

Dalradian Gold Ltd – Exploration License and application to build gold mine	22nd November 2017
PLANNING COMMITTEE	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Outcome
Leader and Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Elected Members will provide civic leadership to our citizens working to promote the Borough as an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit.
Protect the environment in which we live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All environments in the area will benefit from pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough.
Lead Officer	Head of Planning
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

For Decision

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Department for the Economy (DfE) contacted the Council in relation to an application from Dalradian Gold Ltd. for mineral prospecting rights in a number of areas in Counties Tyrone and Londonderry. The ward effected in this Council area is Dungiven.
- 1.2 At the Planning Committee held on 23rd August 2017 it was agreed that Head of Planning would respond to the consultation setting out Councils concerns.

2.0 Detail

- 1.3 Dalradian Gold Ltd are in the process of lodging a planning application to the department of Infrastructure to build an underground gold mine. They note the response from Council on the exploration licences. However, they do not agree that any of their activities present threats or harmful impacts as detailed in Council's response.
- 1.4 They offer an invite to Councillors and appropriate officials to visit their sites in Omagh and the deposit in Curraghinalt to discuss the subject of mineral exploration and the pending planning application.

3.0 Options

Option 1: Agree to accept the invite: or

Option 2: Agree to decline the invite.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members agree to Option 1 or 2 above and to the Head of Planning responding to Dalradian Gold Ltd on behalf of Council.

Appendices:

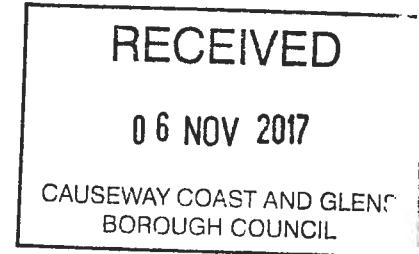
Appendix 1: letter from Dalradian Gold Ltd.

Appendix 2: letter from Council to Department for the Economy in response to licencing consultation.

Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast & Glens Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
COLERAINE BT52 1EY

03 November 2017

Dear David,



Ref: Dalradian Gold Limited:

- 1. Regional Exploration Licences and activities.**
- 2. Application to build an underground gold mine.**

We are presently in the process of lodging an application in relation to Point 2 above to the Department for Infrastructure. In parallel with this project at Curraghinalt we continue, as licenced by the Department for the Economy, our wider regional exploration activities.

Our plans represent a major economic opportunity for the Council district and beyond and we recognise that a need exists to communicate to all stakeholders the extent and potential of our plans.

We note the response to renewal of two of our exploration licences, areas known as DG 3 and DG 4, during a recent council meeting:

"that Committee support the comments of colleagues in Derry City and Strabane District Council and Mid Ulster Council and reinforce Committee's concerns surrounding the harmful impact on the health and wellbeing of residents in the entire area, the adverse environmental impact, adverse impact on tourism, impact on employment in terms of agriculture and farmers and impact on the AONB designation."

We do not believe that any of our activities present threats or harmful impacts as listed above. We would like to extend an invitation to all Councillors and appropriate officials to visit our sites in Omagh and the deposit in Curraghinalt to engage in a dialogue about the subject of mineral exploration and the pending planning application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Kelly".

Brian Kelly
Managing Director



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Local Planning Office
County Hall
Castlerock Road
COLERAINE
BT51 3HS

To: minerals@economy-ni.gov.uk

Date: 15th September 2017

Tel: 028 7034 7137

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Mineral Prospecting Licence – Dalradian Gold Ltd – DG4 Consultation.

Thank you for your correspondence seeking comments on the proposed DG4 Prospecting Licence. I can advise that the consultation was presented at Council's Planning Committee on Wednesday 23rd August 2017, where it was agreed that I would respond on behalf of the Council.

A section of the area listed as DG4 is located with the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area. On this basis I wish to advise you of the environmental designations which are located either within or in very close proximity to the proposed site (see attached map at Appendix 1).

Any proposed licence should be considered in relation to these environmental designations and the protection of the features for which they have been designated. It should also be considered in relation to the protection of the features of, and access to, any walking trails and hand gliding/paragliding sites that may be in this vicinity.

Council also supports any comments returned on behalf of the adjoining councils of Mid Ulster, Fermanagh and Omagh and Derry City and Strabane District.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Dickson".

Denise Dickson
Head of Planning

DG4

