

<b>Report on</b>	Correspondence from Dalradian Gold
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Planning Service Director
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Planning Service Director

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	For decision
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Dalradian Gold has written the Council to dispute some of the comments made by members at the Committee and to invite the Planning Committee and members to visit their site operations (Appendix 1).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Dalradian have written to say that whilst they welcome a public inquiry they wish to relate there concerns on some of the discussion at the Committee. They argue that our concerns on road impact are misplaced and DfI Roads are content with the proposal and that after construction they will only be moving 3 loads per day and not be moving rocks on or off the site during the operational stage. They state all crushing will be on site and that their mine will extend some 700m and will not be as one member suggested "to a depth of a couple of miles under sea level." They also point to similar mining operations in Conoish and Navan, County Meath as examples of modern mining techniques. (Appendix One). In conclusion, Dalradian invite members and officers to visit their office and operations in Omagh and Rouskey.
3.2	Members will recall that at the Committee some members reflected views, which the Committee as a whole regarded as "heresay". However, the Committee in recognising the need for a public inquiry tabled reasons for refusal to enable the PAC carry out its inquisitorial role. I see no reason why they Council would deviate from this position. This said, it would be of assistance to me in preparing for the inquiry to take up the offer of the accompanied site visit.
3.3	Whilst I anticipate, there would be some disquiet amongst some of those who oppose the goldmine locally who treat any conversations with suspicion. However, the Council's position is a matter of public record and I feel the benefits in terms of our preparation for the Public Inquiry outweigh this.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That the Service Director accept the invitation on behalf of officers  That Committee advise if they feel it would be appropriate for members to attend.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix One Letter from Dalriadian.

Dr. Chris Boomer,  
Head of Planning,  
Mid Ulster District Council,  
Cookstown Office,  
Burn Road,  
Cookstown.  
BT80 8DT.

9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

By email: [chris.boomer@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:chris.boomer@midulstercouncil.org)

**Re: Planning Committee Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021**

Dear Dr. Boomer,

I am the Managing Director of Dalradian Gold Limited ("DGL"). DGL is familiar to the Council and its councillors. I write in relation to the discussion around our planning application and some of the content or comments made at the above committee meeting.

Our proposed operation will be an underground mine, not open cast, and will use surface operations and practices similar to those employed at the Cononish mine, which is situated in the Loch Lomond and Trussachs National Park in Scotland.

Our application is for a polymetallic mine which will produce gold, silver and copper. The need for and importance of mining in supporting our existing economy and in transitioning to a reduced carbon future has been clearly identified by bodies as diverse as the EU, the Institute of Geologists Ireland and the Critical Minerals Association (see attached documents).

To be clear DGL has absolutely no issue with constructive objection and welcomes informed debate. We fully accept that mining, like many industries, can be emotive. However, it is important that opinions, or hearsay, are not presented as facts and that the application is judged accordingly. This is why the company has long been on record as welcoming a public inquiry.

Some of the points that we would wish to raise relate to the discussion within the Chamber. These include:

- Comments around transport and the impact on the road network of HGVs in particular. DfI Roads have assessed the application and are content with the information provided, having responded with the inclusion of draft conditions. After construction, we will only be

exporting a concentrate (akin to a metallic sand), in the order of 3 loads per day. There will not be any movement of rocks or ore off-site during the operational stage.

- All crushing will be on-site. In fact, primary crushing will be completed underground, with the milling stage taking place in a fully enclosed building. There will not be any off-site crushing.
- The incorrect statement made in the committee meeting that "Mining will be to a depth of a couple of miles below sea level". In fact, our mine plan extends to some 700m. As stated earlier, our operation will be underground, with a highly targeted method to remove the narrow (average of 0.5m) gold-silver-copper veins. Our mine plan and planning application, clearly sets out that the mined voids will be backfilled during operations. Indeed, the trial samples produced used cement from the operation in Cookstown, as we are committed to sourcing within the local supply chain, where at all possible.

In terms of this supply chain, we have already engaged with a number of local, world-class manufacturers who have been supplying the mining sector for decades. Many of these companies and their engineers have been to site and visited our underground workings, to better inform and train them for their current jobs.

Modern mining operations are successfully carried out in other developed countries without negatively impacting the environment or the local community. DGL would invite the Council and its councillors to make their own inquiries about the mining operation at Cononish and to do the same with the mine in Navan, County Meath so that further discussion and engagement can be more fully informed and based on objective evidence.

Finally, we would also like to extend an invite to our office and site operations in Omagh and Rouskey, not only to the planning committee members but to any council colleague who would wish to visit.

We could use such a meeting to explain and discuss wider commitments and actions such as our carbon neutral (net carbon zero) status and achievements to date.

Yours sincerely,



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Brian Kelly

Managing Director