

Preston New Road Community Liaison Group

Meeting: Seventh meeting Wednesday 12th November 2014

Venue: Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, PR4 2PH

Time: 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Attendees:

Chair, Sam Schofield [SS] Cuadrilla, Lancashire Communications & Public Affairs
Manager

James Adam [JA] Cuadrilla, Bowland Project Delivery Manager

Stuart Hall [SHa]

Susan Holliday [SHo]

Pat Davies [PD]

Jan Gregson [JG]

Julie Brickles [JB]

Liz Cheadle [LC]

Mark Kerr [MK] Secretariat, PPS Group

In attendance:

Rob Green [RG] North West Energy Task Force

Ken Hopwood [KH] Fylde Borough Council

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
<p>1.0 Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Andrew Pemberton.</p>	
<p>2.0 Pre-amble</p> <p>In welcoming KH to the meeting, SS requested that in future if members wanted to extend an invitation to a non-member to attend as an observer, this should be raised and approved at the preceding meeting under AOB. In exceptional circumstances requests should be made of the Secretariat at least five days in advance.</p>	ALL
<p>3.0 Presentation: Rob Green (North West Energy Task Force)</p> <p>RG explained he was one of twelve NWETF Panel members. The NWETF had been set up 12 months ago to consider the economic benefits that could result from the responsible exploitation of shale gas in the north west.</p> <p>The TF was funded by Cuadrilla and Centrica to meet the costs of the secretariat (provided by Westbourne Communications) and the production of materials, reports and events to stimulate debate on relevant issues, e.g. employment possibilities. The topic papers the TF produced highlighted potential business opportunities that could result from development of the</p>	

shale gas industry in the North West.

RG added that Panel members were drawn from a wide range of interests including Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Business, retired business people, politicians etc. The TF was independent and on occasion provided the media with an alternative view to ensure a balanced debate. The TF's view was that if safely regulated, shale gas could provide economic regeneration and financial benefits for the Fylde coast, Lancashire and the North West in the form of local jobs, local infrastructure and funds for the long-term benefit of the area. RB commented that the Fylde Coast was a diverse area with both a wealth and deprivation and this balance needed to be redressed.

He added that the TF's view was that if the shale gas industry were to become established, early thought needed to be given to how to ensure that maximum benefit was extracted for the region. He identified the announcement of the Energy College in the region as an example of securing local benefits ahead of any shale gas production.

RG added that the successful Supply Chain Conference in April in Blackpool had attracted 380 delegates from 180 companies with a combined workforce of c. 200,000. He expected the conference to be repeated in the summer of 2015.

In responding to JB's question about how the TF's 12 panel members had been chosen, RG explained that they had been approached to see if they were interested and that other members had joined since to find out more about the shale gas industry. He added that they did not represent any single constituency but all wanted a fair hearing about the potential benefits the industry could bring.

SHa asked where the TF was based and RG explained that Westbourne, the TF's Communications consultants were based in London, but that the TF did not have an office or specific base.

SHo asked how any monies would be channeled to deprived areas, e.g. Blackpool or Fleetwood. RG explained that this would be achieved by improving the overall regional economy and providing business opportunities for local companies. And that championing local causes through advocating and lobbying for local causes by TF members including local politicians would help ensure that to benefits would be retained in the local community.

JG asked where the financial benefits would come from. RG explained that increased local spend would follow any increase in shale gas exploration activity, including direct and indirect employment opportunities.

SHa asked how Cuadrilla would provide job opportunities and relevant training. SS gave the example of the Supply Chain Portal which identified tendering opportunities for local businesses and provided workshops and events to educate and advise on how to bid for contracts. RG emphasised the need for local businesses to be aware of the possible opportunities in order for them to share in the benefits and replace the £1billion lost in the recent

reduction in jobs in the public sector.

PD identified that the tourism industry provided 1:10 jobs in the region and asked if the TF panel members had backgrounds in the energy sector. RG commented that his background was in property development and regeneration but that there were a wide range of backgrounds on the panel; energy companies were among these, including renewables (e.g. wind, solar etc.). He commented that the TF supported all types of energy production. He added that there were representatives from Inspired Energy, the nuclear fuel producers, manufacturers and service companies but emphasised that the TF was considering the financial and economic benefits and not energy policy.

KH asked what constituted local employment and whether it would be only those who lived in the larger license area. RG warned against being too parochial but emphasised that the TF wanted benefits to be retained as locally as possible.

JB added that other energy initiatives were being considered in the area with two areas of farmland c. 100 acres being considered as renewable sites. RG said that the TF was initially looking at shale gas and that other forms of energy production such as Wyre barrage also had environmental impacts. He identified that 17-18% of our electricity came from fossil fuels and that replacing that with renewables was challenging because of supply and demand issues and intermittent supply.

JB asked about how the basis for the economic benefits of shale was being assessed. RG explained that examples from the United States and Australia were being extrapolated, interpreted and adapted together with data from Ernst & Young and UKOOG. He added that the test wells already drilled had produced some additional employment but concluded that if nothing were done now the risk was that any jobs generated would go overseas as had been the case in the development of the UK's wind farm industry.

All thanked RG for his contribution.

4.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 8th October meeting were agreed.

5.0 Matters Arising

Item 6.0 Community update, Terms of Reference (ToR): MK confirmed that the ToR had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Item 6.0 Community Update, North West Energy Task Force (NWETF): Rob Green (NWETF) was in attendance.

6.0 Programme update

Existing sites:

Anna's Road site, Banks: JA explained that following restoration this was now

in the aftercare phase which involved the monitoring of the restoration work including the vegetation growth.

Preese Hall site, Weeton: JA reported that plug and abandonment work had now been completed and restoration would begin in the next few days to return the site to agricultural use. It was anticipated that this would be concluded before Christmas 2014 depending on weather conditions.

Becconsall site, Banks: JA said that planning approval had been granted for the restoration works but that this would not be undertaken until the growing season in Spring/Summer 2015.

LCC PNR determination period: JA reminded the CLG that the original LCC determination period of 16 weeks plus a 6 week extension had ended on 5th November 2014. However, LCC had asked for a further extension of 8 weeks to 31 December 2014 to which Cuadrilla had agreed. JA added that this further extension was needed to enable LCC to consult and consider responses to additional information submitted by Cuadrilla and new information such as the Health Impact Assessment report recommendations approved by LCC's Cabinet on 6 November 2014.

During the course of discussion it was agreed that timings were extremely tight for a determination of the application on or before 31 December. It was highlighted that LCC's additional consultation had not yet begun or been publicised and would take place over a 21 day period, thereafter LCC would need to consider the responses received. This put into serious question LCC's target date. KH identified that the next scheduled LCC planning committee was set for 10 December and no plans had been made for a special meeting during December.

In addition, the CLG thought it put residents at a distinct disadvantage as people had made plans for the Xmas period that could not be changed.

All agreed that this was a matter for LCC.

EA permits: In relation to the EA's recent (10 November 2014) "minded to consent" announcement the Agency would also be undertaking a four week public consultation exercise. However, JA reminded the Group that this process was not directly linked to LCC's planning decision.

7.0 Community update

No matters were raised.

8.0 AOB

Meetings with Energy Minister on 12 November: In response to a question from JB, SS stated that Cuadrilla had not been involved in any meetings at Fylde Town Hall with Matthew Hancock, MP, Business and Energy Minister.

SS closed the meeting and wished everybody a happy Christmas.

9.0 Date of next meeting

7.00 pm Wednesday 7th January 2015 at the Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Rea Green, PR4 2PH.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm.
