillman (ST) to give a presentation on the Ffos-y-fran project and the proposals for Nant Llesg.</p>
2. Presentation
<p>ST ran through the presentation which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Merthyr Land Reclamation Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Abandoned sub surface hazards ○ Dust suppression ○ Employment ○ The completed restoration plan ○ Ffos-y-fran project programme ○ Cwmbargoed Disposal Point • Nant Llesg surface mine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aberthaw Power Station ○ Environmental monitoring ○ Potential timescale ○ Commitments ○ Community issues <p>A full copy of the graphical presentation is attached.</p>



Item
2. Health impact assessment presentation
<p>RPS's Andrew Buroni (AB) gave a presentation regarding the proposed Health Impact Assessment and Health Action Plan.</p>
3. Project discussion
<p>A discussion followed these updates, which is summarised below:</p> <p>It was suggested that the project could lead to positive benefits for the community but that a high level of local concern does exist in relation to health impacts. Part of this is due to the local area having been let down historically with regards to the health of miners and miners' children.</p> <p>It was asked whether, given the concerns on health, it be possible to produce a booklet specifically for the project and that they be distributed to local libraries and community centres. Concern was expressed regarding the smell and dust potentially caused by overburden dumps when the wind blows in particular directions towards local populations and how this would be managed.</p> <p>It was raised that local communities are particularly concerned about the visual impact of black over-burden mounds and that people may not understand they would be temporary.</p> <p>It was asked whether the local GPs have been involved in the discussions. CJ confirmed that they were invited to the stakeholder workshop. AB confirmed that he would be engaging directly with GPs to discuss key issues.</p> <p>ST suggested that if perceptions of the facility were a problem, would site visits to the Disposal Point help address that. It was agreed that perceptions were a problem and that the site visits were a good idea; it was also stated that trust was a major issue that had to be overcome.</p> <p>It was asked whether the team was aware of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2008 within which Upper Rhymney falls into the third most deprived ward in the country. It was added that this was largely linked to diet and lifestyle. AB said that he was aware of the report.</p> <p>Confirmation of the timeline of the project was requested. DM confirmed that this would be approximately 15 years but a shortening of tonnage would inevitably shorten the timescale.</p> <p>Cloe Chadderton (CCh) confirmed that her organisation was specifically interested in the health impact and added that they had been contacted by a local business in October 2011 with concerns regarding the health impacts.</p> <p>It was added that a key benefit locally was the generation of jobs.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the need to have an informed discussion about the project. Cllr Gaynor Oliver (GO) (as a local school governor) and ST discussed the possibility for engagement with local schools.</p> <p>It was asked whether Miller Argent had carried out detailed community engagement ahead of the Ffos-y-fran scheme. ST said that Miller Argent had not, but wanted to engage with the community from the start this time.</p>



Item

AB sought to confirm key perceived issues for further examination as part of the Health Impact Assessment and the future Health Action Plan. These were confirmed as:

- Air quality and odour (specifically dust)
- Perception of risk
- Trust
- Misinformation
- History and heritage of the site
- Cumulative impact

In relation to cumulative impact, David Mason (DM) said that many parts of the land remediation proposed by the project are not involved with the mining and could be carried out within the first 12 months.

AB then asked for a summary of the potential opportunities the site could bring, these were:

- Jobs
- Education
- Safety
- Addressing existing health problems and lack of information
- Training

GO said that jobs were the most important opportunity for the project. JP agreed and added that Miller Argent would look to train up local people to take on roles at Nant Llesg rather than importing labour.

4. AOB

CJ thanked all attendees and closed the workshop.



Appendix 2 – Nant Llesg Community Forum

i) Community Forum Terms of Reference

October 2011



The Nant Llesg Surface Mine and Land Reclamation Scheme Community Forum Terms of Reference

Purpose

'To provide a mechanism for regular engagement and discussion between Miller Argent, representatives of the local community and key stakeholders on the proposed surface coal mine, incorporating land reclamation, at Nant Llesg, near Rhymney, during the planning phases, as well as general matters relating to Miller Argent's interests in the area.'

The Community Forum will:

- Allow Miller Argent to keep the local community and key stakeholders informed of relevant issues throughout the planning phases.
- Provide a vehicle for community engagement, to enable the local community to influence Miller Argent's plans as they progress (although the Forum will not have any direct decision making powers in matters outside the Forum).
- Enable community representatives and other relevant stakeholders to ask Miller Argent questions and raise issues of concern.
- Help Miller Argent to understand the concerns of the local community and stakeholders, and thereby minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of the surface coal mine and land reclamation at Nant Llesg.

Terms of reference

'To consider and advise on issues that might affect the local community and key stakeholders as a result of Miller Argent's surface mining activities at Nant Llesg and subsequent restoration works. To ensure the Forum maintains focus, consideration of issues relating to coal mining in general and the use of fossil fuels is not within the scope of the Forum.'

Membership of the Forum

Membership of the Forum should be flexible and evolve over time to ensure the community is properly represented at all times.

The membership should consist of representatives of the local community and relevant stakeholder organisations drawn principally (but not exclusively) from the Upper Rhymney Valley.

Membership will also include key local organisations with an interest in the scheme at Nant Llesg, together with relevant statutory agencies and local authorities.

A list of invitees to the inaugural meeting of the Nant Llesg Community Forum is attached. Each organisation will be invited to send a representative to meetings of the Forum, although membership will relate to the organisation rather than the individual allowing for different representatives to attend on different occasions.

New organisations seeking to be represented on the Forum should be required to apply in writing providing brief details of their organisation, its purpose and membership, together with a nominated single point of contact for distribution of



October 2011

information. The Independent Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, will then make a decision on whether it would be appropriate for the new organisation to join the Forum. In the case of any indecision on an application for membership, the decision will then be deferred to members of the Forum to vote on the issue.

Private individuals cannot become members of the Forum and will not normally be allowed to attend meetings. However, following a written request to the Secretariat, the independent Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, will make the decision on whether a private individual may attend a meeting of the Forum as an observer if he or she has a specific personal interest in a subject under discussion (on a meeting by meeting basis).

Members of the press and media will also not normally be able to attend Forum meetings, however, should they make a written request to attend - the independent Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, will make a decision on whether it would be appropriate and beneficial to the wider community for the media to be present at a Forum meeting.

Miller Argent participation and Secretariat

Senior representatives from Miller Argent, appropriate technical experts and other members of the project planning team will attend meetings of the Forum.

During the course of the planning process, PPS will attend all meetings and provide the Secretariat for the Forum. This will include: booking venues; maintaining a membership list; drafting and circulating agendas; drafting and circulating minutes; liaising with the independent Chair (see below) and dealing with general enquiries about the work of the Forum.

Meeting administration

It is suggested that the venue for Forum meetings should be the Education and Training Centre at Cwmbargoed Disposal Point.

Meetings should start at 7pm and end by 9pm at the latest.

The Secretariat will prepare agendas, but forum representatives will be able to suggest subjects for discussion at future meetings of the Forum.

Minutes of the meetings will be prepared in draft form and circulated to all participants for their approval. No transcripts or recordings of meetings will be allowed to be taken, and meetings will not normally be open to the general public or the media in order to facilitate frank and open discussion. Approved minutes will be placed on the Miller Argent, Nant Llesg website.

Chairman

An independent Chairman of the Forum will be appointed by the Secretariat, to be independent of both Miller Argent and the local Council.

Purpose: To facilitate effective engagement during Community Forum meetings between Miller Argent, the local community and other key stakeholders in relation to the Nant Llesg surface coal mine proposals by:



October 2011

- Acting as an impartial Chair, ensuring views from all parties are heard and considered
- Ensuring Miller Argent is provided with a platform to disseminate key information about the scheme
- Ensuring all Forum members are provided an opportunity to express relevant opinions and concerns, and ask questions
- Maintaining order during meetings, and ensuring the debate remains focused and constructive (in line with the agreed Terms of Reference)
- Summing up agreed positions and actions following discussion at the Forum and monitoring their implementation
- Adjudicating on requests made by organisations for membership of the Forum
- Adjudicating on requests made by private individuals and the media to attend Forum meetings
- Agreeing the Forum membership, agenda and minutes

Outside the Forum, the Chairman will not liaise directly with either Miller Argent or the Council, but will only liaise with the Secretariat in relation to Forum business. This will help to maintain an appropriate level of independence of the Chair.



ii) First Community Forum agenda and meeting report – 14 December 2011

Agenda

Nant Llesg Community Forum

Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 7pm
Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, Fochriw Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4AE

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Terms of reference and membership of the Forum (see PPS paper circulated with the invitation letter)
3. Nant Llesg update
4. Public consultation process
5. Health Impact Assessment
6. Consideration of subjects for discussion at future Forum meetings
7. Any other business
8. Date and venue of next meeting



Meeting Report

Regarding:

Nant Llesg Community Forum

Date:

14 December 2011

Attending:

Cllr Richard Pugh *Caerphilly County Borough Council*
Carl Cuss *Rhymney Pen Y Dre Tenants and Residents Association*

Caroline Hawkins *Environment Agency Wales*

Gemma Beynon *Environment Agency Wales*

David Griffiths *Environment Agency Wales*

Stephen Tillman *Miller Argent*

David Mason *Miller Argent*

Bernard Llewellyn *Miller Argent*

Andrew Buroni *RPS*

Andrew Smith *PPS*

Clare Jones *PPS*

Anthony Vaughan *Independent Chairman*

Apologies: Cllr Gaynor Oliver

Item**1. Introductions, purpose and operation of the Forum and Terms of Reference**

Anthony Vaughan (AV) introduced himself as the Independent Chair and welcomed attendees, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Terms of Reference: AV then gave an outline of the Terms of Reference of the Forum and asked the group if they had any queries, comments or suggestions. The group agreed they were content with the Terms of Reference as set out. Copy attached.

Time of meeting: The group suggested 6-8pm would be a more convenient time for representatives from the local community to attend.

Invitation list: A number of additional local stakeholder groups were suggested for future invitation to meetings. [ACTION: PPS TO LIAISE WITH CARL CUSS]

Transport: It was suggested Miller Argent offer the use of the Community Minibus to assist local communities in travelling to meetings held at the Cwmbargoed Disposal Point. Miller Argent agreed to this moving forward. [MILLER ARGENT TO ACTION]

Attendance of Council officers: The group requested Caerphilly County Borough Council officers be present moving forward as their input would be beneficial to the group – it was explained that the Chief Planning Officer had responded to the invite to say it was not felt appropriate for officers to attend. [MILLER ARGENT TO PUT THIS TO COUNCIL]

2. Presentation

Steve Tillman (ST) ran through the presentation which covered:

- Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme
 - Abandoned sub surface hazards



Item
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dust suppression○ Employment○ The completed restoration plan○ project programme○ Cwmbargoed Disposal Point● Nant Llesg surface mine<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Aberthaw Power Station○ Environmental monitoring○ Potential timescale○ Commitments○ Community issues
<u>Comments and questions</u>
<p>Engagement with local businesses: It was questioned whether Miller Argent has been engaging with local businesses, in particular on the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate. It was explained that all local businesses had been written to with the offer of a meeting. So far two businesses had taken up the offer – Richards and Appleby and Convatec.</p>
<p>Concern over impact of Nant Llesg on Local Business: It was explained that there was local concern that Nant Llesg would force Richards and Appleby as a major local employer to relocate, causing local job losses. Miller Argent explained that they are committed to working with local businesses to minimise potential impacts (such as through visual screening), and there is no current evidence to substantiate the rumour that Nant Llesg would cause any businesses on the Industrial Estate to relocate, but this an issue that will be explored in more detail through the planning application process. [ACTION: MILLER ARGENT TO REQUEST A FURTHER MEETING WITH RICHARDS AND APPLEBY]</p>
<p>Importance of information: The point was highlighted that it is important the local community has accurate facts regarding the development, to ensure local people fully understand what is being proposed, and that local rumour does not dominate and influence local opinion.</p>
<p>How deep with the surface mine be? It was explained that it could have a maximum depth similar to Ffos-y-fran, at between 160 and 180 metres.</p>
<p>Air quality: Concern over the impact on air quality was highlighted as a key local concern.</p>
3. Summary of public consultation programme
<p><u>Presentation</u></p> <p>Clare Jones (CJ) explained the public consultation programme and the types of activity undertaken so far with regard to the proposals for Nant Llesg, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approximately 5000 newsletters distributed August and January (Rhymney, Pontlottyn, Abertysswg, Pentwyn, Deri, Fochriw)● Community Forum established● Regular updates and meetings held with community groups and local businesses● Stakeholder workshops on three themes (Community, Health and Environment)● Public exhibitions: five exhibitions to be held starting 25 Jan (Rhymney (x2), Pontlottyn, Fochriw,



Item

Abertysswg).

- Website (www.nantllesg.co.uk), freephone community helpline and freepost set up
- All responses recorded and included in Public Consultation Statement, which will accompany the planning application.

Comments

North Rhymney Exhibition: Cllr Richard Pugh asked for a fifth exhibition at the north of Rhymney to allow members of that community, with limited access to transport, to attend. He asked that the exhibition was not too formal. PPS said it will liaise with Carl to arrange details.

4. Health Impact Assessment

Presentation

Andrew Buroni (AB) who is co-ordinating the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) gave a brief overview of :

- what the HIA is and how it fits with the wider Environmental Impact Assessment and planning process
- the work he will be undertaking to compile the Assessment
- the role the community should play in this process.

It was emphasised that this should be a very accessible and open process that local communities would be encouraged to participate in.

AB explained he will be exploring potential risks associated with the development (such as air quality), as well as potential opportunities (such as increased training and employment opportunities as employment directly correlates to health).

It was also explained the process would involve detailed community profiling, to understand what the current issues are and how these may be impacted or improved.

Comments and queries

Will the HIA report be independently reviewed? Public health bodies will feed into the HIA process and will also have an opportunity to comment on the reports once submitted as part of the planning application.

Local health service provision: The point was made that it is currently very difficult to get a doctor's appointments in Rhymney, but a new resource centre is being built which will hopefully improve this.

Ageing population: The point was raised that there is an increasingly older population in the area that is putting increased pressure on local health resources.

Potential health impacts of surface mine: There is likely to be local concern about the environmental impact of the development, and any impacts this could have on local health.

Local health issues: It was acknowledged that the local area already suffers from a higher than average level of poor health, due to a range of issues including lifestyle, education and employment, and it is important Nant Llesg does not exacerbate this further.

5. Consideration of subjects for discussion at future Forum meetings



Item
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="113 338 957 376">1. Impact on local businesses – including an invite to local businesses<li data-bbox="113 412 694 450">2. Air quality – as one of the key local concerns
6. AOB
<p data-bbox="62 557 1396 624">A suggestion was made that a site visit be organised for members of the Forum interested in viewing a working surface mine site in more detail.</p> <p data-bbox="62 663 909 701">Suggested date for next meeting - week commencing 6 February 2012.</p>



iii) Second Community Forum agenda and meeting report – 15 March 2012

Agenda

Nant Llesg Community Forum

Thursday 15 March 2012 at 6pm
Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, Fochriw Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4AE

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Feedback from the public consultation
3. Nant Llesg update
4. Employment and training
5. Community Fund
6. Feedback from participants
7. Any other business
8. Date and venue of next meeting



Meeting Report

Regarding:
Nant Llesg Community Forum

Date:
15 March 2012

Attending:

- Martyn Evans *South Wales Chamber of Commerce*
- Cllr Dave W Morris *Chair Rhymney Community Council and President of Angling Society*
- Cllr David Williams *Vice Chair of Rhymney Community Council*
- Ann Williams *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Doug McMahon *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Peter Beasley *Miller Argent (Worker representative)*
- Cllr David Hardacre *Deri and Groesfaen Community Partnership and Fochriw and Pentwyn Community Partnership*
- Cllr Gaynor Oliver *Pontlottyn Community Partnership*
- Cllr Roy Oliver *Rhymney Community Council*
- Linda Evans *Deri Partnership*
- Cllr Richard Pugh *Caerphilly County Borough Council*
- Cllr Bob Griffin *Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council*
- Carl Cuss *Rhymney Pen Y Dre Residents Association*
- James T Poyner *Miller Argent*
- Stephen Tillman *Miller Argent*
- David Mason *Miller Argent*
- Andrew Smith *PPS*
- Will Morgan *PPS*
- Anthony Vaughan *Independent Chairman*

Apologies: Colin Jones *Caerphilly County Borough Council*

Item
1. Introductions, purpose and operation of the Forum and Terms of Reference
Anthony Vaughan (AV) introduced himself as the Independent Chair and welcomed attendees, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2. Summary of public consultation programme
Andrew Smith (AS) explained the current requirements to consult in Wales for a project of this type. As Nant Llesg is not an IPC project and the Welsh local authorities have no set requirements, the only guidance can be found in the Welsh Government's Minerals Technical Advice Note 2: Coal, which gives some guidance on consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourages discussions between applicant and community• Should <i>ideally</i> start at beginning and continue throughout project life• <i>Post-consent</i> site liaison committee to be formed• Mineral Planning Authority also has obligation to consult <i>post-application</i>



Item

AS then explained that Miller Argent went above and beyond this guidance as consultation with local communities would result in a better outcome for both parties and that it is right to engage with the local community on a project of this type. AS stated that Miller Argent has committed to engaging with, consulting and responding to the local community.

AS then ran through the public consultation programme and the types of activity undertaken so far with regard to the proposals for Nant Llesg, including:

- Approximately 5000 newsletters distributed August and January (Rhymney, Pontlottyn, Abertysswg, Pentwyn, Deri, Fochriw)
- Community Forum established
- Regular updates and meetings held with community groups and local businesses
- Stakeholder workshops on three themes (Community, Health and Environment)
- Public exhibitions: five exhibitions to be held starting 25 Jan (Rhymney (x2), Pontlottyn, Fochriw, Abertysswg).
- Website (www.nantllesg.co.uk), freephone community helpline and freepost set up
- All responses recorded and included in Public Consultation Statement, which will accompany the planning application.

The results of the consultation were also outlined. These included:

- 201 attendees over five days
- 33 questionnaires returned
- Good age range of respondents Visual Impact – 33% mentioned
- Health Impacts – 30% mentioned
- Interested in local employment and training– 27% mentioned
- Community benefits – 27% mentioned
- Noise – 24% mentioned
- Environmental Impacts – 24% mentioned
- Concern for loss of local business – 18% mentioned
- Loss of Rhaslas Pond – 12% mentioned
- Transport – 12% mentioned

Comments and questions

Further information: It was asked whether the information and results of the consultation would be publicly available. Further information was requested, for example, in relation to a breakdown of the numbers of people to attend each of the exhibitions. It was explained that this information would all form a report, written by PPS, which would be submitted as part of the planning application and that all information would be publicly available. PPS agreed to include more detailed information with the meeting report. **[ACTION: PPS]**

**Post Meeting Note: A summary of information on the results of the public consultation was attached with this meeting report and circulated to attendees.*

Clarification of terms: A clarification of the terms 'engagement' and 'consultation' was sought. AS explained that the term 'engagement' related to the work Miller Argent has done to reach out to local communities, through letters, leaflets, public meetings and workshops, and that 'consultation' referred to the formal pre-application consultation that Miller Argent undertook in early 2012 through public exhibitions and meetings with stakeholders. Miller Argent will continue to 'engage' with the local community throughout the application process



Item

and for the lifetime of the project. AS explained that following the submission of the planning application Caerphilly County Borough Council would undertake its own consultation on the project.

Clarification of representation: Cllr Gaynor Oliver (Cllr GO) asked that it be noted that she, along with all other Caerphilly County Borough councillors present at the Forum, are attending as representatives of their respective communities and local organisations, in the interests of those communities, and not as official members of the County Borough Council.

Engagement with Caerphilly County Borough Council: It was asked why the County Borough Council officers were not present at the Forum and one attendee stated that they hoped that Miller Argent were consulting with them directly whilst developing the proposals. Stephen Tillman (ST) confirmed that all relevant officers at the Council were invited but had declined to attend all public meetings, but Miller Argent is working closely with the Council whilst developing its proposals.

Exhibition attendees: It was asked whether Miller Argent and PPS were happy with the number of attendees and level of response to the public consultation. One representative believed that the figures were low as a percentage of the population living in the local area. It was also asked whether the c.5000 newsletters and Miller Argent's consultation parameters to date were felt to be indicative of the population that will be affected by the proposals. AS explained that while the numbers of people who attended the exhibition, and engaged directly with Miller Argent during the consultation period were lower than in other communities, he believed that there was not much more that Miller Argent could have done to encourage participation. Considering there are no set rules on how to engage and what to do (unlike an IPC application), AS said that Miller Argent had committed an extensive amount of resources and time to notify, engage with and discuss the proposals with the local community – it was felt that the c.5000 residents contacted were those most likely to be potentially impacted.

Consultation responses: It was asked whether the figures included all posted consultation responses. Will Morgan (WM) confirmed that the figures included all responses submitted at the exhibitions, online or through the post.

Residents' public meeting: It was asked if Miller Argent would attend a public meeting to discuss the proposals with local residents in Rhymney. One attendee stated that people would feel more comfortable meeting and discussing the issues with Miller Argent in an open public meeting. However, they also acknowledged that a meeting would need to be strongly chaired and managed.

ST explained that Miller Argent would be very happy to attend a public meeting in Rhymney, as it had done for Fochriw previously. ST explained that Miller Argent will be happy to meet towards the end of May, once the proposals had been progressed further.

Officer consultation: It was asked whether Miller Argent had consulted directly with the Countryside Officer from Caerphilly County Borough Council. David Mason (DM) confirmed that he and all relevant council officers had been fully involved with the Scoping Report and had submitted formal responses.

Deri consultation: It was requested that Miller Argent provide a public event in Deri in order to update the Deri community on the proposals. ST agreed once proposals have progressed. **[ACTION: Miller Argent]**

3. Nant Llesg Update

Stephen Tillman then gave a presentation covering a number of points, including:

- Nant Llesg scheme update, the site parameters, boundaries and operations



Item

- Cwmbargoed Disposal Point
- Environmental monitoring
- Proposed monitoring points
- Potential timings
- Commitments
- Current issues to be considered

A full copy of the presentation is attached.

Comments and questions related to the Nant Llesg Update

Road Networks: It was asked whether the road networks would be put back as they were originally. ST explained that, subject to a Traffic Impact Assessment, the roads will not be affected by the proposals. There will be crossing points (as on the Bogey Road currently) but other than that there should be no changes to the road structure.

Merthyr County Borough Council: Clarification of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's (MTCBC) role in the planning process was sought. It was explained that MTCBC will be a statutory consultee, and will have an important view on the proposals, but will not be involved in actually determining whether permission is to be given. It was also pointed out that part of the Cwmbargoed Disposal Point is situated in MTCBC area.

Boundary Commission Proposals: It was asked how the proposed boundary changes could affect the project and whether this could mean that the planning application may have to go to MTCBC instead. It was confirmed that the proposed boundary changes would have no impact on the planning application.

ST also explained that the team are now absorbing the feedback from the consultation with the community and businesses in the area, and that it is not unlikely that some changes to the scheme may be made to address concerns where possible.

4. Employment and Training

Stephen Tillman continued his presentation concentrating on the issues of employment and training:

- Employment issues in the local area
- Local unemployment
- Miller Argent job requirements
- Employment issues for Miller argent
- Training and employment opportunities

A full copy of the presentation is attached.

Comments and queries related to employment and training

Engagement with local colleges: One respondent stated that they believed in the importance of engaging with local colleges and further education establishments. It was agreed that further information on employment and training would be sent to the Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute (UHOVI). **[ACTION: Miller Argent]**

Impact on the Heads of the Valley Industrial Estate: It was asked whether there had been any progress on the action point from the previous Community Forum with regard to Miller Argent requesting a meeting with Richards & Appleby (R&A) who are occupants of the Heads of the Valley Industrial Estate. ST explained that Miller Argent



Item

had met with R&A and had discussed its concerns. R&A has agreed on a site visit to view Ffos y fran and its operation at first hand.

One attendee outlined his view on the situation with regard to R&A. He stated that if the Nant Llesg scheme unavoidably caused R&A to close down, then he would be very concerned about the project as a whole, and questioned the impacts of the scheme on Convatec (another tenant on the Heads of Valleys Industrial Estate). However, he also stated that it is important to understand the facts and that the other side of the story could be that R&A is looking for an excuse to move away.

It was stated that at a recent public meeting held in Rhymney, the owner of R&A stated that he did not want to move away. However, it was also noted by the Forum that Convatec is looking to expand its factory in full knowledge of the Nant Llesg proposals.

It was then asked whether Miller Argent would pay compensation to the workers who lose their jobs, should R&A close.

ST explained that Miller Argent will have to demonstrate as part of its application that it will comply with the very strict environmental guidelines and limits as part of the assessments required for a planning application. ST explained that it is up to Miller Argent to demonstrate that they adhere to these strict rules regarding the wider effects of the mine – if Miller Argent's scheme is found to have unacceptable impacts, despite the benefits put forward then such an application is likely to be refused.

5. Community Fund

Stephen Tillman continued his presentation concentrating on the community benefit fund:

- What is the purpose of the Community Fund?
- How much is it likely to be?
- What will it be spent on?
- Where should it be spent?
- Eligibility of beneficiaries
- How should it be managed?

Comments and queries related to the Community Fund

Size of fund: It was asked how much money has been provided for the Merthyr Community Fund. ST explained that about £2.75 million has been provided to Merthyr County Borough Council. It is likely that the parameters for Nant Llesg would be similar to those set for Ffos y fran.

Origin of the coal: It was queried how it would be ensured that the money set aside for coal from Caerphilly would be retained for the County and not confused with coal from Ffos y fran as all the coal from both mines would be handled through Cwmbargoed Disposal Point. ST explained that all coal is ticketed to ensure that the origin and type/makeup, etc of each load is known.

Management of the Community Fund: Many concerns were raised over the handling of the community fund. A number of representatives stated that they felt that the money should be spent in the immediate area (i.e. Rhymney, Abertwyswg, Pontlottyn and Fochriw) and not elsewhere in the County. There was the fear that the money may be 'lost' if the County Council administers the Fund. It was suggested that an independent board comprised of local representatives could be in charge of the money.



Item
6. Feedback from participants
<p>AV asked for any further feedback from participants, but it was felt that the feedback had been given throughout the course of the meeting.</p>
7. AOB
<p>AV then thanked participants for their contributions to the meeting and asked if there was any further business.</p> <p>Confidentiality of meetings: It was asked whether the Community Forum meetings and what was discussed in them was confidential. WM explained that the meetings were not confidential and that the minutes from each meeting would be published on the Nant Llesg website following each meeting.</p>
8. Date and Venue of next meeting
<p>It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 22 May 2012 at 6pm subject to Miller Argent having revised proposals to present to the Forum.</p>



iv) Third Community Forum agenda and meeting report – 12 July 2012

Agenda

Nant Llesg Community Forum

Thursday 12 July 2012 at 6pm
Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, Fochriw Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4AE

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Nant Llesg update
3. Employment and training
4. Feedback from participants
5. Any other business
6. Date and venue of next meeting



Meeting Report

Regarding:
Nant Llesg Community Forum

Date:
12 July 2012

Attending:

- Ann Williams *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Doug McMahon *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- John Hughes *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Sue Hughes *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Michael Smith *Rhymney Area Residents Group*
- Brian Rees *Rhymney Angling Club*
- Peter Beasley *Miller Argent (Worker representative)*
- Cllr David Jones *Merthyr Tydfil CBC*
- Cllr David Davies *Merthyr Tydfil CBC*
- Cllr David Hardacre *Deri and Groesfaen Community Partnership and Fochriw and Pentwyn Community Partnership*
- Linda Evans *Deri Partnership*
- Cllr Carl Cuss *Caerphilly CBC*
- Stephen Tillman *Miller Argent*
- David Mason *Miller Argent*
- Andrew Smith *PPS*
- Will Morgan *PPS*
- Anthony Vaughan *Independent Chairman*

Apologies: Linda Matthews *Merthyr Tydfil CBC*, Huw Lewis AM, Dai Havard MP, Richard Jones CCW, PC Helyn Harris, PC Karen Evans, Mrs Helen Leaman *Fochriw Primary School*

Item
1. Introductions, purpose and operation of the Forum and Terms of Reference
Anthony Vaughan (AV) introduced himself as the independent Chair and welcomed attendees, summarised the terms of reference of the Forum, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2. Nant Llesg Update
Stephen Tillman gave a presentation on the progress of the scheme highlighting the key areas where the proposals have been changed following the results of the public consultation early in 2012. The presentation covered the key points below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ffos-y-fran project programme• Consultation issues raised with Nant Llesg scheme as presented early 2012• Main operational changes made to the proposals as a result of consultation• Monitoring Points• Phases of work for Nant Llesg• Site statistics• New footpaths• Plans for CCBC land



Item

- Cwmbargoed Disposal Point (DP) activities
- New Product Wash Plant at the Cwmbargoed DP
- Mitigation land for loss of Common Land

The key changes are summarised below:

- Excavation and main overburden storage area now 500m from settlement boundary (i.e. now 500m from the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate).
- Addition of “Acoustic screening mound” to east and north of excavation area.
- Main overburden storage area now one mound and not two.
- Office, Car Parking and Workshops located on the site.
- Main site access now off the Fochriw Road.
- Cwmbargoed DP now part of the Nant Llesg application
- Key area of Rhaslas Pond preserved and retained

A copy of the presentation is attached to this meeting note.

Comments and questions

Changes to the proposals: It was stated by one councillor that this was a vastly different proposal to the one previously presented – Miller Argent has listened to what the people have said. Key improvements include the retention of the southern embankment of Rhaslas Pond, the visual/acoustic bund in the northern area of the site, and the moving of the boundary, which protects the factories and industrial estate in Rhymney.

Impacts on local businesses: One councillor asked for a brief update on Miller Argent’s discussions with Richards & Appleby, located on the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate. David Mason explained that the owner of the company had visited the site with two colleagues, they had been fully briefed on the changes made to the scheme at that time (the final changes including the further set back of the excavation area were not presented at this meeting) and were shown on site all the steps being taken to mitigate and neutralise any potential wider impacts on Ffos-y-fran. It was stated by the local company that should the factories on this estate be forced to move, it will affect the northern end of Rhymney as many people are employed there. David Mason assured the Forum that planning permission would not be granted if it was decided that the scheme resulted in material impacts that could not be mitigated, and the works could not comply with the necessary legislation.

Acoustic Bund: It was asked how high the acoustic bund along the northeastern side of the site would be. It was explained that the bund would be up to 30 metres high and will be placed so as to obscure the inner mine workings to a greater proportion of Upper Rhymney. This proposed bund is a new addition to the proposals and was placed in this location as a result of concerns raised about noise and visual impact during the public consultation. A cross section of the proposed bund from various viewpoints will be provided in the planning application documents, which will be available online.

The effectiveness of the bund to reduce noise and views was also questioned. It was explained that the bunds can be effective at masking sound as they deflect noise— these are a tried and tested method of reducing residual noise.

Overburden mounds: It was asked how the overburden mounds would impact the views from Rhymney. David Mason explained that the overburden mounds would be rounded off and seeded over as soon as possible to reduce visual impact from Rhymney. Also construction of the outer faces would be completed first so as to screen the tipping works inside.



Item

Monitoring: A number of attendees at the Forum stated their concerns about the need to monitor various aspects such as wind speed, noise and dust from various locations around the site. It was explained that Miller Argent has set up a number of monitoring stations at locations around the site (*see monitoring locations map on presentation*).

Monitoring all aspects of noise and dust dissemination will form part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Health Impact Assessment (HIA), which will be submitted along with the planning application. Miller Argent said that if it cannot demonstrate robustly that these assessments have been made, the project is likely not to be approved. Miller Argent has acknowledged the local community's concerns and adjusted certain areas of the proposals accordingly; such as the movement of the works boundary to reduce potential noise and dust impacts.

Dust monitoring (methods): The method by which dust dissemination in the area is monitored was raised by one attendee who questioned the effectiveness of Miller Argent's monitoring around the site. It was suggested that Miller Argent collect dust samples from the surrounding area and analyse it to ascertain whether or not the dust is coming from the surface mine.

Miller Argent's dust collection and monitoring methods were explained: two types of dust monitoring are in use around the site, particulate monitors (to monitor PM10 and PM2.5 size particles) and Dustscan monitors (to monitor larger dust particles). These monitors are continually maintained and results from the particulate monitors are published directly on the Welsh Assembly Government website – it is not possible to fabricate or doctor the results. All dust complaints from the local area are investigated and this process will be continued throughout the Nant Llesg project. Sticky pads are used to collect dust samples and these samples can then be analysed. Sticky pads are the accepted method of collecting this type of dust data and are an effective way of monitoring dust dissemination, Miller Argent said. These sticky pads are all stored and can be analysed over a long period of time.

One attendee requested that Miller Argent assesses the impact of noise from his house on the top of the mountain. David Mason confirmed that Miller Argent has already agreed to assess the impact from this location and would be in contact. **[ACTION: MILLER ARGENT]**

Dust on site: Dust coming from the site was a clear concern for a number of local residents who felt that it was inevitable that large amounts of dust would be blown from the site to the surrounding area on regular occasions. One attendee stated in contrast that he was surprised at the lack of dust on site when he visited the site on a dry day. Miller Argent explained the dust suppression techniques used to control dust on site (i.e. water bowsers/mist cannons). An open invitation was given to anyone who would like to visit the site and see these methods in use. **[ACTION: OPEN INVITATION]**

Mr Tillman explained that Miller Argent is often accused of being responsible for most of the local dust problems and added that whilst it will always face up to its responsibilities with regard to its activities and investigate every concern and complaint, it will also always strongly defend itself against spurious claims and allegations.

The company has taken steps to reduce issues in the past through moving machinery and restricting operations – this will be the case on Nant Llesg, where appropriate and if necessary. It was explained that the mine will only be granted planning permission under a strict set of concomitant conditions (relating to the control of noise, dust, and other operational issues). If these conditions are breached it could result in operation of the site being suspended.

Loss of Common Land: The issue of the loss of Common Land was raised as a concern as some people ride their horses on this land. It was asked whether bridleways would be replaced along with the



Item

footpaths and cycleways. David Mason said that he was not aware that there were official bridleways on the site currently and that as it was Common Land, horse riding was not restricted to bridleways.

The loss of common land for grazing and riding was raised as a concern and it was explained that this loss was a key consideration for the Nant Llesg Scheme. Miller Argent will aim to replace some of the lost Common Land elsewhere for the duration of the project until the original land is restored. Miller Argent also offered help with anyone who is unsure of their rights to Common Land as it has most of the register available for inspection at the Cwmbargoed Disposal Point.

Operating Hours: One resident asked whether the mine would operate on a 24 hour basis. It was confirmed that the operating times would be 7am to 7pm on weekdays, 7am to 2pm on Saturdays and closed on Sundays and bank holidays. The train loading at Cwmbargoed DP would continue to be 24 hours, as it is currently resulting from the previous extant permission.

Court Cases: One attendee asked if Miller Argent had faced numerous court cases over the Ffos-y-fran project. Stephen Tillman replied that Miller Argent has participated, as “an interested party”, in defending a number of legal challenges brought by a small group of campaigners against either the Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme and/or Miller Argent. These challenges were mainly against the Local Planning Authorities, Regional Government and/or Central Government. All of these challenges were unsuccessful.

.....
Post Meeting Note

More recently (in April 2010), Richard Buxton Solicitors (the same law firm who has represented the small group of people who have objected against the Ffos-y-fran Scheme since it first obtained permission in 2005), held a public meeting in Merthyr Tydfil to recruit members of the community to join in a multi-party action claim for Private Nuisance against Miller Argent. Following that meeting other attempts to recruit potential claimants continued over a period of time.

A number of members of the community subsequently signed up to the action. It is not clear whether they all understood that they were potentially at personal risk in terms of legal costs or the full extent of the risk arising from that commitment. A risk that was materially increased by the premature and unfocussed nature of the proposed action.

The application for a Group Litigation Order (GLO) was progressed by the claimants, but was ultimately dismissed in the High Court in November 2010 and costs were awarded in favour of Miller Argent.

Richard Buxton Solicitors then, on behalf of the claimants, made an application to appeal the decision of the High Court, which was heard by the Court of Appeal in June 2011. Prior to the hearing, Miller Argent made an open offer to the Claimant’s that it would only seek to enforce the costs of the GLO application or the costs of the appeal (should Miller Argent be successful in the appeal) against the adult proposed claimants and that it would only ever seek to enforce the recovery of those costs against any of the proposed claimants who proceeded with a renewed application for a GLO or otherwise commenced an action against Miller Argent in respect of the alleged nuisance claim.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal and made a further order for costs in favour of Miller Argent, founded on the open offer that Miller Argent had made. On the basis that no renewed proceedings are brought Miller Argent has and will continue to absorb the significant legal costs it incurred in defending



Item

what it considered to be wholly inappropriate and misguided legal proceedings. If, however, proceedings are renewed then it will be reasonable for Miller Argent to seek to recover a proportionate share of its costs from each claimant.

.....

Rhaslas Pond: It was questioned what the impact on Rhaslas Pond would be due to the pond being reduced in size and other areas of the surroundings being altered. It was explained that there is a comprehensive water strategy to ensure that the waterways and water run off, from the site and within the site, is generally the same as exists currently. These concerns would all be assessed and addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment.

3. Employment and Training

Stephen Tillman continued the presentation covering a number of points relating to the employment and training prospects, including:

- Jobs – 289 permanent plus c.100 semi permanent during construction
- Training Initiative – proposals to be set out soon
- Local suppliers/contractors - £25.9m spent less than 5 miles from the Ffos y fran site
- Community Benefit Fund
- Nant Llesg Surface Mine programme

A copy of the presentation is attached to this meeting note.

Comments and questions

Number of jobs: It was asked whether the 289 jobs to be provided on Nant Llesg would be *in addition* to the jobs already related to the Ffos-y-fran scheme. It was explained that these would be completely new jobs (along with c.100 temporary jobs during construction). It is likely that the existing workforce would be split across the two sites to help train the new workers.

It was stated by one attendee that the jobs provision was badly needed in the Upper Rhymney Valley and this would be a boost to local employment figures.

Location of employees: It was questioned whether the number of workers employed locally on the Ffos-y-fran scheme (85% live less than 15 kms from site) lived there originally or just moved there following securing the job. It was confirmed that a large proportion of the workers lived within the 15kms catchment area prior to securing the job – this has been verified through research on the existing Ffos-y-fran workforce and confirmed by the Miller Argent Union representative.

It was explained that, in terms of the new jobs, the existing ‘talent pool’ of workers with the relevant skills has been depleted due to the Tower Colliery and Ffos-y-fran schemes. Therefore, in order to promote jobs being given to local people, Miller Argent is proposing to train local people with the hope that these local people will therefore have the best chance of securing the jobs available, as they will have the required training and skills sets.

Need to promote training opportunity: One attendee stated that there was a great need to promote these training and employment opportunities locally as many local people have lost confidence and will need to be pushed to find out more about the scheme. It was suggested that local councillors will need to



Item
<p>take part in this as well.</p> <p>It was stated that the aim was to initiate the training programme before the planning application is submitted. It will be important to work closely with UHOVI and other education and training establishments in the area.</p> <p>It is hoped that the training programme could become a wider scheme involving other large mining companies in South Wales.</p>
6. Feedback from participants
<p>AV asked for any further feedback from participants, and a number of points were raised:</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment: It was asked whether the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) would be made public along with a brief explanation of how the assessment will be approached. It was requested that the results to the HIA be published in a simplified form that is easily understood. The results and analysis undertaken on the air quality monitoring and noise for example will be useful to illustrate to local people the parameters of this monitoring and the relevance of the results. It was agreed that this information would be made available in due course, and would aim to be included in a future public exhibition. [ACTION: MILLER ARGENT]</p> <p>Interactive image and cross section: It was also requested that a photomontage and/or representative cross section image(s) to portray the potential visual appearance of the site could be included in the public exhibition. [ACTION: MILLER ARGENT]</p>
8. AOB/Date and Venue of next meeting
<p>It was agreed that there would be no confirmed date for the next meeting at this point, but it would be likely to follow the submission of the planning application. There will be no Forum before the application and PPS will contact members in advance of the next proposed meeting.</p>



Appendix 3 – Phase Two: Formal pre-application consultation

i) Stakeholder letter – 9 January 2012

miller argent

Prefix Name Surname
Address
Address
Address
Town
Postcode

Your ref:
Our ref: KH/2011-07-31

January 2012

Dear Prefix Surname

Re: Nant Llesg Surface Coal Mine – Public Exhibitions

Following our recent correspondence in relation to the stakeholder workshops we are holding as part of the public consultation on our Nant Llesg proposals, I am writing to confirm details of the public exhibitions taking place later this month.

The details of the exhibitions are:

Pontlloftyn Parish Community Hall, Merchant Street, Pontlloftyn, CF81 9PS
Wednesday 25 January 2012
2pm to 7pm

Rhymney - St David's Community Centre, High Street, Rhymney, NP22 5NB
Thursday 26 January 2012
1pm to 8pm

Abertyswg Community Centre, Arthur Street Abertyswg, Rhymney, NP22 5AN
Friday 27 January 2012
1pm to 7pm

Fochriw Community Centre, Pontlloftyn Road, Fochriw, CF81 9NH
Saturday 28 January 2012
10am to 4pm

Ael Y Bryn Community Centre, Aneurin Terrace, Rhymney, NP22 5DR
Thursday 2 February 2012
1pm – 6pm

Members of the project team will be on hand at the exhibitions to answer any questions and discuss issues. Comments forms will also be available for members of the public to record their views.

We want to hear local ideas and comments on the proposals, to understand how we can best minimise local impacts and help facilitate the most amount of local community benefits possible.

We will be issuing an invitation newsletter to local residents and stakeholders in the coming week. We would be grateful if you could encourage members of your group or organisation to come along to the exhibitions to find out more about the plans and let us have local views.



Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Registered in England and Wales, No. 4261274



Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Cwmbarfed Disposal Point, Fachriw Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4AE
tel: 0870 1115600 fax: 01685 845029
email: ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk

miller argent

I have also enclosed details of the stakeholder workshops on a separate response form, as there are still places available if you would like to attend and have not already responded.

Further information on the progress of the scheme and the public consultation programme can be found on the website, and if you would like further information about our proposals you can contact us by:

- Visiting: www.nantlesg.co.uk
- Calling freephone number: 0800 169 6507 (during normal office hours)
- Emailing: will.morgan@ppsgroup.co.uk
- Writing to: FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE (no stamp or further address required)

I hope to see you at one of the forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Tillman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephen Tillman
Joint Managing Director



ii) Post Consultation letter – Stakeholder - 12 March 2012



Prefix Name Surname
Address
Address
Address
Town
Postcode

Your ref:
Our ref: KH/2011-07-31

12 March 2012

Dear [prefix] [surname],

RE: Nant Llesg Surface Mine proposals update

Following my previous correspondence in relation to the public consultation held earlier this year on our plans for a new surface mine incorporating land remediation at Nant Llesg, I am writing to update you on the response we received and the progress of the scheme.

The exhibitions were well attended with more than 200 people coming to view the plans and discuss the proposals with members of the project team. Thirty-three questionnaires were also returned. We are currently analysing and consolidating all comments and this information will help shape our proposals and the long-term vision for the site.

A number of key themes were apparent during the consultation including: visual impact; site positioning and layout; health concerns; transport issues; environmental considerations; and economic and community benefits.

An analysis of all comments received will form part of a report, which will be submitted as part of the planning application to Caerphilly County Borough Council, which we are aiming to submit this summer once the proposals have been finalised.

We will continue to keep the local community and key stakeholders updated on our plans, however, if you would like a more detailed discussion on the proposals then please do not hesitate to get in touch in one of the following ways to arrange a meeting:

- Call us on FREEPHONE 0800 169 6507*
- Write to FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE (no further address or stamp required)*
- Visit www.nantllesg.co.uk
- Email ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Stephen Tillman
Joint Managing Director
Encl

*These contact details will put you in touch with PPS Group which coordinates our Nant Llesg public consultation activity.



Post Consultation letter – those interested in employment opportunities – 12 March 2012

millier argent

«Prefix» «Name» «Surname»
«Add1»
«Add2»
«Add4»
«Postcode»

Your ref:
Our ref: KH/2011-07-31

12 March 2012

Dear «Prefix» «Surname»,

RE: Nant Llesg Surface Mine proposals update – employment and training

Following the public consultation held earlier this year on our plans for a new surface mine incorporating land remediation at Nant Llesg, I am writing to thank you for the interest you have shown and to update you on the response we received and the progress of the scheme.

The exhibitions were well attended more than 200 people coming to view the plans and discuss the proposals with members of the project team. Thirty-three questionnaires were also returned. We are currently analysing and consolidating all comments and suggestions and this information will help shape our proposals and the long-term vision for the site.

An analysis of all comments received will form part of a report, which will be included as part of the planning application to Caerphilly County Borough Council, which we are aiming to submit this summer once the proposals have been finalised.

We have noted that you have indicated your interest in the employment and training that would be created as a result of the proposals. This was a key theme in the response to the consultation and we will ensure that we keep you informed of any further updates in relation to local job creation and training. In particular we are considering whether a training programme or facility needs to be developed sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, if you have any further comments or queries in relation to the proposals then please do not hesitate to get in touch in one of the following ways:

- Call us on FREEPHONE 0800 1 69 6507*
- Write to FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE (no further address or stamp required)*
- Visit www.nantillesg.co.uk
- Email ma.enquiries@millierargent.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Stephen Tillman
Joint Managing Director
Encl

*These contact details will put you in touch with PPS Group which coordinates our Nant Llesg public consultation activity.



Post Consultation letter – Public – 12 March 2012



Prefix Name Surname
Address
Address
Address
Town
Postcode

Your ref:
Our ref: KH/2011-07-31

12 March 2012

Dear [prefix] [surname],

RE: Nant Llesg Surface Mine proposals update

Following the public consultation held earlier this year on our plans for a new surface mine incorporating land remediation at Nant Llesg, I am writing to thank you for your participation and to update you on the response we received and the progress of the scheme.

The exhibitions were well attended with more than 200 people coming to view the plans and discuss the proposals with members of the project team. Thirty-three questionnaires were also returned. We are currently analysing and consolidating all comments and this information will help shape our proposals and the long-term vision for the site.

An analysis of all comments received will form part of a report, which will be included as part of the planning application to Caerphilly County Borough Council, which we are aiming to submit this summer once the proposals have been finalised.

We will continue to keep the local community and key stakeholders updated on our plans, however, if you have any further comments or queries then please do not hesitate to get in touch in one of the following ways:

- Call us on FREEPHONE 0800 169 6507*
- Write to FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE (no further address or stamp required)*
- Visit www.nantllesg.co.uk
- Email ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Stephen Tillman
Joint Managing Director
Encl

*These contact details will put you in touch with PPS Group which coordinates our Nant Llesg public consultation activity.



Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited
Registered in England and Wales, No. 4261274
Registered Office: Cwmbargeed Disposal Point, Fochriw Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4AE



iii) Information Leaflet – January 2012

Nant Llesg Newsletter

Edition 2

Nant Llesg

Surface Mine incorporating Land Remediation

Miller Argent to submit a planning application later this year

Following the successful completion of exploratory works, local company Miller Argent will be submitting a planning application for a proposed new surface mine and incorporated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

Results show that a significant quantity of coal (approximately 7-9 million tonnes) is present at the Nant Llesg site, which is situated to the north of Fochriw and west of Rhymney.

As a result of the region's rich industrial and mining heritage, parts of the site and surrounding area still have a number of mine shafts, adits and spoil tips situated within them, which could be remediated and made safer as part of the proposals. This could include the remediation of some neighbouring Council owned land, which could help prevent silting of the Darran Park Lakes.

We will now undertake a series of studies and investigations to obtain more detail about the proposed project and potential impacts, leading up to the submission of a planning application in summer 2012.

We are also now progressing more detailed plans of the site which will show how Nant Llesg would function as a surface mine.

In order to help us develop our plans, we will be undertaking an extensive community engagement programme.

See inside for details of how you can get involved.



miller argent

Public Exhibition Dates

Pontlottyn: 25 Jan (2pm-7pm)
Rhymney: 26 Jan (1pm-8pm)

Abertysswg: 27 Jan (1pm-7pm)
Fochriw: 28 Jan (10am-4pm)
Rhymney: 2 Feb (1pm-6pm)

Further details on back page

Public Consultation



Aerial image of proposed Nant Llesg site

- 1 Heads of the Valley Road A465
- 2 Rhymney
- 3 Pontlottyn
- 4 Abertyswg
- 5 Fochriw

- Overburden dumps
- Excavation area
- Provisional site boundary (including potential redemption areas)

Indicative outline of site shown in red, including remediation works outside of the proposed surface mine area.

Consultation Programme

We are committed to working closely with the local community as we develop our plans, to ensure we fully understand and respond to the concerns and requirements of the local community.

We are therefore undertaking a detailed public consultation programme to allow the local community to find out more about our initial proposals, discuss the plans with members of the development team, and feedback any comments or suggestions.

We would like to invite you to come and find out more about our proposals at one of the public exhibitions detailed on the back page.

Guide Timeline

Early 2012

Public consultation undertaken

Summer 2012

Submission of planning application

2014

Commencement of work on site (subject to planning permission)

2029

Scheme completed

Community Benefits

We are committed to working closely with our neighbours to ensure our plans bring as much benefit as possible, as well as minimising any potential effects.

Some of the local benefits we would anticipate include:

- Approximately 200 new jobs
- Training facility and opportunities for local people
- Significant supplier opportunities for local businesses
- Reclamation of derelict parts of the site and potentially surrounding areas
- A significant community benefits package
- Further understanding of the industrial heritage of the area through archaeological work
- Long term improvements to the site upon remediation

Nant Llesg Vision

As part of the surface mine and land remediation scheme, Miller Argent would be fully responsible for remediation of the site upon completion of the coal recovery.

Due to the nature of the earthworks being undertaken, the new landscape could be reformed however the Council and local community wishes.

We are therefore keen to hear what the local community would like to see incorporated into the plan for the site upon completion of the work, for example the inclusion of a fishing lake, cycle paths and nature conservation areas. If you have any ideas please get in touch using the details on the back page.



About Miller Argent

Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited is a joint venture between The Miller Group Limited and Argent Group PLC. The company was specifically created to carry out the Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme in Merthyr Tydfil. The company currently employs around 200 people, the majority of which are local (85 per cent live within 15 km of the site).

The company also currently provides a number of free local community facilities including two community minibuses and an education and training centre, as well as contributing to a multi million pound Community Benefit Fund administered by Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council.



Restored historical aqueduct found at Ffos-y-fran.

Exhibition Dates

Pontllytyn Parish Community Hall
Next to St Tyfaelog's Church,
Merchant Street Pontllytyn, CF81 9PS
Wednesday 25 January 2012
2pm to 7pm

Rhymney - St David's Community Centre
High Street, Rhymney, NP22 5NB
Thursday 26 January 2012
1pm to 8pm

Abertyswg Community Centre
Arthur Street Abertyswg, Rhymney,
NP22 5AN
Friday 27 January 2012
1pm to 7pm

Fochriw Community Centre
Pontllytyn Road, Fochriw, CF81 9NH
Saturday 28 January 2012
10am to 4pm

Rhymney: Ael Y Bryn Sports and Community Centre
Aneurin Terrace, Rhymney, NP22 5DR
Thursday 2 February 2012
1pm to 6pm

If you have any queries or comments, please contact us:

Call freephone 0800 169 6507
(during office hours)

Write to
FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE
(no further address or stamp required)

Visit www.millerargent.co.uk/nantllesg

Email ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk

These contact details will put you in touch with PPS Group which coordinates our Nant Llesg public consultation activity.

If you would like us to provide a copy of this leaflet in Welsh please get in touch.

Thank you for reading our newsletter - we will send updates as our plans progress.





iv) Poster – January 2012

Nant Llesg

Surface Mine Proposals Public Exhibitions

Miller Argent intends to submit a planning application for a new surface mine at Nant Llesg to the west of Rhymney and north of Fochriw.

In order to help us develop our plans, we will be holding a series of exhibitions to enable the local community to find out more about the proposals, and to feedback comments.

The details of the exhibitions are:

Pontlottyn Parish Community Hall

Merchant Street, Pontlottyn, CF81 9PS
Wednesday 25 January 2012, 2pm to 7pm

Rhymney - St David's Community Centre

High Street, Rhymney, NP22 5NB
Thursday 26 January 2012, 1pm to 8pm

Abertysswg Community Centre

Arthur Street Abertysswg, Rhymney, NP22 5AN
Friday 27 January 2012, 1pm to 7pm

Fochriw Community Centre

Pontlottyn Road, Fochriw, CF81 9NH
Saturday 28 January 2012, 10am to 4pm

Ael Y Bryn Community Centre

Aneurin Terrace, Rhymney, NP22 5DR
Thursday 2 February 2012, 1pm to 6pm

We would like to hear your views on the proposals to find out how we can minimise local impacts and help create the most local community benefit possible.

If you would like further information about our proposals or public consultation then please contact us:

www.nantllesg.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 169 6507

Email: ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk



- v) Advert – appeared 19 January 2012 and 26 January 2012 in the Rhymney Valley Express and Merthyr Express

Nant Llesg

Surface Mine Proposals Public Exhibitions: January 2012

Miller Argent intends to submit a planning application for a new surface mine at Nant Llesg to the west of Rhymney and north of Fochriw.

In order to help us develop our plans, we will be holding a series of exhibitions to enable the local community to find out more about the proposals, and to feedback comments.

The details of the exhibitions are:

Pontlottyn Parish Community Hall

Merchant Street, Pontlottyn, CF81 9PS
Wednesday 25 January 2012, 2pm to 7pm

Rhymney - St David's Community Centre

High Street, Rhymney, NP22 5NB
Thursday 26 January 2012, 1pm to 8pm

Abertysswg Community Centre

Arthur Street Abertysswg, Rhymney, NP22 5AN
Friday 27 January 2012, 1pm to 8pm

Fochriw Community Centre

Pontlottyn Road, Fochriw, CF81 9NH
Saturday 28 January 2012, 10am to 4pm

Ael Y Bryn Community Centre

Aneurin Terrace, Rhymney, NP22 5DR
Thursday 2 February, 1pm to 6pm

We would like to hear your views on the proposals to find out how we can minimise local impacts and help create the most amount of local community benefit possible.

If you would like further information about our proposals or public consultation then please contact us:

www.nantllesg.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 169 6507

Email: ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk



vi) Press release – 9 January 2012

miller argent



Press release

9 January 2012

MILLER ARGENT ANOUNCE PUBLIC EXHIBITION DATES FOR NANT LLESG

Local company Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited has announced it will be holding five days of public exhibitions beginning later this month, to display its plans for a proposed new surface mine at Nant Llesg, north of Fochriw and west of Rhymney.

Exploratory works undertaken over the last six months have revealed a significant coal reserve of between seven and nine million tonnes, meaning a surface mine scheme would be viable. Miller Argent will therefore look to submit a planning application in summer 2012.

If given the go ahead, the development would create around 200 jobs, including skilled operatives, engineers and office staff.

As part of the planning process, Miller Argent is undertaking a public consultation to allow local communities to find out more about the proposals, and to feedback comments and suggestions to help shape the scheme.

This will include five public exhibitions across Pontlottyn, Rhymney, Abertysswg and Fochriw, which have been advertised locally, including in a newsletter sent to nearly 5,000 local residents, stakeholders and organisations.

Miller Argent's joint managing director Steve Tillman said: "We are now putting together proposals for a surface mine at Nant Llesg and the community consultation will play a key role in helping us understand local issues when designing our scheme.

"We understand the significant nature of these proposals and are fully committed to working closely with the local community to ensure that we mitigate issues and concerns early on, and help bring about community benefits wherever possible, such as by training local people to work on the new site.

"We look forward to discussing our proposals in more detail during the public consultation and would encourage local residents to come and talk to us."

The public exhibitions form part of a wider public consultation programme, which has included meeting representatives from local community groups and businesses, the launch of a Community Forum to allow regular dialogue between Miller Argent and local community representatives, and three stakeholder workshops to facilitate discussion on key issues.



As well as the surface mine, the planning application will include a number of associated land remediation schemes in the area surrounding the excavation area, which would see the removal of potentially unstable abandoned mine shafts and workings. This work would be fully funded by Miller Argent, and could help solve localised pollution problems caused by the old mine workings, such as the silting of Cwm Darran Park Lake.

Full details of the exhibitions are as follows:

Pontllyfseg Parish Community Hall, Merchant Street, Pontllyfseg, CF81 9PS
Wednesday 25 January 2012
2pm - 7pm

Rhymney - St David's Community Centre, High Street, Rhymney, NP22 5NB
Thursday 26 January 2012
1pm - 8pm

Abertyswg Community Centre, Arthur Street, Abertyswg, Rhymney, NP22 5AN
Friday 27 January 2012
1pm - 7pm

Fochriw Community Centre, Pontllyfseg Road, Fochriw, CF81 9NH
Saturday 28 January 2012
10am - 4pm

Ael Y Bryn Community Centre, Aneurin Terrace, Rhymney, NP22 5DR
Thursday 2 February 2012
1pm - 6pm

Anyone interested in finding out more about Miller Argent's plans can contact its community freephone helpline on 0800 169 6507, email ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk or visit www.nantllesg.co.uk.

ENDS

Media: for more information contact Andrew Smith or Clare Jones at PPS Group on 02920 660194 or 07585 903816

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited has been in business in South Wales for more than 10 years. As a local business it already employs more than 200 people of which around 80 per cent are local, to carry out the Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme.

Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited is a joint venture between the Miller Group Limited and Argent Group Plc.



vii) Press Coverage – 26 January 2012

Plans for surface mine go on display

by Our Correspondent, Rhymney Valley | Jan 26 2012



PUBLIC exhibitions will be held today (Thursday) through to Saturday to display its plans for a proposed new surface mine at Nant Llesg.

Miller Argent is holding a consultation period to display its plans for a proposed mine at Nant Llesg, north of Fochriw and west of Rhymney.

Exploratory works undertaken over the last six months have revealed a significant coal reserve of between seven and nine million tonnes, meaning a surface mine scheme would be viable. Miller Argent will therefore look to submit a planning application in summer 2012.

Miller Argent's joint managing director Steve Tillman said: "We are now putting together proposals for a surface mine at Nant Llesg and the community consultation will [play](#) a key role in helping us understand local issues when designing our scheme.

Full details of the exhibitions are:

Rhymney - St David's Community Centre, High Street, Rhymney, 1pm-8pm,
Thursday January 26

Abertysswg Community Centre, Arthur Street, Abertysswg, Rhymney, 1pm to
7pm Friday January 27

Fochriw Community Centre, Pontlloyn Road, Fochriw, 10am - 4pm Saturday
January 28

Ael Y Bryn Community Centre, Aneurin Terrace, Rhymney, 1pm to 6pm
Thursday February 2

Anyone interested in finding out more about Miller Argent's plans can freephone on 0800 169 6507, or visit www.nantllesg.co.uk.

Jobs and health fears over mine plan

RESIDENTS opposed to plans for a new surface mine in the Rhymney Valley have sounded their fears at public meetings.

Land reclamation group Miller Argent is to submit a planning application in the summer requesting permission to opencast at Nant Llesg, just north of Fochriw.

The application, if granted, will also regenerate land surrounding the mountain mining site.

If approved by the planning committee, the 15-year project could begin in 2014.

But activists hope it won't go that far. The United Valleys Action Group, who also fought a successful campaign against Cwmia,

Steven Impey

the US-based energy-from-waste company, are preparing a public meeting to debate the latest plans. They claim Miller Argent are "taking the Valleys back in time" and were planning work that would cause life-long "medical concerns" for local children.

Speaking at a consultation meeting last week, Len Dykes, a member of the action group's Rhymney branch, said: "I am concerned about our infants being born into an area surrounding an opencast mine."

Dave Morris, chairman of



Miller Argent's Nant Llesg surface mine scheme. Picture: Bob Prosser

Rhymney Community Council, fears mining could cause pollution in water supplies by affecting the River Rhymney.

Miller Argent, who also own the Ffos-y-Fran opencast mine near Merthyr Tydfil, believe their latest venture will bring prosperity back to the Rhymney Valley, offering up to 200 jobs and a platform for new businesses.

But there are fears the mine could actually cost jobs. Mitchell Field, managing director for Richard and Appleby, a cosmetics company which employs 140 people, said: "The main reason for contamination in our products is due to dust particles and, although it's the last thing I want to happen, we would have to consider alternative locations if the Welsh Government agree to these plans."

Mine protestors told health fears are 'myth'

OBJECTORS protesting at plans for a surface mine at Nant Llesg, near Rhymney, have been told that health fears from airborne dust are an "absolute myth".

That is the view of James Poyner, joint managing director for Merthyr Tydfil-based Miller Argent, the land reclamation group seeking permission to begin coal excavation at the site.

Speaking at the second of five consultation meetings in the Rhymney Valley last Thursday, he told the Express that worried residents are confusing "facts" with "fantasy", although plans recognise there "will be an impact on the public".

Mr Poyner said: "People still perpetuate this myth. I appreciate there are concerns about dust but we have people that are here to listen to those concerns and reassure the public with facts, not fantasy."

Although there are a number of activists opposing the proposals, Mr Poyner believes there will be just as many who think it will help the region prosper. He continued: "The scheme we are proposing is likely to employ up to 200 people and because there may not be sufficient sources of local labour to fill those places, we anticipate creating a training facility for local people."

"We are hoping not just to be able to bring jobs but also bring training as well. Some people might think we will be bringing in workers from elsewhere but that would not be financially viable. "It is not just about jobs. There are other issues we need to address such as the condition of the land. This is a wonderful opportunity to address the areas of land that need reclamation if consent is given. There are parts of land that are unsafe and some of it is subject to collapse. With land reclamation, we can handle that."

He added: "We're still working on our proposals and this consultation with the community is intended to help us formulate those proposals into a definite planning application which we anticipate will be ready for June or July."



James T Poyner



viii) Exhibition Boards - January/February 2012

Nant Llesg

Introduction

Welcome

Welcome to our exhibition on proposals for a new surface coal mine (incorporating land remediation) at Nant Llesg, north of Fochriw and west of Rhymney.

We have undertaken exploratory works over the last six months which have confirmed that a surface mine at Nant Llesg would recover between seven and nine million tonnes of high quality coal over an approximate period of fifteen years, creating approximately 200 new jobs.

We are therefore now in the process of putting together a planning application which we aim to submit summer 2012.

Aerial image of Nant Llesg site 1



- 1 Heads of the Valley Road A465
- 2 Rhymney
- 3 Portllotyn
- 4 Abertyswg
- 5 Fochriw

- Overburden dumps
- Excavation area
- Provisional site boundary (including potential reclamation areas)

Indicative outline of site shown in red, including reclamation works outside of the proposed surface mine area.

Public Consultation

As part of the planning process we will be undertaking detailed public consultation, which will enable local communities to raise issues or suggestions, to help shape our proposals.

The public consultation programme includes:

- Five public exhibitions
- Three stakeholder workshops
- The establishment of a Community Forum to enable local representatives to meet regularly with Miller Argent to discuss the proposals
- Meetings with local groups, organisations and representatives

The feedback from the public consultation will be collated and included in a Public Consultation Statement, which will be submitted as part of the planning application.

About Miller Argent

Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited is a joint venture between The Miller Group Limited and Argent Group PLC. The company was originally created to carry out the Ffos-y-ffran Land Reclamation Scheme in Merthyr Tydfil. The company currently employs around 200 people, the majority of which are local (86 per cent live within 15km of the site).

The company also currently provides a number of local community facilities including two minibuses and an education and training centre both available free of charge to local groups, as well as contributing to a multi million pound Community Benefit Fund administered by Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council.



www.nantllesg.co.uk



Nant Llesg

Site background

Work at Ffos-y-fran

We are already undertaking a scheme that is similar in scale and nature of that proposed at Nant Llesg – the Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme in Merthyr Tydfil – which we began work on in June 2007.

The current Ffos-y-fran scheme is the final phase of the East Merthyr Land Reclamation Scheme and will see the restoration of 367 hectares of derelict and dangerous land to the East of Merthyr Tydfil, along with the extraction of approximately 11 million tonnes of coal.

We therefore already have extensive experience of delivering this type of project locally, including the use of advanced technologies to minimise dust and noise impacts.

Local Mining Heritage

The Heads of the Valleys region is well known for its rich industrial heritage, which began in the 18th century with the start of iron and coal mining, leading to more intensive coal mining activities in the 19th and 20th centuries as technologies progressed. The communities in the north of the Rhymney Valley subsequently grew around the local mining activities.

As a result of the region's mining history, parts of the site and surrounding area still have a large number of abandoned mine shafts beneath the surface and a number of old mine spoil tips also exist.

These can prove hazardous if subsidence or shaft collapses occur, as has been seen in the area in recent years (including on the Nant Llesg site).



Shaft collapse at Nant Llesg – just beyond the opening is a 50m drop into deep water



Local use of listed derelict mine shafts and disused shafts at Nant Llesg

Remediation Where Required

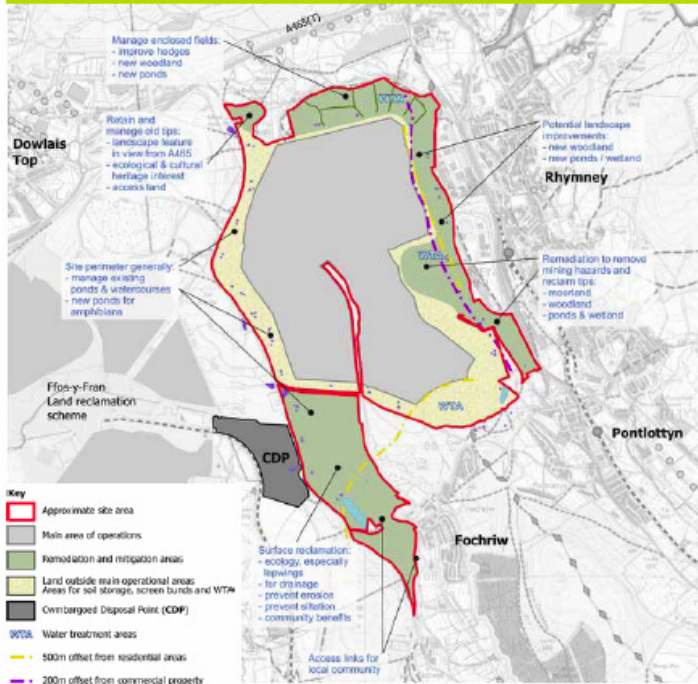
As well as extracting the viable coal reserves, the proposed mining operations on the Nant Llesg site would remove unstable old mine workings, reducing the potential risk of dangerous shaft and ground collapses in the future.

Working in conjunction with Caerphilly County Borough Council and the Coal Authority, we have also identified mine workings outside the excavation that could be remediated as part of the project, funded entirely by Miller Argent.

Part of this work would include mine workings that cause the lake in Parc Cwm Darran to silt up due to water flowing through the old mines, collecting silt and depositing it in the lake. This would be funded entirely by Miller Argent.



Remediation opportunities for Nant Llesg



Nant Llesg

Need for energy



Current energy statistics in the UK for electricity production (2010)

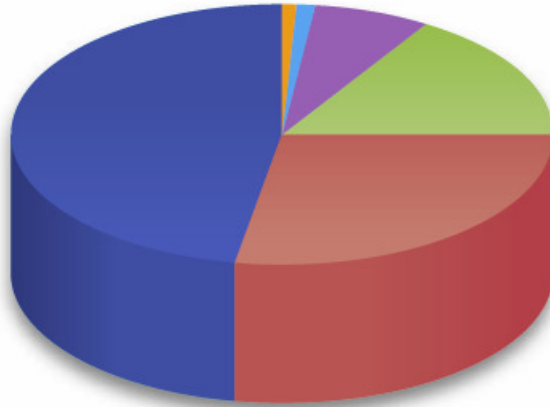
Source: Department of Energy & Climate Change – UK Energy in Brief 2011

We all need electricity in our homes, for our jobs and to provide energy for essential services such as schools and hospitals.

The majority of the coal from Nant Llesg could supply Aberthaw Power Station in the Vale of Glamorgan in South Wales, which currently supplies around 42% of electricity in South Wales.

Without access to local coal supplies from South Wales, Aberthaw Power Station is reliant on international imports.

While everyone recognises the importance of the role of renewable energy sources in the future, the electricity supplied by Aberthaw is critical in the short to mid-term to ensure a secure, affordable and balanced mix portfolio energy supply in South Wales.



Gas 47% Coal 28% Nuclear 16% Renewables 7% Oil 1% Imports 1%



Nant Llesg

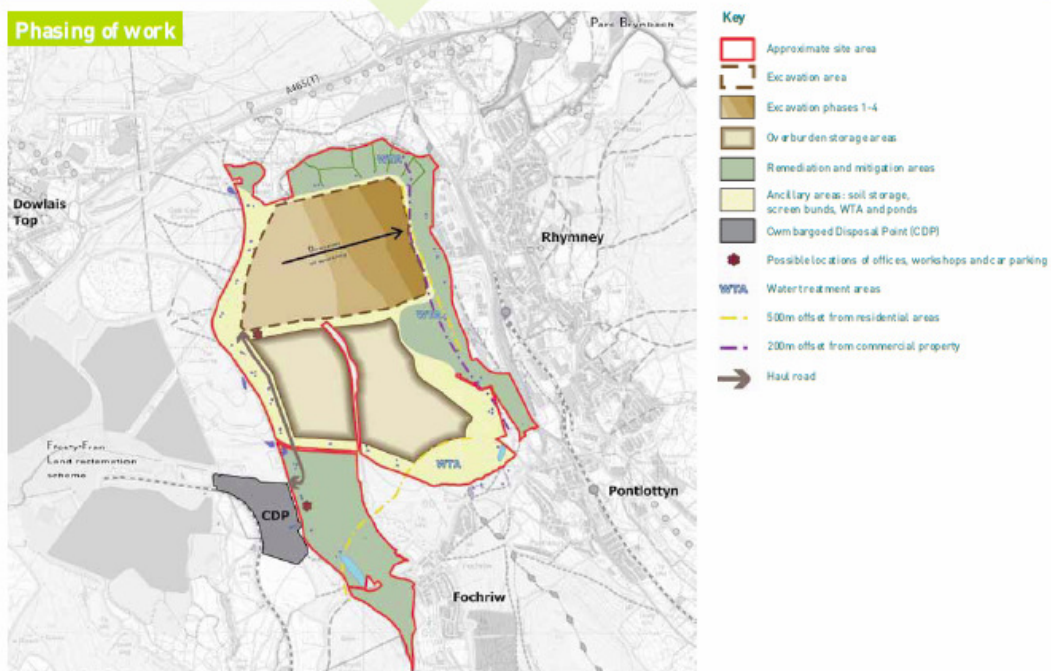
Nant Llesg proposals

Below is an initial draft site layout for the scheme which gives an overall indication of the shape and size of our proposals, based on the information we have obtained to date.

The exact details of the plan will be developed as we undertake further investigations, and based on the feedback received during the consultation process. This could include further land for remediation, mitigation or associated facilities.

This may change as a result of the consultation process prior to an application being submitted.

Phasing of work



Design of the scheme

The design and scale of the scheme is dictated by a large number of factors, one of which is the proximity of the neighbouring commercial and residential areas to the east and south of the site.

Welsh Government guidance recommends that, in most cases, a 500m buffer should be put in place between the surface mine workings and sensitive areas such as settlements, schools and hospitals, which is shown on our plan.

In the case of less sensitive areas, such as the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate to the west of Rhymney, a 200m buffer zone has been outlined. This would also enable remediation of abandoned mine workings that exist within this area.

Mining excavations could be up to 180m at their deepest point and cover an area of approximately 118 hectares.

It is expected that approximately 40 million cubic metres of excavated material would need to be temporarily stored above ground in the 'overburden' mounds.

Phasing of work

It is anticipated that the site would be worked in a west to east direction in a series of phases, with material initially being transported to overburden storage areas in the south of the site.

As the site progresses eastwards the overburden would be used to progressively backfill the void behind the advancing mining operations.

Overburden storage area at Ffos-y-Fran



Working Hours

The proposed working hours of the site would be:

Site Operations and Coal Haulage

Monday-Friday: 0700 – 1900 hrs
Saturday: 0700 – 1300 hrs

Blasting

Monday-Friday: 1000 – 1300 hrs
1400 – 1600 hrs
Saturday: 1000 – 1300 hrs

It is anticipated that no work would be undertaken on Sundays or Public/Bank Holidays



Nant Llesg

Processing and transporting the coal

Cwmbargoed Disposal Point

During mining operations, all coal produced would be transported by lorry to the Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, which is currently being used to process coal for the existing Ffos-y-fran scheme.

The Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, which is currently underutilised, was first commissioned in 1957 by the National Coal Board to blend and prepare local coals for distribution to customers throughout the UK and overseas.

We are proposing to construct a private road from the Nant Llesg site to the disposal point, to keep the lorries off the public highways.

Where does the coal go?

The majority of coal from Nant Llesg would be transported by rail to Aberthaw Power Station and some of our other major customers, such as Port Talbot Steel Works.

A small proportion of the coal, likely to be up to 50,000 tonnes per year, would leave the disposal point by road for other markets, such as the steam engine and domestic market.



Rail Transport

We currently have an agreement with National Rail for a maximum of 30 trains per week, known as train paths, for transporting coal from Ffos-y-fran. However, currently we use a lot less, so all the coal from Nant Llesg can be transported by rail without having to increase this limit. Therefore no extra train paths would be required.

A full study will be undertaken in relation to the potential impact of an increase in train movements.



Traffic and transport

We are currently in the process of undertaking a detailed traffic and transport study that will explore how Nant Llesg is likely to impact local roads and the public transport network.

The types of impacts that will be considered include:

- HGVs transporting processed coal from site
- Employees travelling to work
- On site coal haulage routes crossing points with public highways
- Access to new offices/workshops/car park off Common Road
- Historical and potential accident 'black spots'

We do not anticipate any major transport impacts to occur as a result of our proposals.

Nant Llesg

Environment

In order to progress a planning application, we will undertake a comprehensive study of the potential environmental impacts of our proposals, which will be summarised in an Environmental Statement which will form part of our planning application.

This will explore a range of potential issues including: ecology, noise, health, dust, visual impact, vibration from blasting, hydrology, hydrogeology, traffic, archaeology and social impacts.

This study will identify and set out the significance of impacts, including any cumulative impacts from other surrounding developments, and how we propose to mitigate them.

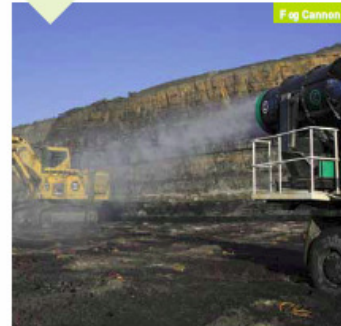
Air quality and dust

We are aware that surface coal mining has the potential to impact on local air quality due to dust generated during operations, as well as from exhaust emissions from on site machinery and vehicles.

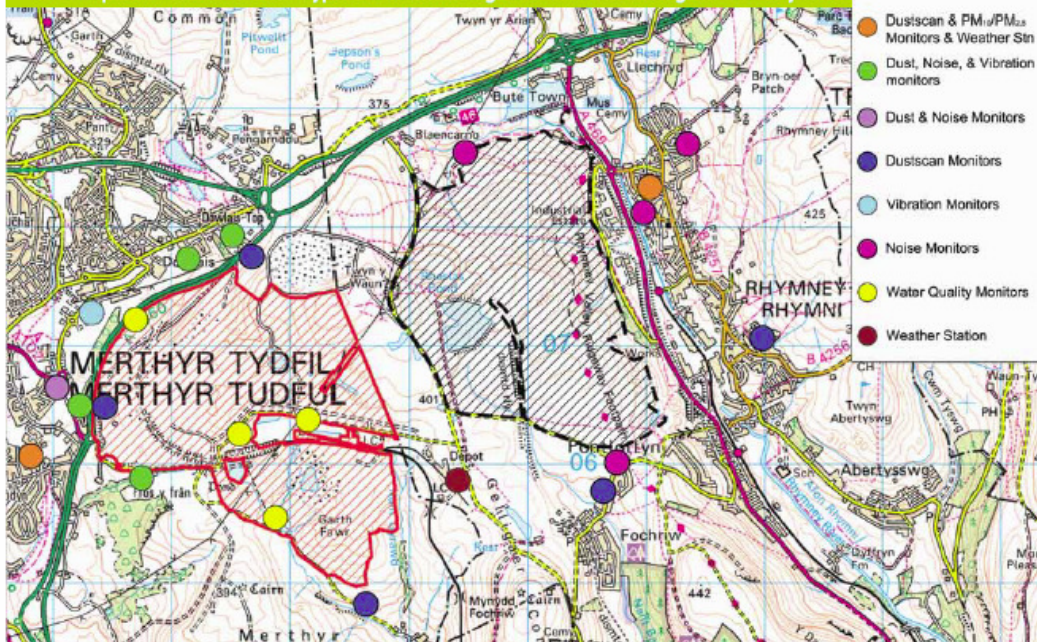
We will undertake an air quality assessment to understand the potential impacts on local communities. Based on this evidence, mitigation measures will be identified, including preparing a dust management plan to minimise these impacts.

Air quality would be monitored throughout the life of the project from points around the site, to ensure local communities are not adversely impacted by dust.

We currently have a range of innovative techniques successfully in place at Ffos-y-fran to control dust. These include bowsers to dampen dust on roads, as well as the use of 'fog cannons', which spray a fine mist into the air next to works to help contain dust levels.



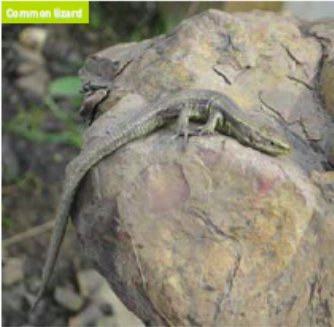
Proposed locations and types of monitoring around Nant Llesg and Ffos-y-fran



Nant Llesg

Environment

Common lizard



Ecology and nature conservation

We will undertake a comprehensive study of the impact of our proposals on local ecology. This will identify measures we need to take to minimise the impact of our proposals on local wildlife and nature.

Surveys will be undertaken on a range of important species and habitats such as: great crested newts, amphibians, reptiles, bats, birds, otters, water voles, badgers, dragonflies and fish.

As part of the restoration we would create habitats where native wildlife and plants can thrive.



Noise

There are a number of noise producing activities associated with the proposed surface mine, including heavy machinery excavating and moving large quantities of coal and overburden as well as blasting.

The impact of noise will be investigated to ensure it would not adversely impact neighbouring communities and can be effectively constrained within the limits set out by the Welsh Government.

Noise mitigation will form an integral part of the design of the operation. We already use a range of advanced technologies within our machinery at Ffos-y-ffran to minimise noise impacts on local communities, something we would also look to develop further at Nant Llesg.

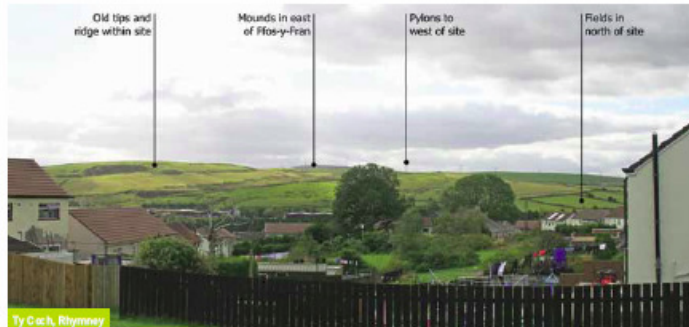


Checking monitoring equipment



Nant Llesg

Visual impact and landscape



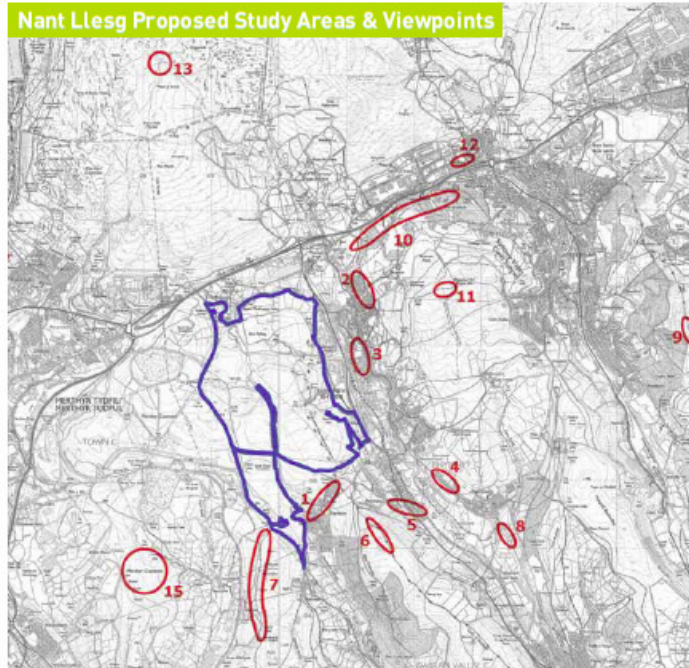
Due to the scale, nature and location of the project, a detailed visual impact assessment will be undertaken to identify key local viewpoints that would be impacted throughout the life of the project, and what measures could be put in place to minimise impacts.

The study will take into account visual impact from within a 5km radius of the site, based around key viewpoints.

We will design the scheme to try and reduce visual impact where possible, such as through the phasing of the works, and would also use measures such as screening to reduce visual impact for local communities and at sensitive viewpoints.

The landscape will be analysed to ensure that key existing features on the site can be maintained or reinstated upon remediation of the site.

Nant Llesg Proposed Study Areas & Viewpoints



- Key**
- Approximate site study area
 - Areas within which viewpoints will be identified:
- 1 Fochriw
 - 2 Rhymney
 - 3 Rhymney Conservation Area
 - 4 Abercrombie
 - 5 Penllottyn
 - 6 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk (Cefn Bithdy)
 - 7 Bideleac, Plynedd Fochriw
 - 8 National Cycle Route 401, Abercrombie
 - 9 Siffoyn Valley Walk
 - 10 National Cycle Route 46, Parc Brynllach
 - 11 Bideleac, Rhymney Hill
 - 12 Waulundog
 - 13 Tynyau Gwynion, BBNP
 - 14 Brynllach/Morlais Castle Golf Club
 - 15 Morllyn Common



Nant Llesg

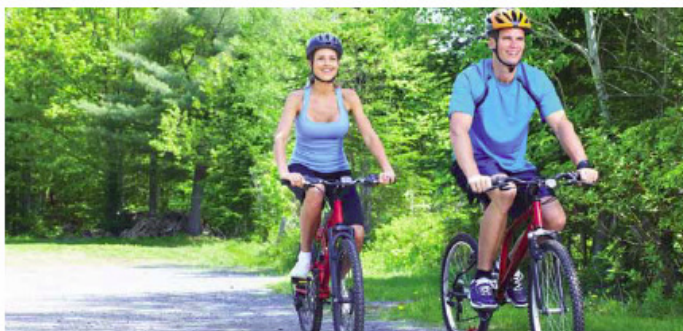
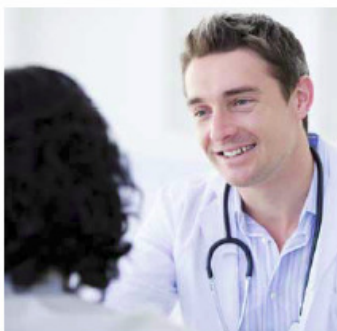
Health



Although health throughout Wales is improving, the rate and distribution of improvement is not uniform, with significant pockets of poor health within the Upper Rhymney Valley.

In keeping with best practice, and to facilitate a more joined up approach to planning, the environment and health - we are preparing a Health Impact Assessment to investigate, assess and address potential community health issues and concerns. The assessment will primarily be used to inform the decision making process, but will also result in a Health Action Plan which will outline suggested initiatives to support local people.

Local input is crucial to help us complete this work, by allowing us to understand your health concerns, and seek your views on potential community support initiatives.





Nant Llesg

Community and employment



We are committed to working closely with our neighbours to minimise impacts and maximise potential benefits.

There are a number of community benefits we are committed to delivering as part of this development including:

- **Up to 200 new jobs**
- **Training opportunities for local people**
- **Significant supplier opportunities for local businesses**
- **Reclamation of derelict parts of the site and potentially surrounding areas**
- **A significant community benefits package**
- **Long term improvements to the site upon remediation**

We would therefore encourage you to get involved to ensure these benefits help local people as much as possible. In particular, you may have opinions on how the Community Benefits Fund should be managed or what types of local schemes it should be used for.

Local Economy

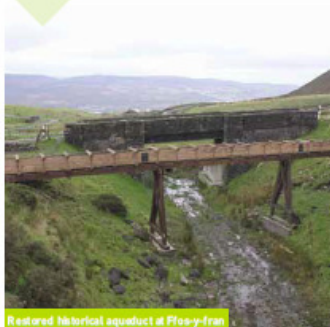
We believe Nant Llesg would bring significant local benefit to the area, including the creation of around 200 new jobs.

We would work with the community to help local people train and apply for these new jobs. Currently, more than 85 per cent of our workforce at Ffos-y-ffran, live within 15km of the site.

There is a growing local need to recruit new skilled people into the mining industry and we are aware that some of the skills required are not readily obtainable. We are therefore in the process of setting up a development programme to train people so that they can work on Ffos-y-ffran in preparation for Nant Llesg. This will be for all aspects of work ranging from operatives, to engineers and office staff.

We will be undertaking a detailed social-economic assessment to determine more details on the likely economic impact of our proposals on the upper Rhymer Valley.

We also anticipate a significant level of indirect employment as a result of the Nant Llesg scheme generated by suppliers, as well as increased local economic activity created by new employees and suppliers spending money on goods and services.



Restored historical aqueduct at Ffos-y-ffran



Nant Llesg

Long-term vision for Nant Llesg



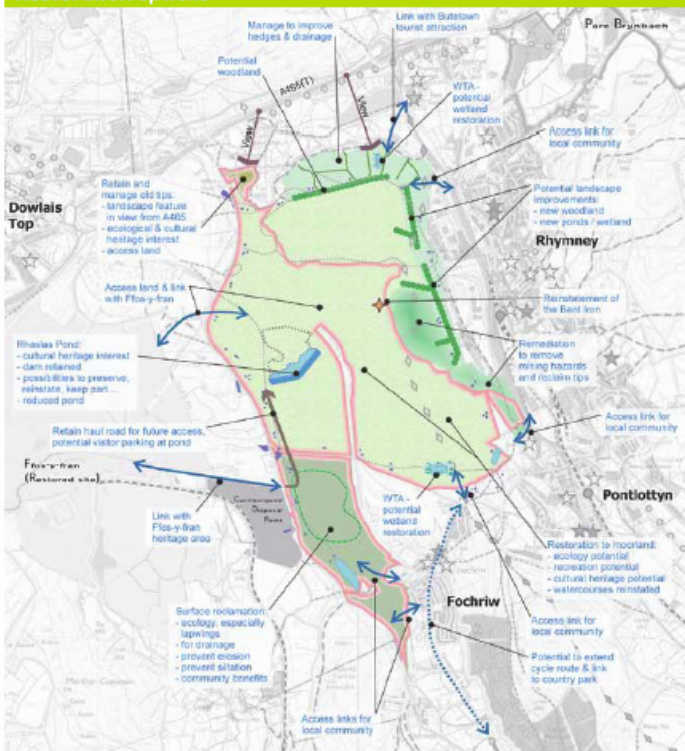
As part of the project, Miller Argent would restore the land as the project progresses, with each area being shaped and re-soiled. Some areas where only remediation (but no mining) is to take place could be restored earlier.

Due to the nature of the earthworks being undertaken, the new landscape can be reformed as the Council and local community wish.

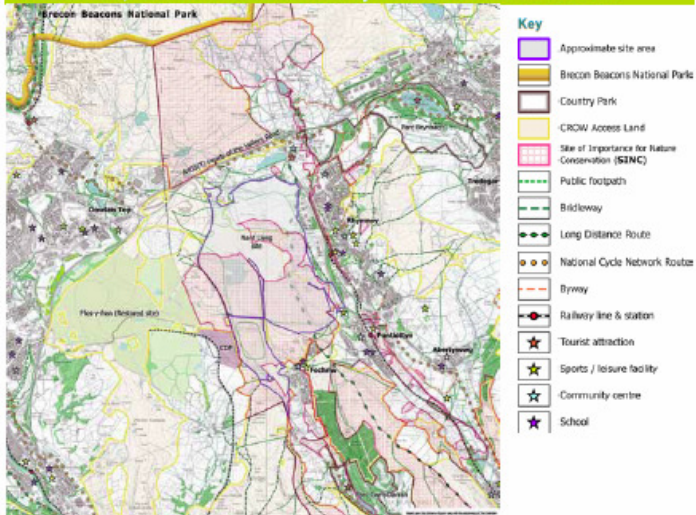
We are therefore keen to hear what the local community would like to see incorporated into the plan for the site following completion of the surface-mine work, for example the inclusion of a fishing lake, cycle paths and nature conservation areas. Please let us know your ideas for the future of Nant Llesg.



Restoration options



Recreation, tourism and community facilities around the site





Nant Llesg

Have your say

We want to hear local views on the Nant Llesg proposals to help us develop our final scheme before we submit a planning application later this year.

If you would like to discuss the plans in more detail, please talk to a member of the project team at the exhibition. We would also encourage you to record your comments and ideas using the comments form provided at the exhibition or online at www.nantllesg.co.uk.

All comments will be recorded, analysed and responded to by the project team, and included in a public consultation report that will be submitted as part of a planning application.

What next?

We will be continuing our technical studies over the coming months with the aim of submitting a planning application in summer 2012.

During this period we will continue to engage with local communities, including through the Community Forum that has been established to create a two way dialogue between ourselves and representatives of the local community. If you would like to know who sits on the Community Forum, please let us know.

The results of the public consultation will be made available to the public as a report, which will allow the local community to see how we have responded to the concerns and suggestions raised.

We will continue to ensure we keep the local community updated on the progress of our plans.



Project Timeline

Below is an indicative timeline for the project, although this is subject to change depending on the final agreed parameters of the surface mine:

Summer 2012

Submission of planning application

2014

Commencement of work on site

2026

Backfilling and restoration of the final void after completion of mining. Progressive restoration would be carried out during mining from about 2017 onwards

2029

Scheme complete





ix) Comments Form



Nant Llesg Surface Mine

Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:			
Community benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supplier opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traineeships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational visits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran	<input type="checkbox"/>

About your self	<i>Please tick</i>	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
How old are you?	Under 25 <input type="checkbox"/>	46-55 <input type="checkbox"/>
	26-35 <input type="checkbox"/>	56-65 <input type="checkbox"/>
	36-45 <input type="checkbox"/>	65+ <input type="checkbox"/>

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantllesg.co.uk



x) Fochriw Public Meeting report – 21 September 2011

Meeting Minutes

**Miller Argent public meeting (organised by Cllr David Hardacre)
Fochriw Community Centre, September 21st 2011, 7.00-9.00pm**

Attendees

Members of the local community: 29
Cllr David Hardacre, CCBC (DH)
Tyrone Powell, Fochriw Welfare CF Partnership
James T. Poyner, Miller Argent (JTP)
Stephen Tillman, Miller Argent (ST)
Bernard Llewellyn, Miller Argent (BL)
David Mason, Miller Argent (DM)
Clare Jones, PPS Group (CJ)

Welcome & Introduction

Cllr David Hardacre (DH) chaired the meeting, and gave an introduction explaining this was an opportunity for local residents to find out more about the plans for Nant Llesg, although it was at an early stage in the process. DH introduced the Miller Argent team.

A question was asked regarding whether this meeting formed part of the public consultation on the plans?

ST explained that a record would be made of the meeting and people's views recorded, but that this was a pre-consultation phase of public engagement, and formal public consultation would take place later this year forming part of the planning process.

Introduction to exploration works

ST gave a presentation explaining firstly the history of the Ffos-y-fran scheme, the reasons behind the local-authority initiated reclamation scheme, about the dust suppression techniques used, the rail head transportation, the jobs created and training opportunities, and the project duration. He then outlined the potential Nant Llesg site and explained the current exploration works, the site safety issues and need for remediation, the timing and how the environmental monitoring would work.

Discussion

A series of issues and suggestions were raised, and questions asked by members of the public.

The key issues to be highlighted by local residents were as follows:

- Concerns about health impact and investigations
- Concerns about impact of dust
- Commitment to creation of jobs for local people
- Effective management of community fund
- Need for the local community to be able trust Miller Argent
- Environmental impacts on features such as Rhas Las pond



A summary of the questions asked and responses are grouped in topic areas below:

Investigative works

1. **How deep will the bore holes be during the investigative work?** The holes will go as deep as the basal seam to explore the amount and quality of coal available, and to identify any existing voids from former coal and iron workings.
2. **What is the basal seam?** It is the lower four fault.

Financial issues

3. **Is it true that Miller Argent is having financial problems and therefore Nant Llesg is being promoted to attract funds?** Miller Argent confirmed that this was not the case (in relation to Miller Argent itself which is an independent company – as well as both parent companies, Miller and Argent).
4. **Is it true that MA now wants to mine Nant Llesg because it has not found the quality of coal it was expecting at Ffos-y-fran?** It was explained that MA expect Nant Llesg to have a similar quality and quantity of coal as Ffos-y-fran, which is currently on programme in terms of quality and quantity of coal. Alternative markets have had to be found for a small proportion of the coal which does not meet the requirements of its main client, Aberthaw Power Station due to sulphur levels.
5. **If Ffos-y-fran is on target - why is MA looking to undertake further coal extraction at Nant Llesg?** This is due to demand from Aberthaw Power Station which is looking for security of supply, due to proposed significant investment in emissions control.
6. **It was questioned whether Miller Argent could apply for EU grants if the site was classed as a 'reclamation'?** It was clarified that by law, the project would not be eligible for funding and that all reclamation work would be funded by the coal resource.

Quantity and use of coal

7. **Tower Colliery has just been granted planning permission for a new open cast mine – is it true the coal from the two mines will be blended for use at Aberthaw?** No this isn't true.
8. **How many tonnes of coal in total is going to be sent to Aberthaw?** 1.5 million tonnes a year (Aberthaw needs 3M tonnes a year)
9. **The quality of coal at Rhas Las pit was questioned.** It was explained that this would become clear from the investigative work.

Health

10. **It was expressed that one of the biggest concerns locally is health –and it was questioned who will be commissioning the Health Impact Assessment?** Miller Argent has appointed a team of expert consultants (to investigate air quality, dust, noise etc). RPS has been appointed to conduct the Health Impact Assessment.
11. **Would it be possible for the local community to have a say in who does the Health Impact Assessment (concern was expressed that RPS have been used by Covanta and there is a lack of confidence locally)?** It was explained that a number of specialist consultants had been interviewed and the RPS team were chosen for their expertise and experience in this field. It is unlikely to be the same team as worked on Covanta. The community will be consulted as part of the Health Impact Assessment so will have an opportunity to feed into the report. The Council will also



do its own independent assessment.

Transport of coal and road impacts

12. **How are you going to move coal from Nant Llesg to the Cwmbargoed Disposal Point?** The smaller, 20 tonne lorries will be used to transfer the coal on private roads that will cross existing public roads using traffic signals.
13. **Current residents have a problem with the junction on Bogey Road and feel it should be set to public priority?** MA believes it is set to public priority, but this is an issue controlled by the Council. Miller Argent will look into this and liaise with Caerphilly Council. **ACTION MA**
14. **It was reported that trucks have been seen at Ffos-y-fran not going through the wheel washes causing mud on public roads?** Miller Argent requested that if this is witnessed it is promptly reported so that the lorry can be tracked and the issue appropriately dealt with.
15. **Concern was expressed that Miller Argent had gone back on its commitment to transport all coal by train by supplying other markets using road transportation?** Miller Argent explained that initially it was intended that all coal would go to Aberthaw by rail, but that the specifications of the coal required had changed. Currently, most coal is transported by rail (including to other markets such as steel industry), but up to 50,000 tonnes a year could start to be transported by road for steam engine market etc.

Mining methods and dust suppression

16. **In terms of dust suppression – how many fog cannons will there be compared to excavators?** There will be 2 fog cannons and 4 excavators. The need for a fog cannon depends on various factors including the location of the works, therefore it is not necessary to have a cannon for every excavator.
17. **Do the fog cannons function in freezing weather or high winds?** Yes to both, the cannons are positioned according to weather conditions.
18. **Can you explain what ‘modern mining methods’ are as referred to on the Miller Argent website?** The use of state-of-the-art machinery to increase efficiency and minimise noise and emissions impacts, such as by using acoustic attenuation methods.
19. **Will there be dust suppression of the overburdens to prevent dust blowing across villages on sunny days, as sometimes happens at Ffos-y-fran?** Miller Argent encouraged local residents to contact them if there are problems at Ffos-y-fran, and noted the concern in relation to Nant Llesg. Currently, the overburdens are hydro seeded so that they grass over to prevent long-term dust issues.
20. **Concern that tipping on overburdens creates dust that is not suppressed?** This concern was noted and Miller Argent highlighted that dust levels would be continually monitored.

Covanta

21. **Why did Covanta decide to sell land to Covanta?** Covanta approached Miller Argent, which then agreed an option on an area of land for the facility which is due for remediation. This will only come into effect should the proposed facility gain planning consent following completion of the rigorous planning and environmental process. Otherwise the area of land will be remediated as previously agreed.



Environmental impacts

22. **The plans will cover Rhas Las pond – what mitigation measures will be in place in relation to fish stock and impact on water sources for the area?** Fish surveys and environmental surveys will be undertaken and mitigation measures put in place (including the relocation of fish). The water draining will be regulated and it is likely it will be dispersed into lagoons.
23. **Does the removal of Rhas Las make dust suppression more challenging (particularly during dry periods) for Miller Argent which currently uses it as a water source at Ffos-y-fran, particularly as it would have two sites?** This would be considered as part of the planning application.
24. **Will Rhas Las be returned to its original state after the project?** This will depend on what the local community and Council wants to see – Miller Argent is able to reform the landscape as required, and could include a new pond or lake.
25. The point was made that the area had been identified as an area of outstanding natural beauty by Caerphilly Council in the draft LDP, but this had been changed for the final version. It was also pointed out that the overburdens are planned for a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

Community fund

26. **Concern was expressed that the agreed community fund from Miller Argent is not effectively reaching local communities who need it?** Miller Argent explained that this money has been paid quarterly to Merthyr Council which is responsible for distributing this money. It was also highlighted that although Miller Argents sits on the funding panel, it has no voting rights but is there to ensure probity and process.
27. Cllr Hardacre explained that he has requested a sum of money from Merthyr Council for impacted communities in Caerphilly - which is currently under consideration.
28. It was suggested that there should be a distance condition on the use of the community fund that applies to the S106
29. Concern was expressed about how complex the application process is for obtaining community funding – the local Autistic Society has failed to obtain funds following an application.

The scheme

30. **Will Miller Argent look to expand their surface mine working further south based on their extensive land ownership?** It was clarified that Nant Llesg is a separate scheme with separate planning and licenses needed etc. ST stated that a large amount of investment and resources was needed to put together a planning application for Nant Llesg, and that currently no other plans are on the table. However, ST clarified that this is subject to change long term depending on the business and management etc.
31. **How many years is the scheme?** This depends on the tonnage which will be indicated by the investigative works. If the maximum number of tonnes that Miller Argent believes could be on the site are available, the site would be fully restored by 2029.
32. **The definition of the site as a land reclamation scheme was questioned in terms of accuracy?** Miller Argent agreed that it is not a reclamation in the same way as Ffos-y-fran is part of a wider formal reclamation project, although the site would be fully remediated at no cost to the public purse following coal extraction works. Miller Argent agreed to take on board this point and consider it in the naming and describing of its project moving forward.



33. **Could the black line expand further?** Not significantly due to the existing settlement constraints and because to the south of the area, sufficient space is required for the overburdens.

Employment

34. **It was highlighted that local employment is an important element of this scheme, and it was asked how many of the local workforce are indigenous to the area?** Miller Argent will find this out, but currently around 80% of the workforce lives within 15km of the site. **ACTION MA.**

Meeting ends

The meeting ended at approximately 9pm.



xi) Rhymney Residents Public Meeting report – 13 October 2011

Meeting Minutes

Miller Argent meeting with Rhymney Area Residents' Group Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, September 7th 2011, 6.30-8.00pm

Attendees

Rhymney Area Residents' Group (RARG): 10 members attended including secretary Ann Williams & chair Julie Hickman
James T. Poyner, *Miller Argent (JTP)*

Stephen Tillman, *Miller Argent (ST)*
Bernard Llewellyn, *Miller Argent (BL)*
Andrew Smith, *PPS Group (AS)*

Welcome & Introduction

Miller Argent's Stephen Tillman (ST) thanked RARG for attending the meeting. The Miller Argent team introduced themselves, including PPS Group's Andrew Smith.

Introduction to exploration works

ST gave a presentation explaining firstly the history of the Ffos-y-fran scheme, the reasons behind the local-authority initiated reclamation scheme, about the dust suppression techniques used, the rail head transportation, the jobs created and training opportunities and the project duration. He then outlined the potential Nant Llesg site and explained the current exploration works, the site safety issues and need for remediation, the timing and how the environmental monitoring would work.

Discussion

A discussion followed, as summarised below:

- One resident asked for clarification that the two large 'lumps' would be removed – MA confirmed that these temporary overburden dumps would be removed as part of the final restoration for the Ffos-y-fran scheme.
- Concerns were expressed that residents would live the rest of their life 'looking at a black hole'.
- On the issue of safety, residents said they had never heard of anyone falling down a shaft.
- Concerns were raised about dust, particularly with the prevailing wind towards Rhymney.
- A question was asked about monitoring and the size of particulates. MA confirmed both PM2.5 and PM10 would be monitored in line with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). JTP explained that – although MA does test for both PM 2.5 and PM10, PM 10 also includes PM2.5.
- A question was asked about the location of the monitors. MA explained this would be agreed with the local authority, but would be all around the site, including at local schools.
- Asked if local people could access the results of monitoring and if it was independent, MA said it pays expert consultants to do the monitoring, but that the data could not be altered, would be downloaded automatically and the information was handled at strictly managed accredited laboratories; MA also confirmed the local authority would have access to the data and that it would

also be available on the official national air quality website.

- A comment was made that local residents are worried about the cumulative impact of the Covanta application, along with the landfill site and potential MA scheme. JTP said it was a very good point and that it would be addressed as a part of any planning application made by MA and that the EIA would have to address the cumulative impact of the various proposals, that any proposal cannot and would not be considered in isolation or it would automatically fail.
- Asked which authority would decide on the application MA confirmed any planning application would be addressed to and considered by Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- Asked why MA was describing Nant Llesg as a reclamation scheme and not just a mine, JTP said on Ffos-y-fran – where the mining was solely granted to finance and do the work to complete the East Merthyr Land Reclamation Scheme - the case was clear. If Nant Llesg went ahead he said MA was seeking firstly to mine the coal, but that secondarily the need to remediate the site was extremely important and the preferred way to fund the work was by extracting the coal. Residents expressed their view that the leaflet distributed by MA was 'misleading', as they felt the project was not about reclamation, but only about the coal. ST clarified that any application would be for a surface mine.
- A question was raised about the money MA would make from selling the coal. MA did not say how much it would earn from the sale of the coal, but JTP said MA is a commercial business and does not shy away from the fact it needs to make a profit.
- A question was asked about changes to the height of the existing spoil tips. MA explained the land would essentially be returned to a similar height.
- A question was asked about why the spoil tips needed to be further treated. MA confirmed it was to remove further coal.
- A question was asked about which way the mining would be done – from the top of the site down or from the factory-end up. MA confirmed it does not know at this stage until the initial investigations are complete, but that it would hope to be able to start away from the factories and work towards them.
- Questions and concerns were raised about the visual impact. MA said it depends where residents' houses were – some would see it while those living further downslope would not. MA said once studies were complete it would be able to tell residents what they would possibly see.
- A question was raised about noise levels based – in part – following conversations with residents of Merthyr Tydfil. ST said there had been no complaints to the statutory bodies which had been upheld during the time MA has been operating at Ffos-y-fran. ST said there will be some noise impacts, but these would be within regulations and limits set by the Local Planning Authority.
- On health a number of concerns were raised. MA explained the national policy MTAN2 (Coal) requires a health impact assessment to be carried out, including dealing with cumulative impact.
- Distance from properties was also raised. MA explained the regulatory distance for coal mining to houses is 500m, but that Council-owned land which also needed remediating (and is closer than 500m) could also be included in the works, but this was a decision for the local council.
- Does MA anticipate any problems for local neighbouring factories? MA said there are potential impacts, but that it was already in dialogue with



owners/managers at those factories.

- Where does the coal for Aberthaw power station currently come from? MA explained that some comes from Ffos-y-fran and other sites in South Wales, some from overseas including Russia.
- Will local people have access to cheap coal for domestic use? MA said it would consider the issue, but that there are tight constraints currently preventing them supplying local merchants directly. ST said MA could consider making application proposal if there was strong support.
- Is Argent part of BT? JTP explained MA is a 50/50 joint venture between Miller Group, a privately-owned construction company (which has an open-cast history stretching back to 1942) and Argent Group Plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of BT Pension Fund. ST added that the BT Pension Fund is not owned by BT.
- If you get planning permission how long would the works take to complete? MA said it depends on the volume of coal, which can be extracted at between 750k and 1m tonnes a year.
- Is there a legal depth limit? No
- Further health concerns were raised, particularly regards children. MA said there has been no proven link between open-cast/surface mining and asthma, that the Health & Safety Executive has a statutory duty to record all instances of industrial asthma and that none has been recorded; it also said the application must include a full Health Impact Assessment (HIA). When asked who would carry out the HIA, MA said it would commission expert consultants. At Ffos-y-fran it said the results were assessed by the health board and that the local authority also completed its own health assessment.
- Local residents present expressed their feelings that 'enough is enough', that it was a 'difficult time' for the top of the Valley. They said while they appreciated the need for coal they would rather live with the risks associated with the shafts than have the site remediated. JTP said MA welcomes all comments, that it takes on board all concerns and will seek to mitigate where it can.
- A question was asked about blasting. MA said the blasting was very quiet and welcomed any of the residents interested to come to the site to see how it works.
- One last point was asked – if senior employees would be forced to live locally. MA said it could not tell any of its employees where to live, but that at Ffos-y-fran 80 per cent lived within 15 km of the site.

Meeting ends

The meeting ended at 8pm. AS said he would send minutes of the meeting to Ann Williams to distribute within RARG. MA thanked RARG for attending.

Nant Llesg

Surface Mine
incorporating Land Remediation

Buddsoddi yng Nghymru
Investing in Wales

[Nant Llesg Update](#)
[Community Engagement](#)
[Community Benefits](#)
[About Miller Argent](#)
[Contact](#)

Involving the local community

We are committed to keeping the local community informed about our plans, including conducting a public consultation exercise as part of the planning application process. There will be various ways throughout the project where we will seek to keep you informed of our plans and ask for your views.

- Overburden dumps
- Excavation area
- Provisional site boundary (including potential redemption areas)

Indicative outline of site shown in red, including remediation works outside of the proposed surface mine area.

Nant Llesg Update

Results from Miller Argent's public consultation to feed into planning application

In order to help us develop our plans for the proposed new surface mine and incorporated land remediation at Nant Llesg, we have been undertaking on-going community engagement, including a formal pre-application public consultation that took place earlier this year.

As part of the community engagement programme we held three stakeholder workshops, and five public exhibitions in January 2012.

Members of the Miller Argent project team were in attendance to answer questions and explain the proposals to attendees. A comments form was also available for people to record their views, comment on specific aspects of the scheme and request further information.

The formal deadline for comments was 20th February 2012, but we are still happy to receive comments and suggestions as the project progresses – please visit the [contact us page](#).

Over 200 people attended the exhibitions and provided feedback to the team and more than 30 written responses were received. We are currently analysing and consolidating all comments and suggestions and this information will help shape our proposals and the long-term vision for the site.

Following the successful completion of exploratory works, and the close of the formal public consultation period, Miller Argent will be submitting a planning application later this summer.

If you were unable to attend one of these exhibitions, you can download a copy of the [exhibition boards](#), and [plans](#) from this website. You can also download a copy of the information leaflets that have been circulated to local residents by clicking on the links below:

[Download latest information leaflet - edition 2](#)

[Download information leaflet - edition 1](#)

Community Engagement

Guide Timeline

Early 2012
Public consultation undertaken

Summer 2012
Submission of planning application

2014
Commencement of work on site (subject to planning permission)

2029
Scheme completed

Community Benefits

About Miller Argent

Involving the local community

We are committed to keeping the local community informed about our plans, including conducting a public consultation exercise as part of the planning application process. There will be various ways throughout the project where we will seek to keep you informed of our plans and ask for your views.



- Overburden dumps
- Excavation area
- Provisional site boundary (including potential redemption areas)

Indicative outline of site shown in red, including remediation works outside of the proposed surface mine area.

Nant Llesg Update

Community Engagement

Community Benefits

About Miller Argent

Community Engagement

We are committed to working closely with the local community as we develop our plans, to ensure we fully understand and respond to the concerns and requirements of the local community.

We undertook a formal pre-application public consultation programme that commenced in January 2012, to allow the local community to find out more about our initial proposals, discuss the plans with members of the development team, and feedback any comments or suggestions.

Miller Argent held five public exhibitions between 25th January and the 2nd February 2012 at the locations listed below:

- Pontlottyn:** 25 Jan (2pm-7pm)
- Rhymney:** 26 Jan (1pm-8pm)
- Abertyswg:** 27 Jan (1pm-7pm)
- Fochriw:** 28 Jan (10am-4pm)
- Rhymney:** 2 Feb (1pm-6pm)

If you were unable to attend one of these exhibitions, you can download a copy of the [exhibition boards](#).

Copies of the plans used at the exhibition are also available to download by clicking on a link below:

- [PLAN: Site Context](#)
- [PLAN: Remediation Opportunities](#)
- [PLAN: Phasing](#)
- [PLAN: Long Term Vision](#)
- [PLAN: Recreation, Tourism and Community Facilities](#)
- [PLAN: Monitoring locations](#)

For more information on the public exhibitions, please see [Contact](#).

Nant Llesg Community Forum

In addition to the public consultation events, the Nant Llesg Community Forum has also been set up to act as a platform for local representatives to discuss the project with the Miller Argent team.

The aim is for members of the Community Forum to discuss and advise Miller Argent on key issues affecting the local community and to help Miller Argent minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits of the new surface coal mine at Nant Llesg on the local area.

The Terms of Reference of the Community Forum are:

To consider and advise on issues that might affect the local community and key stakeholders as a result of Miller Argent's surface mining activities at Nant Llesg and subsequent restoration works. To ensure the Forum maintains focus, consideration of issues relating to coal mining in general and the use of fossil fuels is not within the scope of the Forum.'

The full Terms of Reference and invitee list can be seen by clicking the links below:

- [Terms of Reference](#)
- [Invitee list](#)

To view minutes from the previous meetings, click on the links below:

- [Nant Llesg Community Forum – 14 December 2011](#)
- Nant Llesg Community Forum – 15 March 2012 (coming soon)

If you would like any further information about the Community Forum, please [contact us](#).

Involving the local community

We are committed to keeping the local community informed about our plans, including conducting a public consultation exercise as part of the planning application process. There will be various ways throughout the project where we will seek to keep you informed of our plans and ask for your views.



- Overburden dumps
- Excavation area
- Provisional site boundary (including potential redemption areas)

Indicative outline of site shown in red, including remediation works outside of the proposed surface mine area.

Nant Llesg Update

Community Engagement

Community Benefits

About Miller Argent

Community Benefits

As part of the Nant Llesg surface mine and land remediation scheme, Miller Argent would be fully responsible for remediation of the site upon completion of the coal recovery.

Due to the nature of the earthworks being undertaken, the new landscape could be reformed however the Council and local community wishes. We are therefore keen to hear what the local community would like to see incorporated into the plan for the site upon completion of the work, for example the inclusion of a fishing lake, cycle paths and nature conservation areas. If you have any ideas please [get in touch](#).

We are committed to working closely with our neighbours to ensure our plans bring as much benefit as possible, as well as minimising any potential effects.

Some of the local benefits we would anticipate include:

- Approximately 200 new jobs
- Training facility and opportunities for local people
- Significant supplier opportunities for local businesses
- Reclamation of derelict parts of the site and potentially surrounding areas
- A significant community benefits package
- Further understanding of the industrial heritage of the area through archaeological work
- Long term improvements to the site upon remediation

For further information please [get in touch](#).



Nant Llesg

Surface Mine
incorporating Land Remediation

miller argent

Buddsoddi yng Nghymru
Investing in Wales

[Nant Llesg Update](#) [Community Engagement](#) [Community Benefits](#) [About Miller Argent](#) [Contact](#)

Involving the local community

We are committed to keeping the local community informed about our plans, including conducting a public consultation exercise as part of the planning application process. There will be various ways throughout the project where we will seek to keep you informed of our plans and ask for your views.



- Overburden dumps
- Excavation area
- Provisional site boundary (including potential redemption areas)

Indicative outline of site shown in red, including remediation works outside of the proposed surface mine area.

Nant Llesg Update

Community Engagement

Community Benefits

About Miller Argent

About Miller Argent

Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited is a joint venture between The Miller Group Limited and Argent Group PLC. The company was specifically created to carry out the Ffos-y-ffran Land Reclamation scheme in Merthyr Tydfil. The company currently employs around 200 people, the majority of which are local (85 per cent live within 15 km of the site).

The company also currently provides a number of free local community facilities including two community minibuses and an education and training centre, as well as contributing to a multi-million pound Community Benefit Fund administered by Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council.

Welsh coal for generating electricity in Wales

It is likely that most of the coal produced at Nant Llesg would be transported by rail to Aberthaw Power Station in the Vale of Glamorgan, which currently supplies approximately 40% of South Wales' energy needs.

Local coal would significantly reduce our reliance on imports from other parts of the world, increasing Wales' energy security.

While recognising the great importance of reducing carbon emissions through renewable energy, Nant Llesg would play a vital role in addressing the energy gap we face in Wales.



Nant Llesg

Surface Mine
Incorporating Land Remediation



Buddsoddi yng Nghymru
Investing in Wales

[Nant Llesg Update](#) [Community Engagement](#) [Community Benefits](#) [About Miller Argent](#) [Contact](#)

Involving the local community

We are committed to keeping the local community informed about our plans, including conducting a public consultation exercise as part of the planning application process. There will be various ways throughout the project where we will seek to keep you informed of our plans and ask for your views.

Rhymney

- Overburden dumps
- Excavation area
- Provisional site boundary (including potential redemption areas)

Indicative outline of site shown in red, including remediation works outside of the proposed surface mine area.

Nant Llesg Update

Community Engagement

Community Benefits

About Miller Argent

Nant Llesg Surface Mine

Although the deadline for comments in response to the public consultation has passed, we would still like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

If you have any comments or queries about the plans, please use the form below to get in touch.

Comments / query:

About your self

Are you male or female?

Male
 Female

How old are you?

Under 25
 26-35
 36-45
 46-55
 56-65
 65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name

Address

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

Submit



Appendix 4 – Further Engagement

xiii) Exhibition boards from Caerphilly County Borough Council meeting - 3 April 2013

Introduction

Welcome

We are pleased to present our updated proposals for the Nant Llesg Surface Mine with Remediation north of Fochriw and west of Rhymney.

These banners show the revised plan soon to be submitted to the Council, along with a summary of the key issues raised during the consultation and how Miller Argent has committed to mitigate these issues.

Public Consultations: We have listened

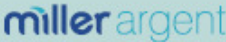
We have circulated newsletters (x2) to around 5000 residents & stakeholders, established the community forum, held stakeholder workshops and five public exhibitions (Upper Rhymney, Lower Rhymney, Pontllydn, Abertyswg, Fochriw).

We have established our website and conducted a series of briefings & meetings to residents' associations, interested parties and community councils.

We have carefully collated and analysed the feedback we have received and in response we have made **significant alterations** to the scheme.



About Miller Argent:



Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited is a joint venture between The Miller Group Limited and Argent Group PLC. The company was originally created to carry out the Ffos-y-fran Land Reclamation Scheme in Merthyr Tydfil. **The company currently employs around 200 people, 85 % of the workforce live within 10 miles of site.**

The company also provides a number of local community facilities including two community minibuses and an education and training centre that is available for use free of charge, as well as contributing to a **multi-million pound Community Benefit Fund** administered by Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council.

Environmental management is at the heart of our operations and we are committed to ensuring best practice and exceptional standards are met throughout our premises. **Our environmental legislative record is impeccable and we are both ISO 9001 (Quality Standard) and ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Standard) accredited.**

Both Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils have categorised the current Ffos-y-fran and Cwm Bargoed sites as 'Low Risk' Under the Pollution Prevention and Control Permits following five years of annual inspections for dust from coaling activities on site.





The Scheme

We have listened and considerable changes have been made to our original surface mine proposals. The current operational area is now smaller, we have moved further away from residential properties and have reduced the visual impact on the surrounding communities.

What's new?

1

We have moved the excavation and overburden areas which are now at least 500 metres away from the settlement boundary, addressing the concerns raised regarding proximity to the community, noise and dust

2

A new Visual & Acoustic screening mound, substantially reducing concerns over visual impact

3

Reclamation of over 155Ha (32% of the total site area) within the first 24 months of the scheme

4

Re-designed overburden storage mounds, now one dump of two, allowing key area of Rhaslas Pond to be preserved and retained

5

Reclamation of a derelict landfill site

6

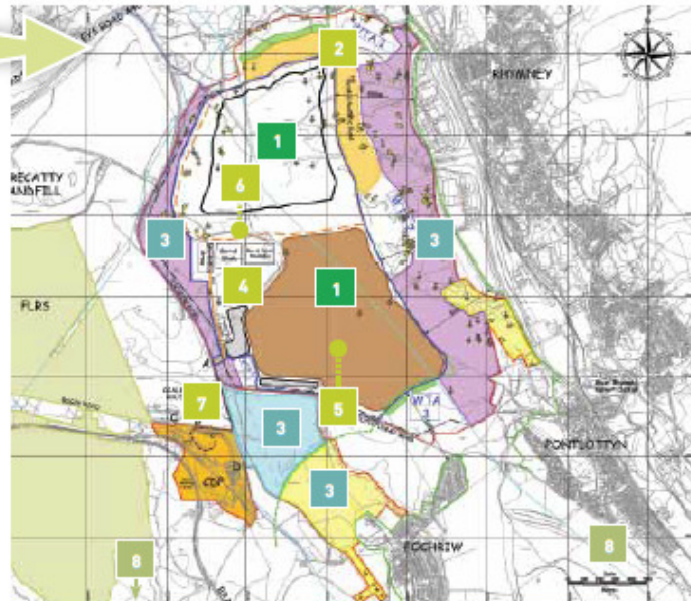
Relocation of the office, car parks and workshops northwards, minimising the ecological impacts south of the Fochriw road

7

Road junction improvement works

8

Areas of public amenity and access land available for the duration of the scheme



Nant Llesg Site Layout plan following community engagement



View of visual and acoustic bund screening the site





The Need for Coal

The Nant Llesg scheme has the potential to supply RWE's Aberthaw Power Station and Tata Steel in Port Talbot, both of which are major employers in South Wales. Both RWE and Tata have stated their support for the scheme.

"The reserve at Nant Llesg was identified as the only new suitable resource of the scale and quality required to meet the needs of the power station. Nant Llesg, therefore, is uniquely important to the future of both coal mining and power supply in Wales."

Kevin Nix,
Managing Director,
Generation UK,
RWE Generation SE

Collectively the Ffos-y-fran and Nant Llesg schemes would be the only producers of Welsh Dry Steam Coal in the UK. It is highly desirable to the steam engine locomotive market and the Ffos-y-fran site has already supplied coal to Snowdonia Mountain Rail, the Orient Express & Brecon Mountain Rail to name but a few.

We will transport coal using existing facilities to get our product to market.

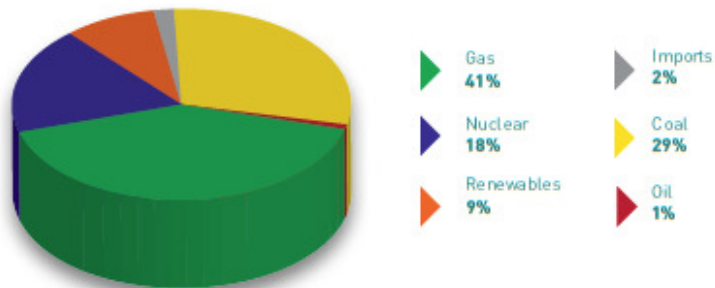


Welsh Coal for Welsh Jobs

In the UK we rely heavily on coal and on a day to day basis coal can supply **up to 50% of our energy needs.**

Current energy statistics in the UK for electricity production (2011)

Source: Department of Energy & Climate Change – UK Energy in Brief 2012



Ffos-y-fran Welsh dry steam coal is in high demand



Rail transport to minimise impact by road



Responsible Mining

Minimising Environmental Impact

Miller Argent are experienced in mining responsibly using best practice at our existing site, Ffos-y-fran. We employ modern mining techniques and mine design and have an experienced and dedicated team. We are committed to protecting the environment and are proud of our impeccable legislative record and ISO 14001 accreditation.

- We have undertaken a comprehensive health impact assessment
- We have addressed concerns raised over noise and dust during the public consultation by reducing the operational footprint of the scheme
- We have added an acoustic and visual screening bund
- There will be no earthworks or coaling operations after 1900 hrs Monday to Friday
- Noise and dust levels from site will comply with the limits set out inline with government guidelines (MTAN2)
- Our plant will be state of the art and equipped with manufacturers' acoustic packs
- We will use sophisticated 'Fog Cannon' technology to combat airborne dust
- We will liaise with and regularly invite local residents to the mine
- We will be monitoring the environment, ensuring we comply with our noise, dust, vibration and water quality regimes



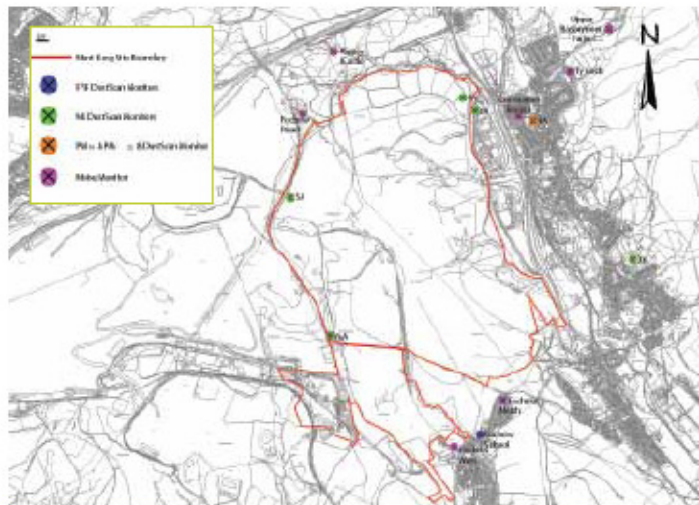
Community environmental monitoring



Fog Cannon



Acoustic monitoring of 777F dump trucks



Indicative monitoring locations



Benefits of Nant Llesg

There are around **138 known shafts and adits** within the proposed scheme. In the early stages of the site we are committed to removing known unstable mine workings in areas accessible to the public, reducing the potential risk of dangerous shaft and ground collapses in the future.

We have identified mine workings outside the excavation area that will also be remediated as part of the project.



February 2013 – Fochriw, area is under investigation by the coal authority



Shaft collapse

"In total we received notification of 368 surface hazards associated with former coal mine workings during the year"

The Coal Authority
Annual Report & Accounts 2011-2012



Silting at Parc Cwm Darran Lake

Silting up of Parc Cwm Darran Lake

- Erosion problems identified along Nant Bargoed Rhymney
- Fine colliery tip material from tips north of Fochriw are being transported into the lake during high rainfall, silting up of lake making it unusable and dangerous
- Regular de-silting works previously carried out by CCBC are expensive
- We will stabilise and address these issues as part of the Nant Llesg Scheme reducing the amount of erosion and therefore silt flowing downstream
- This will lead to a positive and long-term improvement of Parc Cwm Darran

Rhaslas Land Fill

- We are now incorporating the existing waste facility into our scheme
- Taking responsibility for its contents and ensuring it is not polluting the environment
- The final restoration profile will now be uninterrupted, providing safer open access following restoration



Mine Water Pollution of Rhymney River:

- Red stained water due to elevated metals and sulphates from the mine workings enters the River Rhymney in a culvert under the Capital Valley Business Park
- Removal of six million tonnes of coal will **reduce pollution potential**
- Permanent positive impact on pollution in River Rhymney on completion of site



Water quality monitoring at Ffos-y-fran

Road Junction Improvements:

- Fochriw Road/Bogey Road – junction improvements will be made improving line of sight and road safety



Benefits of Nant Llesg

Workforce requirements for the Nant Llesg scheme will be in addition to those already employed at Ffos-y-fran:

- Nant Llesg will have an important role in **supporting the local economy**. It is a vital raw material for both Tata Steel and Aberthaw Power Station
- On average between **160 – 270 full-time** jobs will be created
- Up to approximately **90 additional jobs** will be created during the first two years of the scheme
- Potential monies generated within local economy every year from Nant Llesg site = **£12.9 million**
- Training initiative scheme to be set up

We have proudly sponsored other organisations and charities such as Rhymney Juniors RFC, Abertysswg Aces Girls FC, Rhymney Gwent Bowling Club and Help for Heroes.



Miller Argent community mini buses now have over 150 regular local users

Job Creation and Economy

Miller Argent has a proven track record of local job creation. **We already employ around 200 individuals with 85% living within 10 miles of site.** We invest heavily in staff development and are committed to our workforce. Our onsite training will ensure operatives, where appropriate, will obtain nationally recognised qualifications. We already have seven apprentices/trainees working on site and engage with local schools, colleges and universities on a regular basis.

Community Benefit Fund

- We will establish a significant Community Benefit Fund
 - Helping **local** projects and initiatives
 - Further investing into the community

We are proud of what we have achieved to date through the Ffos-y-fran Community Benefit Fund

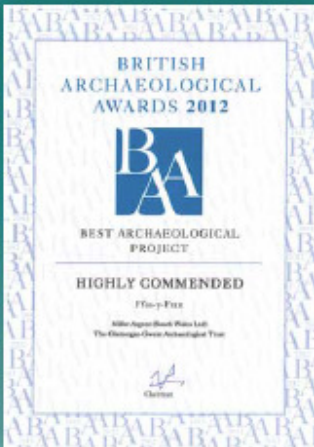


State of the art community centre to be built in Treharris thanks to Ffos-y-fran Community Fund - £183,000 awarded in 2012



Archaeology and Ecology

In 2012 the works completed at the Ffos-y-fran project became a highly commended runner up at the British Archaeological Awards.



Carved boundary marker

	Site boundary
	Disused/remnant building
	Plantation hedge
	Stone wall
	Woodland management UG: Ungazed G: Gazed
	Woodland Planting
	Marshy grassland management
	Grassland management
	Existing pond to be restored/enhanced
	Potential pond location
	Swamp

Throughout the Nant Llesg area are extensive remains of coal mining, including pit heads with shafts, adits and remains of derelict buildings.

41% of the operational area has previously been worked through surface mining methods, all archaeological surface features of interest in this area of the scheme have previously been removed.

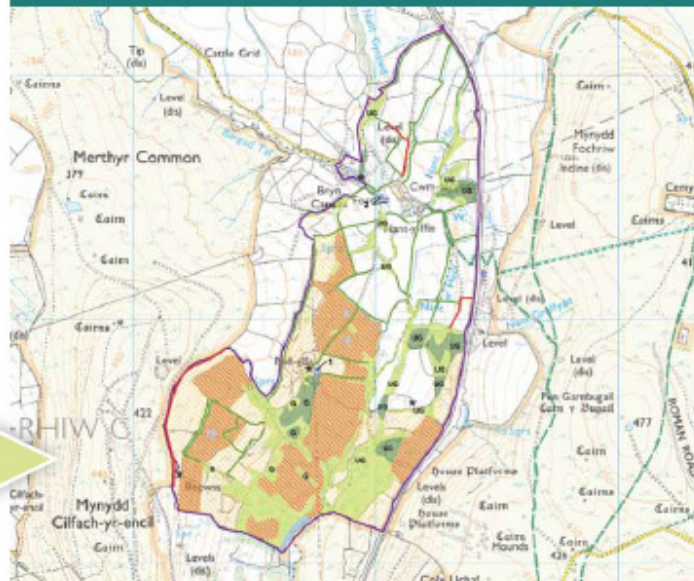
We have identified a number of species and habitats and where practicable we will conserve these features in situ. We have assessed land surrounding the scheme and have identified areas suitable for mitigation land.

Archaeological & Ecological principles which have informed the design of the scheme:

- To conserve features of ecological and archaeological interest in situ where practicable
- To enhance such features through appropriate habitat creation, improvement and extensive archaeological field works programme
- As a key feature of our works we will be preserving the southern bank of Rhaslas pond which is a key feature of the Dowlais Free Drainage System
- Water features will be created as part of our restoration scheme to encourage wildlife

Not all of the ecological effects of the Nant Llesg proposals can be mitigated during the operation of the site. In order to offset these effects it is proposed to implement ecological enhancements in an area to the south west of Nant Llesg. The land is part of the holding known as Bryn Caerau Farm which is owned by Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited.

Proposed Mitigation Land Map





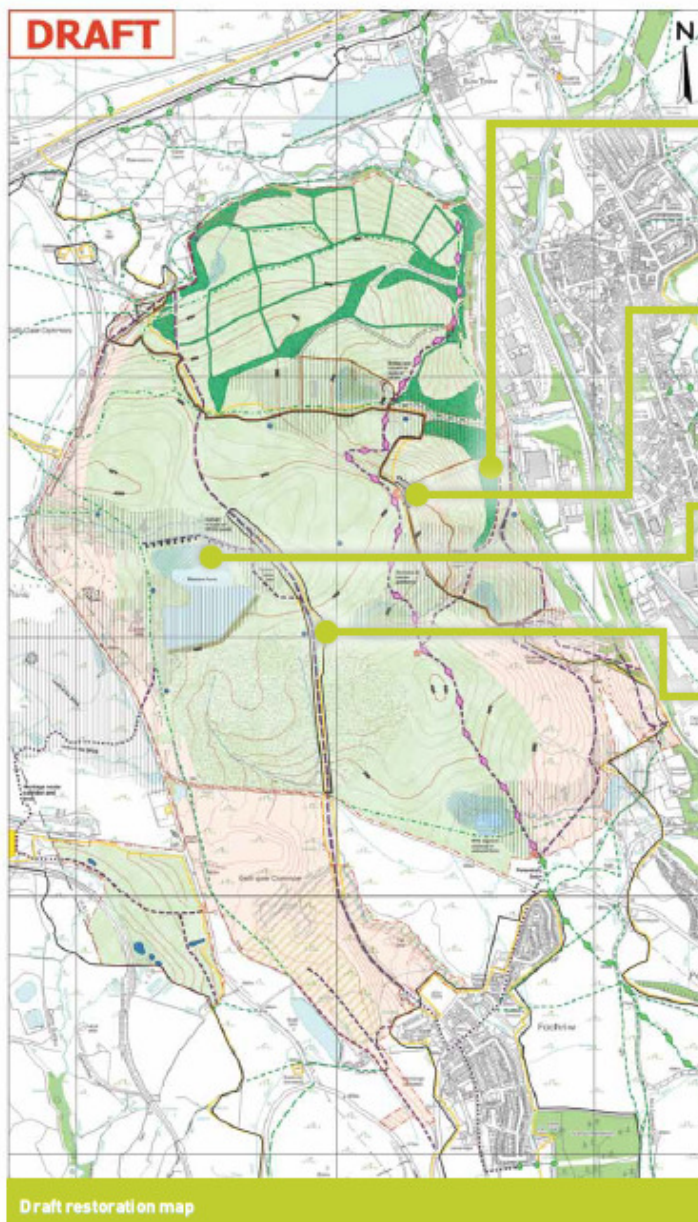
Restoration

Aims and objectives

The restoration strategy was developed following discussions with the Council, which established their aspirations for the restored site. These were: to provide for informal recreation uses and links with Cwm Darran and Bryn Bach Country Parks, while being sympathetic to the existing ecological, nature conservation and local cultural heritage.

The scheme will restore a landscape in keeping with and enhancing the character and amenity of the area, integrating landscape objectives with those for nature conservation, cultural heritage, land use and access for recreation and amenity use for nearby communities.

The draft restoration plan below shows how all this might look, further detailed plans would be agreed with the local authority in advance of any completed restoration.



Draft restoration map



Contact:

If you have any questions regarding the scheme, please contact us:

Call:
freephone 0800 169 65 07
(during office hours)

Write to:
FREEPOST CONSULTATION RESPONSE
(no further address required)

Visit:
www.nantllewg.co.uk

Email:
ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk

These contact details will put you in touch with PPS Group which coordinates our Nant Llewg public consultation activity.



Appendix 5 – Comments Forms

millera^{gent}



Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

FAR TO NEAR
HOUSING ESTATES
AND SCHOOLS.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

SWIMMING POOL
AS IT WOULD BENEFIT
ALL AGES.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

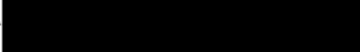
REALLY DONT WANT
IT HERE


We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
	Yes	No
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... 

Address..... 

..... PONTLOTTYW

..... MID GLAM Postcode CF81 9QP

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, ~~where so relevant above, will not be passed to any third party.~~



mill^{er} arg^{ent}



Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

We need more stuff like a skate park

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add? ←

I Like Bush not Obama ☺

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name... [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Postcode NP22 5PD

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and,



miller argent

3

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

Nacydw

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Ydw Dwi'n hoffi coffee Sugar
milk a daa Sugar ydw a swedch a
daa

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

ydw

www.nantllesg.co.uk

Please turn over

(Spoilt paper)



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

[Empty box for general comments]

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
How old are you? 14	Under 25 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	46-55 <input type="checkbox"/>
	26-35 <input type="checkbox"/>	56-65 <input type="checkbox"/>
	36-45 <input type="checkbox"/>	65+ <input type="checkbox"/>

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....
 Address.....
 Postcode...UP22 5DD

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freeport Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be released to any third parties.

(Spoilt paper)



I dont mean
to be pushy
im just hearing
& the
passway
passay

miller argent

4

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

www.nantllesg.co.uk

Please turn over

(Spoilt paper)



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

4

Macau

yes Tesco's should pay more money to me

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female
How old are you? 180	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name Babs signature

Address the shop

Postcode Anywhere

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and,

(Spoilt paper)



Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

Ugly.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Leave us alone.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

leave it as it is. It's fine.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

5

We do not want an opencast

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+

You don't need this information.

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....
 Address.....
 Postcode NP22 5GB

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and.



Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

I can remember the last open cast in Rhymney and the dust and mess that caused I do not want to go through that again -
Regarding the 200 proposed jobs, the factories will be forced to close down losing more than that

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

6

[Empty box for general comments]

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	<i>Please tick</i>	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name... [Redacted]

Address... [Redacted] Tredegar Court

.....

..... Postcode NP22 5HB

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collected by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and.



milller argent



Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

You are giving a picture of happy smiling faces
there is no mention of the ill health through
the bad environment this will bring.
Jobs will be lost in Rhymney due to the
opencast.
There is no way I will support this.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Miller Argent could help Rhymney only
by staying away from Rhymney.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

What rubbish you talk about vision
this is purely a far cats project.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add? /

[Empty box for general comments]

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... [Redacted]

Address..... [Redacted]

..... Rhydymor / Gwent

..... Postcode NP22 5HS

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and.



millier argent

8

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

Much too close to community
Soil mountains being created would be
a permanent reminder for a considerable time.
Basically as residents we don't want this
project

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Go away

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add? 8

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and.



miller argent

9

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT COST ME ANY MONEY (EG. LONGER ROAD DETOURS) CARRY ON

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

HELP COMMUNITY GROUPS EG. CROSSROADS, TREFECHAW, MERTHYR.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

KEEP FOR EVERYONE TO USE RESPONSIBLY
NOT FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE TO FENCE IN,
AND CALL IT THEIRS.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add? 4

WELL DONE CARRY ON,

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-ffran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlleen.co.uk



miller argent

10

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

No I like it

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Investment in local amenities

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

Picnic Areas - Cycle Routes - Safe Play Area.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

10

Would Kylie please contact me

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits ✓	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships ✓	Educational visits
Employment opportunities ✓	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	<u>Yes</u>	No
If so, which organisation? <i>Abertyswg Rugby Club</i>	<i>Abertyswg Communities First</i>	
Are you male or female?	<u>Male</u>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55 ✓
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name: [Redacted]

Address: [Redacted] *Abertyswg* [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Postcode: *NP22 5AR*

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent regional consultation.



mill^{er} argent



Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

We don't need or want this
in our area.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

The disadvantages far outweigh
the advantage

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

GO AWAY !!!
LEAVE IT AS IT IS !!!



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

11

No.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:		NO
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities	
Traineeships	Educational visits	
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-ffran	

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... [REDACTED]

Address..... [REDACTED]

..... Rhymney
 Postcode NP22 5NF

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantilesq.co.uk



miller argent

12

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

I Hope that the community will benefit From the Employment opportunities, as there is no work here at the moment.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

I would Like A Country Park or EVEN A Mountain Bike trail centre.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

12

Empty box for general comments.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits <i>YES</i>	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships <i>YES</i>	Educational visits
Employment opportunities <i>YES</i>	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran <i>YES</i>

About yourself	<i>Please tick</i>	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... [Redacted]

Address..... [Redacted]

CUEA Philly *RARGOED*

Postcode..... *CF81 9PQ*

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlesg.co.uk



miller argent

15

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

NO, BUT I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE PRESENTATION, I WAS ALSO NICELY SURPRISED OF THE CHARITABLE HELD BEING ARRANGED FOR THE NEARBY VILLAGES AND COMMUNITIES

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

HELP TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

WITH YOUR VISION AND THINKING LOOKS IMPRESSIVE. WHEN GIVEN BACK IT COULD BE VERY RECREATIONAL.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

13

NO. MY QUESTIONS OF TRANSPORT OF THE COAL WAS ANSWERED AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supplier opportunities <input type="checkbox"/>
Traineeships <input type="checkbox"/>	Educational visits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employment opportunities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?	COMMUNITIES FIRST MEMBER MEMBER OF ABERTYSSWIL PANSO	
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
How old are you?	Under 25 <input type="checkbox"/>	46-55 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	26-35 <input type="checkbox"/>	56-65 <input type="checkbox"/>
	36-45 <input type="checkbox"/>	65+ <input type="checkbox"/>

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... [REDACTED]

Address..... [REDACTED]

ABERTYSSWIL TRADE GATE

GWENT Postcode NP22 5AJ

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlleag.co.uk



miller argent

14

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

Health problems
Dust in the air
Impact on house prices
Impact on wildlife
Loss of dog walking areas
unsightly view
Damage to roads by lorries
Noise from lorries/trucks
Too close to our village

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

None I don't want you to dig up anymore of our mountains.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

No Leave it as it is



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

14

I don't want you to dig up our mountains and drain the lake, we are surrounded by a number of lakes and have a pretty green view. The wildlife is important to me and I don't want you to frighten it off again.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	
Traineeships	No
Employment opportunities	
Supplier opportunities	
Educational visits	No
Site tour of Ffos-y-fran	

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Male	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....
 Address.....

 Postcode.....

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freeport Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlle.co.uk



miller argent

15

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

Wild life
mess
Air quality (dust)
house prices
loss of our views
noise
more damage to our already bad roads by the lorries
Too close to our homes and villas Fachriws
and pontlloctyn.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

None leave it as it is. Don't dig it up anymore
than you have.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

None don't mess up what we already have is
Nice mountain, wildlife. lakes and nice open spaces.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

15

What you want to do will deface our views and ruin our surrounding area for years to come. It's taken years for our wildlife to come back into the area and what you want to do will only scare it away again, s. like seeing the hawks and buzzards flying around.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	
Traineeships	No
Employment opportunities	
Supplier opportunities	
Educational visits	No
Site tour of Ffos-y-fran	

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name: [REDACTED]
 Address: [REDACTED]
 Postcode: CF81 9JU

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlesg.co.uk



miller argent

(16)

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

The layout shown seemed to be well thought out, and I hope the operation will not hurt our environment too much and not cause too much inconvenience to our lives. Hopefully it will provide much needed jobs to this area. Training would be important to the youth of this area.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Help with rebuilding of Pontblytyn's Community Centre

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

A site to visit for visitors coming to visit the Brecon Beacons. A site to reflect the life of the Top of the Valleys. A bicycle park and a park to relax in.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

[Empty box for general comments]

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships ✓	Educational visits
Employment opportunities ✓	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	<i>Please tick</i>	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No ✓
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female ✓
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65 ✓
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... [Redacted]

Address..... [Redacted]

..... PONTLOFTYN

..... MID GLAM Postcode..... CF81 9QY

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlesg.co.uk



millergent

17

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

I think it's a very good idea on the forefront of getting people in the upper valley into work and also it's for the purpose of energy so I'm impressed that there's work coming to the valleys.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

None that I can think of apart from there'd be good to get people jobs.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

There should be a commemorative statue I think commemorating all the mines that went on in the valleys.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

17

None

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships ✓	Educational visits
Employment opportunities ✓	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran ✓

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No ✓
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male ✓	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35 ✓	56-65
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name... [REDACTED]

Address... [REDACTED]

..... Abertysswg, Rhymney

..... Tredegar, Gwent Postcode NP22 5AT

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freeport Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlesg.co.uk



miller argent

18

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

YES. LAYOUT. WHY IS SO MUCH LAND BEING ALTERED. WHEN THE SURFACE AREA FOR REMOVAL TO OBTAIN COAL IS RELATIVELY SMALL. YOU SHOULD BE THINKING OF THE RESIDENTS THAT LIVE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO PROPOSED OPERATIONS.
OPERATION. THE ABOVE HOLDS GOOD EXCEPT FOR REMEDIAL WORK WHICH IS LIMITED TO SMALL POCKETS OF LAND. 1. OLD TIPS TO STOP SURFACE WATER WASHING COAL INTO THE PARK POND. 2. OLD MINE WORKINGS MAINLY ON THE PONTLOTTYN / HEADS OF VALLYS FACTORY EST AREA.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

YES. WITHDRAW PLANS FOR MINING IN NANT LLESG AREA.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

THE SITE SHOULD BE LEFT EXACTLY AS IT IS UNDISTURBED.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

18

YES THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE RHYHNEY, PONTLOOTYN, FOCHRIV AND DERI COMMUNITIES DO NOT WANT THE SURFACE MINE UNDER ANY ~~TERMS~~ TERMS.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... 

Address..... 

.....

..... Postcode CF81 9LN

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.



Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

THAT THE EDGE AT THE TOP OF FOCNRW AND HILL ROAD IS TOO CLOSE TO THE HOUSES AND THE BOUNDARY SHOULD BE MOVED BACK IN BOTH AREAS.

I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT DUST POLLUTION AND THE EFFECT ON SUCH THINGS AS BEING ABLE TO DRY CLOTHING OUTSIDE ON THE CLOTHS LINE. ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN BUT WHAT IF THE CONTROL MEASURES FAIL WHAT AND HOW WOULD COMPLAINTS BE ABLE TO BE MADE AND TO WHOM. THIS IS THE SAME CONCERN FOR HOW THIS WOULD AFFECT THE CLEANLINESS OF HOUSE AND VERANDA.

CONCERNED ABOUT THE 2 SMALL FISHING LAKES THAT ARE IN THE BOUNDARY WILL THESE BE FILLED IN OR NOT AND WOULD I STILL BE ABLE TO FISH THEM AS I DO NOW WITH MY CLUB LICENSE.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add? 17

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name... [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

.....

..... Postcode CF81 9PP

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlesg.co.uk



Miller Argent

20

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

- X 1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

- 0 2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

- c 3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

See attached sheet.

www.nantllesg.co.uk

Please turn over



1.

The surface mine proposals involve a major re-engineering of the landscape. The proposals if implemented are going to have an enormously disruptive effect on the upper Rhymney valley for the 15 years or more of the opencast work. Whilst the design and layout seek to reduce and manage the mine's impact the extraction of 7-9 million tons of coal is going to be

- Visually scarring
- Noisy
- Dirty

The effect of the latter two elements will be enhanced by the prevailing wind direction being towards the major population centres.

The operation is likely to be detrimental to the quality of life and possibly health enjoyed by the local population.

2.

- The landscape should be re-instated to its pre-industrial form.
- Each population centre could have the opportunity to nominate projects to agreed sums throughout the period of operation. These projects could offer both improvements to the physical and social environment. E.g. Pontlottyn needs a new community centre.
- The young people of the area could be involved in Nant Llesg by the company establishing an initiative through the local schools. This could aim to provide the next generation with an understanding of mining engineering, energy resource supply and management, and caring for the environment.

3.

The final site restoration could include fields, hedges, light woodland and moorland. The whole site area could be served with footpaths and trails

4.

It is regrettable that the upper Rhymney valley and its population may have to suffer the impact of open cast mining for a generation.



Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

My main concern is the proposed siting of the two over burden mounds. If it were possible to site these or add them to the Ffos-y-fraon over burden's it would cause less distraction to the sinc designated site, have less of a visual impact and would probably be more acceptable to local residents by siting them further away from local settlements.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

The village of Fochriw is classed as a very deprived area. and financial support in association with the village partnership, residents association and carnival committee could stage many events throughout the year there by bringing back community spirit and boosting morale in Fochriw

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

In terms of Rhas-Las Pond and the designated S.I.N.C. area of Nant Llesg I would like to see it returned to the natural untouched habitat that it is at the moment or as close to it now as is possible



21

4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

I understand the economic benefit's such a scheme would bring to a very deprived area but this has to be balanced with the views of local resident's but most importantly the environment to cause as little disruption as possible and to the local communities

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name: [Redacted]

Address: [Redacted]

..... Fachriw

..... Bargoed Postcode CF81 9JN

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantllesg.co.uk



Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

We have had good quality air up on the farm as the trees + bushes around are all full of hylings. Showing the quality of air we don't want this changing as we are directly level with the proposed site and this will be our view until completion. We are not against development or improvement but don't want to have to look at a black mass as on the other side it's unsightly and noisy. We at the moment can sit in garden in summer and see beautiful mountains we want this to remain.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

[Empty box for suggestions regarding community benefits]

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

14+ years is a very long term vision. We don't want to look at a mud mass for this length of time.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

22

We hope it doesn't have an effect on house prices as this eye sore will have an effect on the view across the valley. Extra noise levels, effects on the dust and smell from rubbish tip also as mountain drops. This causing stress and upset.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	26-35	56-65
	36-45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....
 Address.....
 Rhymney
 Cowent Postcode NP 22 5QR

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlesg.co.uk



miller argent

23

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD HAVE
IT BECAUSE IT GOING TO
CAUSE ALOT OF DUST TO THE
~~COMITEE~~ ~~COMUNITA~~

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

23

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	<i>Please tick</i>	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlesg.co.uk



Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

1 VISUAL IMPACT
2 NOISE.
3 DUST
4 WE DONT WANT IT.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

LEAVE US ALONE

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

LEAVE IT AS IT IS



24

4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF OPENCAST MINE'S
IN THIS AREA.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name: [REDACTED]

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode: CF819EH

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantileg.co.uk



25

William Morgan

From: ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk
Sent: 07 February 2012 14:01
To: William Morgan
Subject: Response to form: Consultation form - www.nantlesg.co.uk

<http://www.nantlesg.co.uk/>

Form Received: Consultation form

A visitor to your site submitted the following form.

Form ID: 2

Form name: Consultation form

Date: Tue 07/02/12

Time: 14:00:49:PM

General information

Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?:

The project is well designed and planned and after operations cease the planned landscape should be improved. The project should bring well paid employment in to an area that is currently suffering from economic deprivation and this should assist with the local regeneration.

Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?: The area does have a number of community and sports areas at its disposal but due to restricted budgets these facilities are not always available to the community after school times and holidays such as the sport facilities at Rhymney Comprehensive school. Support to make these available in particular to the younger elements within communities after school and in holiday periods, sometimes it is as simple as the opening, supervision and closing of the facilities.

Do you have any suggestions regarding the the long-term vision for Nant Liesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored? : The landscape is returned to it natural enviroment and public facilities available for walking, running and cycling also an area that is managed and safely maintained for the use of quads and motor cycles in an attempt to avoid the illegal use of these which ultimately destorys areas of natural beauty and creates enviromental noise issues.....this could create employment and attract private investment? Additionally a strategy for creating employment and attracting industries that may create employment, out door pursuits and activities, pack backing, accommadation and the normal motor home facilities, something diffrent from what Cwm Darren and Bryn Bach Parks offer.

Do you have any general comments you would like to add? : I think the project can bring a number of benefits to the area from both a Economic Regeneration and Community Development perspective and the key is to successfully engage all stakeholders within these plans. Some of the key issues for communities and individuals will be what is the benefit to them.such as jobs, training, how will mining operations affect them personally.

Specific details

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:: Community benefits, Traineeships, Employment opportunities, Supplier opportunities, Educational visits, Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

Personal details

Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?: Yes



If so, which organisation?: Sirius Skills Consulting

Are you male or female?: Male

How old are you? : 46-55

Name : Mark Woods

Address : 7 Pen Y Cwm Abertyswg Rhydney NP22 5AD



0207 271 271

Miller argent

(26)

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

I think this Idea is very good because we need col.
It's going to help this country?

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Dance Club a new leisure center in Pentllyn.
youth club?

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

bike ~~trails~~ tracks flid of animal
normal mounding



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

26

Yes I do like the idea of it?

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female
How old are you? 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-55
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 56-65
	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-45	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name: 

Address: 

Postcode: CA81 9/10

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantllesq.co.uk



Miller argent

27

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

I think this idea is really good and I think it is going to bring good to Kurrily course.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

yes, i have a sport that i like is football so it would be good if we could have football pitch and a youth club

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

a park and BIKES tracks!



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

27

I like the I dear of it because your not taking down no trees but and having more land.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
How old are you? 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-55
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 56-65
	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-45	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....
 Address.....

Postcode.....

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freeport Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities as your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the



miller argent

28

Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

I think this idea is really good and I think it is going to help the country.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Football Aber Angels and gymnastic?

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

Bike tracks or a Football pitch or we could do something Skieng



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

28

yes I do like it.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female
How old are you? 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-55
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 56-65
	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-45	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name: [Redacted]

Address: Pontllotyn School Street
[Redacted]
[Redacted] Postcode: [Redacted]

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantllesg.co.uk



millier argent

29

Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

I feel that the layout and operation is too near the villages, so it will affect the health of not only the wild life but of the people living there.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

I think the only benefit would be to leave this region alone. We have had enough.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

The site will not be restored in my time, so I would like it as it is not go back to the years of big black "tips"

www.nantllesg.co.uk

Please turn over



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

29

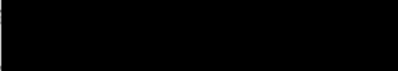
Once the wildlife has been disturbed there is every chance that it will not come back. Fochriw will soon become another desolate spot

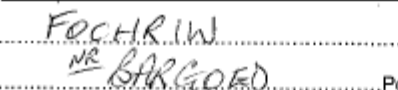
We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... 

Address..... 

..... Fochriw

..... MR BARGOED Postcode CF81 9LA

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantllewg.co.uk



Miller argent

30

Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

yes! I don't want it to go ahead.
as over the years we have had ~~four~~^{over}
share of open cast. four in all.
all with problems. Noise, dust that
in time will add to the already high cancer
and lung diseases. above average for most
areas, the visual impact, negative impact on
area, no inward investment, no housing, sales, jobs
created for skilled men not recruited from this area
halquans yes. small numbers. Other established firms
will leave. We are the third most depressed area in the ps.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

No, like the countryside and our mountains as
it is. Thank you.

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?



30

4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

Worried about the amount of coal or waste having to be transported via our roads. We have had enough experience to know what is proposed and promised will be exceeded and our environment, and well being will suffer.

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name... 

Address 

Postcode NP22 5TS

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and,



millier argent

(31)

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

We are greatly opposed to this proposal. Many of us remember the last "open cast" on our side of the mountain - the black specks of dust it brought to our houses and the clothes on the lines. We remember the noise of the vehicles and the blasting that echoed across the valley! We love our mountain as it is now - green and beautiful! The following points are just a few of the many concerns we have about this proposal!

- ⓐ Air pollution and dust - We are the third most deprived area in Wales and we have many health problems already! The accumulation of these and more open cast would have massive impacts on our health - the old and young being the most vulnerable!
- ⓑ Noise - mental health issues
- ⓒ Value of our houses falling
- ⓓ Visual Impact - loss of sky line
- ⓔ Loss of mountain as an opportunity
- ⓕ Employment - our cleaner industries closing doors
- ⓖ Pollution of rivers

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Nothing could compensate us for the loss of our beautiful mountain!

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

Many of us will not live to see the site restored! Babies born now would have to live the early part of their lives under the shadow of this surface mine! 15 years +.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add? 01

Visual impact, noise and dust can all cause significant distress and impact on mental health particularly in conjunction with other health problems!

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?	Rhydny Avee Residents Group	
Are you male or female?	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How old are you?	Under 25 <input type="checkbox"/>	46-55 <input type="checkbox"/>
	26-35 <input type="checkbox"/>	56-65 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	36-45 <input type="checkbox"/>	65+ <input type="checkbox"/>

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... [REDACTED].....
 Address..... [REDACTED].....
 RHYMNEY
 Postcode NP22 5ES

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantileg.co.uk



miller argent

32

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

My interest is work. I love the sand and
from your booklet it is not tip the land take
what you want and secure mess. There is a
long term future
3

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

work, a future, security, hope

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

turn into a place like Bays Beach Park



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

32

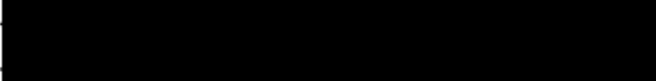
The fact that you will train people to the appropriate tasks

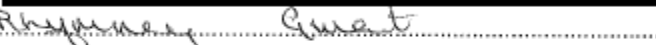
We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supplier opportunities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Traineeships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Educational visits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employment opportunities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... 

Address..... 

..... Rhymney Street

..... Postcode NP23 5AX

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Millar Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Millar Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlleeg.co.uk



millier argent

33

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

when I attended public Meeting. I was Impressed with the displays that showed from start (a lot of local people did not know where exactly the site should start) to possibility when it over, its potential uses.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

Jobs Jobs Jobs.
+
A useful facility when mining is over, Not just an ugly Scar

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

picnic Area, cycle Track, fishing, walks.
Refreshment. flowers & shrubs arrangements, spaced
seating. A swing, seesaw etc for young children to encourage
family usage. link to public transport
School visits Re Information from start to finish, Nature.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

33

My most positive reason is Employment
Over the last 18 mths I have taken my 21yr old Grandson
3 days we looking for work. Where we use public transport
to link with place of work or start times should be a
consideration point

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits ✓	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships ✓	Educational visits ✓
Employment opportunities ✓	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No ✓
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female ✓
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+ ✓

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the consultation process.

Name.....

Address..... Rhymney Guest

.....

..... Postcode NP23 5BA

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and,



miller argent

34

Nant Llesg Surface Mine Public Consultation

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

WE DONT WANT THE OPEN CAST

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

www.nantllesg.co.uk

Please turn over



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add? (34)

my objection to the Open East are as follows.
 I have seen the dust that comes from drilling and the (loamies on the Menthys side.) It was a damp, dirty day last November when I saw dust coming down towards the factory's which is quite near to, were I live, so how much more would there be on a hot Summer day
 rest is written on Paper (letter)

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits Traineeships Employment opportunities	Supplier opportunities Educational visits Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name..... [REDACTED]

Address..... [REDACTED]

Rhymney.....

Postcode NP22 5RN.....

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to:
Freepost Consultation Response (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantlesg.co.uk

2

I live in an old terrace house, years ago number four and five's front rooms fell through "having big holes" to this subsidence must have effected the houses on either sides.

Rhymney has had lots of small mines and levels, the side the "Barrack's level". When they start 'Blasting', nobody knows what damage it is going to cause, will we have cracked windows? doors that won't close or shut, or more subsidence? also we could go up the cemetery and find that the graves have disappeared down bigger holes.

When Taylor and Woodrow had an open cast it was awful. When you left your windows and doors open you would be dusting all day

3

(34)

Windows and doors would need wiping down daily.

I like to dry my clothes on the line up the garden not in tumble drier.

If I have to use the tumble dryer because there is so much dust outside that means I will also have to use the electric fan. That means higher electric bills who will pay my bill then?

"Health wise" I suffer with claustrophobia. My husband has a very bad heart he has already had one cardiac arrest. So that's why we need some windows and door open for air.

Now the site there are "clean factories" will they close and people lose their jobs?

Personally I don't think that they will employ two hundred

4

people from Rhymney or the surrounding areas. Their interest is only to make money.

There is wildlife up the mountain what is going to happen them? Will they be killed?

If planning permission is granted then I want five million pounds to move. That will be for compensation for disrupting my rights to live in the house I was born in.



miller argent

Nant Llesg Surface Mine
Public Consultation

35

We would like to hear your views on our initial proposals for a new surface coal mine and associated land remediation at Nant Llesg.

All comments will be collected and used to help us develop and improve our proposals before we finalise our plans and submit a planning application this summer. All comments need to be received by us no later than the **20 February 2012**.

1. Do you have any comments on the surface mine proposals in terms of design, layout and operation?

We have enough problems in this area already - we are the third most deprived area in Wales! At least at the moment we can look out at green mountains and a pleasant environment. Seeing the blackness of open cast on our mountain again would destroy our feeling of wellbeing and lead to even more mental health problems. It would also lead to the value of our houses falling and could result in some industries that need clean air leaving.

2. Do you have any suggestions regarding what community benefits Miller Argent could help bring to the local area?

No!

3. Do you have any suggestions regarding the long term vision for Nant Llesg, and what should be included when the final site is restored?

No! We want the mountain left as it is.



4. Do you have any general comments you would like to add?

35

We would lose lots of amenities on the mountain - walking, riding and fishing. Even our pond is being removed!

We would be grateful if you could answer the questions below to tell us more about yourself and specific areas of the scheme you may be interested in. There is no obligation to answer all or any of these questions.

Would you be interested in more details on any of the following:	
Community benefits	Supplier opportunities
Traineeships	Educational visits
Employment opportunities	Site tour of Ffos-y-fran

About yourself	Please tick	
Are you here as a representative of any organisation or group?	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, which organisation?		
Are you male or female?	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female
How old are you?	Under 25	46-55
	26-35	56-65 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	36-45	65+

Supplying your name and address is optional but is requested to help support and validate your comments. If you provide your details we can also respond to any specific queries you have raised and keep you updated on the project moving forward.

Name.....
 Address.....
 TREDEGAR Postcode.. NP22 5ES

Please put your completed form in the box provided or return in an envelope to: **Freepost Consultation Response** (no stamp or further address needed on the envelope).

Your comments will be collated by PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd on behalf of Miller Argent (South Wales) Limited. Copies might be made available, in due course, to the planning authorities so your comments can be noted. We will, however, request that your personal details are not placed on the public record. Your personal details will be held securely by PPS and Miller Argent in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2000, will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent planning applications and, except as noted above, will not be passed to any third parties.

www.nantllesg.co.uk



Additional letter (not as part of the consultation process)

[REDACTED]
Rhydny,
The Draig,
Gwent
NP22 5BA

I attended the Public Meeting at
Aberystwyth, where I was helped by
Tim, who explained all the display
features, answered all my questions.

I was given a voluntary
questionnaire to complete.

I should explain my main
reason for going was I have a 21 year old
grandson, who for 18 months has changed
so much, from a positive, happy young
man, to a heavy sad Male.

From picking up papers, every
factory, there is no where he has not
been. His problem, when he was hand off
18 months ago, he used his money to get a car
as from our little village, your own
transport is a must, as public
transport is sparse, and not suitable
for work hours or places. He has no
money to have lessons, or put it on
the road.

As I filled the form in his
answers were different to mine, more
personal to an unemployed 21 yr old
and a 67 yr old, Retired person.

Unfortunately, as I dealt
to knocked my coffee over it.

I have been ill since.

So please could you put it in the
post for me.

Obliged



Appendix 6 – Common Land Consultation

i) Presentation given to stakeholders as part of the Common Land Consultation

miller argent
Proposed Common Land Strategy
Consultation
 February - April 2013




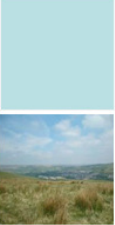


miller argent **RPS**

Proposed Nant Llesg Scheme
 February - April 2013




miller argent **RPS**

Proposed Nant Llesg Scheme

miller argent **RPS**

Public Consultation

- Newsletter x 2 sent to c.5,000 local residents and stakeholders
- Established Community Forum (December 2011)
- Media coverage
- Stakeholder Workshops - Community, Environment and Health Workshops (January/February 2012)
- Public Exhibitions x 5
- Series of briefings & meetings (incl. Residents' Associations & Community Councils)
- Project website www.nantllesg.co.uk




miller argent **RPS**

Consultation Issues Raised

- Closeness of operations to surrounding community
- Visual Impact
- Health
- Jobs and Training
- Community Benefits
- Noise / Dust
- Concern for existing businesses
- **Access to Common**
- Loss of Rhaslas Pond

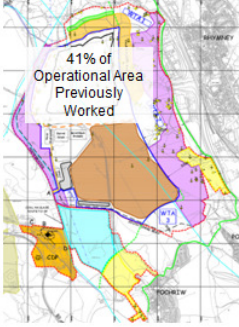
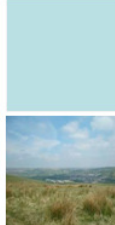






miller argent **RPS**

Proposed Nant Llesg Scheme

- Excavation and main overburden storage area now 500m from settlement boundary.
- Addition of "Visual & Acoustic screening mound" to east and north of excavation area.
- Maximum depth of site reduced by c. 30m
- Main overburden storage mound now one dump not two.
- Office, Car Parking and Workshops located on the site.
- Main site access now off the Fochriw Road.
- Cumbargoed Disposal Point now within the Red Line
- Key area of Rhaslas Pond preserved and retained
- Over 155Ha (32%) of land reclaimed and restored within the first 24 months

miller argent **RPS**



The Nant Llesg Scheme

Site Statistics:

- c.6.0 million Tonnes of Coal
- 70.0 million m3 Overburden
- 32.4 million m3 Restoration
- Maximum Depth ~ 160m
- Maximum Height of Dumps ~ 50m
- Coal Output (Max) c.750k tonnes/year
- Support from TATA and RWE

miller argent



RPS

The Nant Llesg Scheme

- The scheme would be undertaken over a period of c. 14 years followed by 5 years aftercare.
- Temporary alternative grazing/access land would be provided at the outset.
- Remediation works outside the operational area (completed within 2 years) would comprise:
 - remediation works on land east and west of the Project, with new access provisions;
 - remediation works to land to south of the Project;
 - ecological enhancement works.
- On completion of the site, the common land within the operational area would be restored and returned to common.
- After-care: Minimum period of 5 years.

miller argent



RPS

The Nant Llesg Scheme Community Benefits

- New jobs created
- Training commitment
- Local boost to economy
- Community Benefit Fund
- Removal of shafts and adits
- Reduction of mine water pollution of River Rhymney
- Prevention of silting up of Parc Cwm Darren Pond
- Road junction improvement
- Clean up of existing waste facility on site
- Comprehensive restoration strategy

miller argent



RPS

Proposed Common Land Strategy

Consultation

February 2013

miller argent



RPS

Common Land Affected by the Scheme

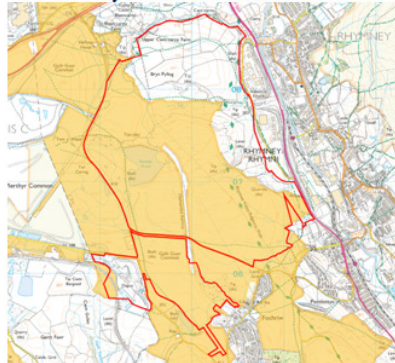
- Total area of Gelligaer and Merthyr Common = c. 3,091 Ha
- 338 hectares (Ha) of Gelligaer and Merthyr Urban Common lie within the application boundary
- 23 Ha of which have been occupied by Cwmbargoed Disposal Point since 1957
- 315 Ha would therefore be affected by Nant Llesg
- 201 Ha for c.19 years
- 114 Ha for up to 2 years
- Public have right of access for air and exercise on foot and on horseback
- Also defined as 'Access Land' under the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000
- Such rights of common would be suspended as necessary during the Nant Llesg scheme
- On completion of the Scheme common and public access rights would be reinstated

miller argent



RPS

Currently Available Common Land



miller argent



RPS

Section 38 Application

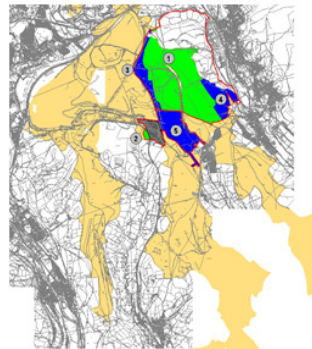
- As required by MTAN2 a Section 38 application is being made under the Commons Act 2006 for works on common land
- Although there is no requirement to provide "replacement land" it is recognised that the rights over a large part of the affected common land would be suspended for c. 19 years
- Therefore areas for temporary grazing/public access purposes for the duration of the Project have been identified
- None of these areas are currently registered as common land
- Community/Stakeholder engagement - application will be advertised in local press, formal consultations will be undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate

miller argent



RPS

Common Land & Other Land Interests

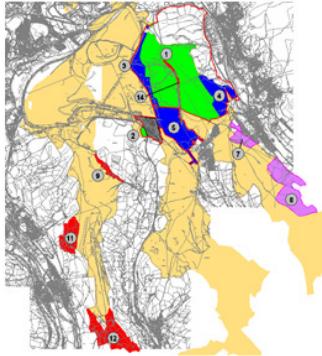


miller argent



RPS

Common Land & Other Land Interests

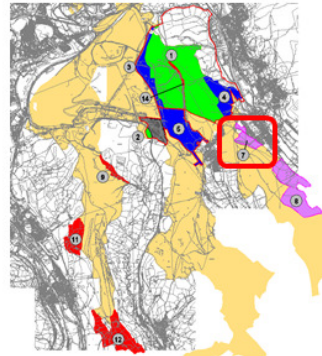


miller argent



RPS

Common Land & Other Land Interests



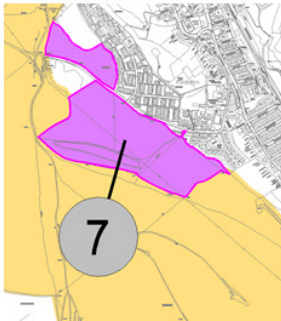
miller argent



RPS

Area 7

Temporary Public Access Land



miller argent



RPS

Area 7

Temporary Public Access Land

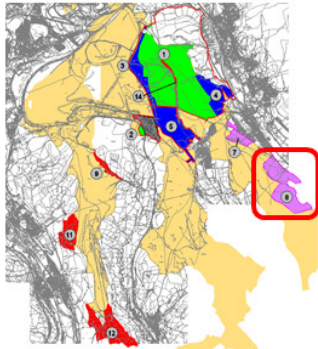
- Area 7 lies to the south-west of Pontlotlyn and to the east of Fochriw.
- Mainly comprises good quality semi-improved and improved grassland.
- Accessed from existing common land which lies immediately to the west and south or from public rights of way, including the existing track across the common along which the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk runs in part.
- This area would provide 20.37 Ha of temporary public access land, close to the village and community of Pontlotlyn, for the duration of the Project.

miller argent



RPS

Common Land & Other Land Interests



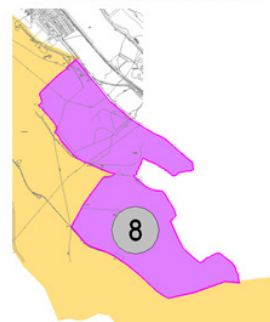
miller argent



RPS

Area 8

Temporary Public Access Land



miller argent



RPS

Area 8

Temporary Public Access Land

- Area 8 lies between the A469 and the access track/road across the common running south from Pontlotlyn.
- It predominantly comprises good quality grassland with some steeper areas, particularly in proximity to the disused quarry.
- The main body of this area has no existing public access rights but is surrounded by common and CRoW access land.
- The Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk runs along the access track to the south-west.
- This area would provide 58.65 Ha of temporary public access land for the duration of the Project.

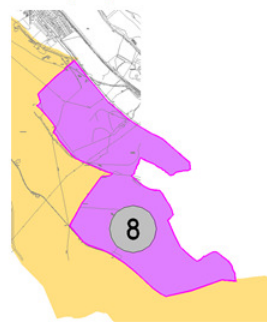
miller argent



RPS

Area 8

Temporary Public Access Land

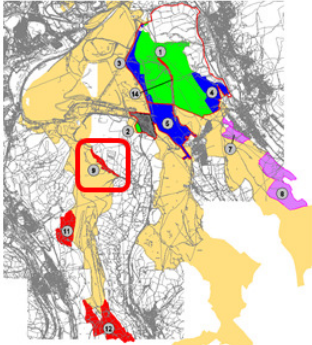


miller argent



RPS

Common Land & Other Land Interests



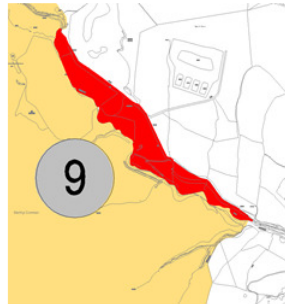
miller argent



RPS

Area 9

Temporary Access and Grazing Land



miller argent



RPS

Area 9

Temporary Access and Grazing Land

- Area 9 comprises land lying immediately north of the existing Merthyr Common and would provide a well-defined boundary along the road to Bryn Caerau.
- There are no existing access rights to this area which would provide 6.18 Ha for public access and grazing for the duration of the Project.
- On restoration of the NantLlesg site, the area could be put forward for registration as permanent common land.

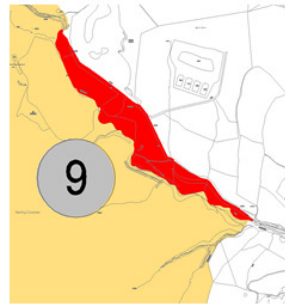
miller argent



RPS

Area 9

Temporary Access and Grazing Land

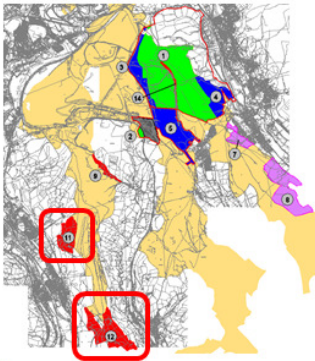


miller argent



RPS

Common Land & Other Land Interests



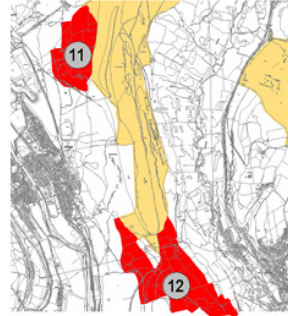
miller argent



RPS

Areas 11 and 12

Temporary Grazing and Public Access Land



miller argent



RPS

Areas 11 and 12

Temporary Grazing and Public Access Land

- Area 11 comprises land at Gilfach-yr-Encil and consists of a mixture of improved and less improved grassland.
- There is no existing public access to this area but it provides a seamless addition to the existing common.
- This area would provide 25.34 Ha of temporary grazing and public access land for the duration of the Project.
- Area 12 comprises land at Pendducae Fawr, the majority of which consists of improved grassland fields grazed by sheep and cattle.
- This area would provide 49.63 Ha of temporary grazing and public access land for the duration of the Project.

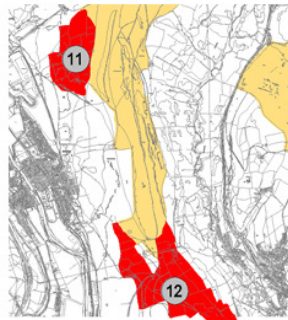
miller argent



RPS

Areas 11 and 12

Temporary Grazing and Public Access Land



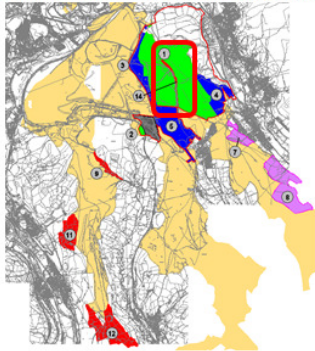
miller argent



RPS



Common Land & Other Land Interests



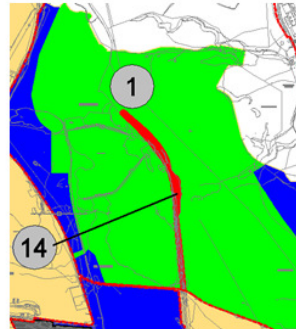
milller argent



RPS

Area 14

Permanent Common Land



milller argent



RPS

Area 14

Permanent Common Land

- Area 14 is a disused railway cutting that is currently occupied by an inert landfill site.
- It is surrounded by but does not form part of the Gelligaer and Merthyr Urban Common.
- The waste material within this area would be investigated, treated and non-inert materials removed from site before the area is covered by overburden during surface mining operations.
- There is no existing public access to this area but it could provide a seamless addition to the existing common on the restoration of the site.
- On restoration of the Nant Llesg site, the area could be put forward for registration as 5.35 Ha of permanent common land.

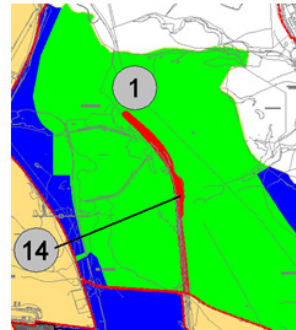
milller argent



RPS

Area 14

Permanent Common Land



milller argent



RPS

Summary of Areas

- Area of common required for c 19 years
Areas 1 & 2 = 200.90Ha.
- Area of common required for c 2 years
Areas 3,4 & 5 = 113.87Ha.
- Land made available for Grazing & Public Access
Areas 9,11 & 12 = 81.15Ha.
- Land made available for Public Access
Areas 7 & 8 = 72.13Ha.
- Total land made available for Public Access
Areas 7, 8, 9, 11 & 12 = 153.28Ha.
- On restoration of the Nant Llesg site, area put forward for registration as additional permanent common land
Areas 9 & 14 = 11.53Ha.

milller argent



RPS

Consultation

- Miller Argent is carrying out extensive informal consultations before submitting the Section 38 application.
- To reach a high degree of consensus, consultation is being undertaken, as a minimum, with the following:
 - Land owners and others with an interest in the land
 - Commoners Association
 - Caerphilly CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC
 - Community Councils
 - Countryside Council for Wales
 - Cadw
 - Open Spaces Society
- Others may include GGAT, local Wildlife Trust, local Ramblers' Association, Local Access Forums

milller argent



RPS

Benefits

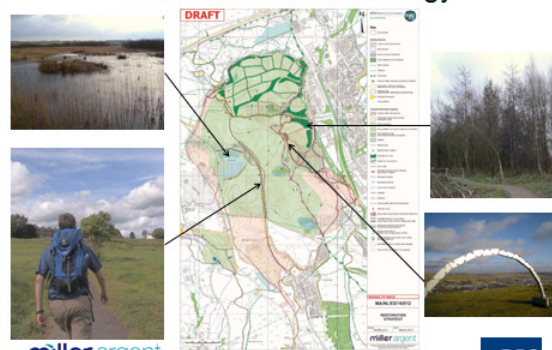
- Areas for temporary grazing of good quality agricultural grazing land for c. 19 years.
- Additional public access opportunities—temporary access land and new linear recreational routes.
- Landscape benefits from the remediation works, which would also make safe existing shafts, adits and collapsed mine workings.
- Remediation works would also provide features to enhance ecological value and the cultural heritage by restoring and managing archaeological and historic features.
- On completion, the land would be restored with enhanced recreational resources.
- The possibility of an increased area of registered permanent common by c. 11.5 Ha.

milller argent



RPS

Draft Restoration Strategy



milller argent



RPS



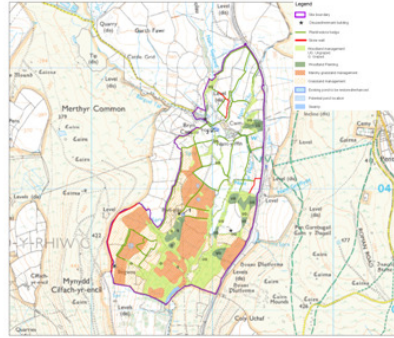
- Key
- Restoration Strategy
- ... (detailed list of restoration types and areas)



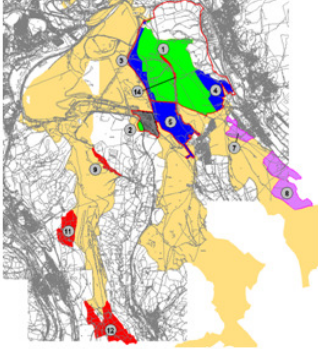
Draft Restoration Strategy



Draft Cwm Golau Habitat Enhancement Plan



Temporary Grazing/Access Areas



THANK YOU





ii) Written responses to Common Land Consultation

Caerphilly Local Access Forum:



Mr D Mason
Miller Argent
Cwmbargoed Disposal Point
Fochriw Road
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 4AE

Countryside and Landscape Services,
Caerphilly County Borough Council,
Ty Pontllanfraith,
Pontllanfraith,
Blackwood,
NP12 2YW.

Date/Dyddiad 12/04/2013

Your Ref/Eich Cyf:
Our Ref/Ein Cyf: PL/CLS/PLN/3/A
Telephone/Ffon: 01495 235312

Dear Mr Mason



Compensation Access Land – Nant Llesg

Thank you for your presentation to the Caerphilly Local Access Forum on March 15th which the membership found most informative. Following the presentation the Forum agreed to set up a sub group to informally comment on your proposals. The sub group comprised 5 members of the full forum and visited the 5 proposed compensation sites, along with the Nant Llesg site, on the 4th April.

The sub group assessed each site using the information you provided in relation to six main criteria; proximity to users, accessibility by foot from common land, other open access land and the rights of way network, accessibility of the sites by vehicles, the terrain and topography of the site, vegetation coverage and any interest the site may provide e.g. views. The group did not walk each site, viewing sites 11 and 12 from distance.

Generally, on a strategic level, the feeling of those involved in the sub group was that the land being offered as a replacement during the period of the scheme and restoration phase (and in perpetuity for site 9) was sensible and would perform a useful purpose in connecting parts of existing common land, open access land, the rights of way network and areas of population. None of the replacement land appeared too steep or to provide any immediate dangers to users.

Whilst not wishing to comment on the specifics of individual sites at this stage e.g. individual access points, the Forum may wish to do so at the detailed planning application stage and indeed reserves the right to comment again at that stage in a formal capacity.



Chairman – William Lindsay Secretary – Norman Liversuch



With regard to access points I would draw your attention to the hierarchy that the Forum promote, this being firstly a gap, secondly a kissing gate and thirdly a stile. It is considered that this promotes the widest opportunities for access.

With respect to broad logistics a number of issues were identified where it was felt that explanation in the supporting detail to the planning application would be helpful and these are outlined below.

Firstly, the sub group identified several issues with regard to potential conflicts of land use and land management, notably where active agricultural use was to continue in a more 'pastoral' landscape, eg internal boundaries and the ability to roam. It should be noted that the sub group have considered the proposals on the presumption that the land is recognised and managed as Open Access Land as defined under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Should Natural Resources Wales (CCW as was) not permit the formal designation of this land the group would be interested to know what alternative procedure / management would be put in place.

Secondly, the group were interested to know how the new areas of land were to be promoted as areas of new usage, as they have not historically been available. It was felt that the sites could be promoted on the Internet. In some cases the direct provision of on site interpretation and signage would be of benefit.

Thirdly, the condition of access within the sites is potentially an issue and raises the matter of how this, and any associated facilities are to be maintained throughout the works and whether it is the intention to do this through a dowry or direct maintenance.

With regard to some general observations on the individual sites the following was noted. Care will be required at Site 7 for any access points leading directly onto the highway network given the hedges and steep banks abutting the highway. Site 8 will require careful consideration over the siting of access/egress points particularly as there is a large rock outcrop bounding the site. Whilst not having discussed this proposal with MTCBC it seems that the fencing could be removed from Site 9. Here an opportunity may exist to create a small picnicking area as the site offers shelter, a pleasant view and parking adjacent to the metalled highway.

Site 11 appeared to offer very good access from Pentrebach with a very defined path that could perhaps be promoted for access for the less able. Site 12 seems a traditional farm in terms of its vegetation and layout, which seemingly offers something different from traditional open access land and will be of interest as a result of this. This is perhaps the least straight forward of the sites.

On behalf of the Forum may I thank you for allowing an early opportunity to consider and respond to your proposals for access compensation land. I hope you find the above observations of use. I would reiterate that the Forum reserves the right to comment again should you submit a detailed planning application.

Yours sincerely

Chairman Caerphilly Local Access Forum

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Wilfred Lindsay'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator.



The Open Spaces Society:

From: Kate Ashbrook [mailto:hq@oss.org.uk]
Sent: 23 May 2013 15:27
To: logdelek@leekandweston.com
Subject: Nant Lleisg

Dear Roger
Thanks for your email, it came with a phishing message, whatever that is, so I couldn't reply direct. Thanks for all the information and sorry for the delay in replying. I regret I just don't have time to go through it all in detail, but I was satisfied with your presentation at Didcot and unless any members raise any unexpected issues I do not anticipate objecting. I think you have gone into this thoroughly and that the public interest is generally protected, and that in the long-term the area will be improved.
Best wishes
Kate

*Kate Ashbrook
General Secretary
The Open Spaces Society
25a Bell Street
Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BA
tel 01491 533335, mob 07771 655694
email: hq@oss.org.uk
website www.oss.org.uk
The Open Spaces Society is a registered charity (no 1144840) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 7846516).*

*Seen our latest Etime?
[Read and subscribe here](#)*



Read my blog at <http://campaignerkate.wordpress.com/>



Contact Us

If you would like any further information on the proposals then please get in touch:

Call: Freephone 0800 169 6507

Email:
ma.enquiries@millerargent.co.uk

Visit: www.nantllesg.co.uk

These details will put you in touch with PPS Group which coordinates our Nant Llesg public consultation activity.