

## **Preston New Road Community Liaison Group**

Meeting: Fourth meeting Wednesday 31st July 2014

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

Time: 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Attendees:

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

Leon Jennings [LJ]                      Cuadrilla, HSSE Director

Liz Cheadle [LG]

Pat Davies [PD]

Stephen Walker [SW]

Julie Brickles [JB]

Tim Laycock [TL]

Andrew Pemberton [AP]

Mark Kerr [MK]                      Secretariat, PPS Group

In attendance:

Will Armstrong                      Cuadrilla Business Resilience Manager

<b><i>Item</i></b>	<b><i>Action</i></b>
<p><b>1.0 Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>In light of the new members all present introduced themselves.</p> <p><b>2.0 Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from James Adam (Cuadrilla, Bowland Project Delivery Manager), Stuart Hall (SW attended in his stead), Susan Holliday and Jan Gregson.</p> <p><b>3.0 Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> June meeting were agreed.</p> <p><b>4.0 Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>Additional CLG members:</u> The following individuals were approached by the Secretariat with a view to joining the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harry Gardener, Moss House Farm (interested)</li></ul>	

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- Andrew Pemberton, Birks Farm, Ballam Road, Ballam (interested)
  - David Hargreaves, Mere Farm, Westby (interested)
  - Knights K9 Kennels, Staining Wood Cottages, Preston New Road (no response)
  - Tim Laycock (interested)

SS welcomed AP and TL to the meeting.

Redaction of CLG members' names: No requests had been received from members to have their names redacted from the meeting minutes.

PNR planning application CDs: The CDs were circulated by the Secretariat to members following submission of the planning application to LCC.

EA/HSE presentation: This had taken place on 15 July 2014.

Wrea Green Institute venue: The suggested change of venue had been delivered.

**Matters arising from 15 July joint PNR/RW CLG meeting at which the HSE gave a presentation**

Two questions were raised at the HSE presentation; unfortunately the EA representative was unable to attend due to ill health.

***1.0 Foxwood Chase: omission of houses from EA***

Arup had produced a briefing note on the matter that had been circulated by the secretariat on 30 July 2014 to PNG CLG members. Copies of the brief were also made available at the meeting.

***2.0 Preese Hall: 6 week delay in reporting claimed well deformity***

LJ explained that there never was and never had been any loss of well integrity at Preese Hall (i.e. no release of gas or fluids from the well to the surrounding environment). There were clear protocols for reporting "incidents" to the HSE and this (a deformed section of casing at circa 8,000 feet where the casing is designed to be breached to allow gas to enter the well from the shale) was clearly not a reportable incident.

He added that the HSE had confirmed this on more than one occasion and had no issue with the nature or the timing of the reporting. LJ was unable to say what the 6 week gap in reporting related to and confirmed that the Preese Hall well was currently being plugged.

PD asked why the weekly HSE reports had not identified the problem. LJ explained that the weekly reports were only required when the well was

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operational and this had not been the case. The well had been suspended and subsequent investigation identified a slight deformity to the well casing at that point there was no requirement for weekly reports to the HSE.

## 5.0 Programme update

LCC consultation period: LJ explained that LCC had received representations during the consultation stating that the 3 week consultation was not sufficient to review the quantity of information in the planning applications.

Consequently LCC decided to extend the consultation from 3 weeks to 12 weeks (closing 5<sup>th</sup> September). As a result LCC have requested an extension of the determination period from 16 weeks to 22 weeks. Cuadrilla had agreed to this extension of time. This means that the determination period will now run until the 5<sup>th</sup> November. LCC have not yet set a date for a planning committee meeting.

EA consultation period: LJ added that regarding permits, as a result of a similar representation the EA have extended their consultation from 4 weeks to 8 weeks (ending 5<sup>th</sup> August) with an equivalent extension to the overall time for the determination of the permits. The revised schedule for the permits is therefore to complete the permitting by the 10<sup>th</sup> October.

PD asked how the public were made aware of the extension to the EAs consultation period. SS/LJ explained that the EA would usually advertise the changes in the local press and on its website and would inform local politicians at County, Borough and Parish levels.

## 6.0 Community update

Office of Unconventional Gas & Oil: JP explained that OUGA would be briefing a Westby-with-Plumpton PC meeting about shale gas. She thought that OUGA should also be invited to brief the CLG and suggested the secretariat contact the PC Clerk Joan Kirkham about the arrangements.

Site security: PD raised concerns about issues raised with her by residents about being challenged and filmed by the on-site security presence when viewing the site notices. In one case this had led to a speedy Police attendance which was something that rarely happened even following burglaries etc.

WA explained that there had been heightened interest when the site notices had first been posted but that there was clearly no issue with people reading them.

He added that the security guards had been subjected to some abuse, and that cameras on uniforms were common place for security guards in order that incidents could be filmed for the protection of the guards and the local community.

WA added that the security was necessary because opposition groups had a history of occupying sites and it took an extended period of time to legally remove them with negative impacts on local communities. The risk of this happening on the PNR site had been anticipated, hence the security presence on the site.

Secretariat

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SS asked that where concerns existed these should be raised directly with Cuadrilla with as much detail as possible provided so they could be investigated.

JP also raised the issue of legitimate protestors being told to leave Carr Bridge Park when Cuadrilla was holding an exhibition event. She added that the details about this were all over the internet and it looked as if Cuadrilla was restricting the activities of protestors.

SS explained that Cuadrilla's presence had been arranged in advance with the owner of the privately owned Park and that residents had been offered the opportunity to discuss the PNR proposals with Cuadrilla and Arup.

When the protestors arrived the Park owner asked them to leave and they set up on the private drive of a nearby house with the owner's permission.

Outstanding correspondence: PD raised the fact that a letter dated 7 July had not received a response from Cuadrilla and SS apologised asking the secretariat to expedite a response by close of play on 1 August.

Secretariat

## **7.0 AOB**

Community benefit: PD highlighted that the RW CLG had expressed a clear wish wanted any community benefit monies to administered and spent locally.

Following a suggestion from SS it was agreed that the secretariat should invite the Community Foundation for Lancashire to the next meeting to explain the process.

Secretariat

Preese Hall: AP asked for an update on Preese Hall. LJ explained that the drilling and fracking had taken place in 2011 and work had been suspended since then and had never been flow tested or been in production. Further work had been undertaken when the casing deformity was discovered with the well plugged three quarters of the way down.

AP raised concerns about leakage and contamination caused by earth movement that could occur long after Cuadrilla had left, and asked where responsibility lay in 10, 20 or 30 years.

LJ explained that the well plugging process ensured leakage would not occur even if there was natural earth movement.

AP challenged this and said that any doubts led to scaremongering which could result in fears about the quality of locally produced food products leading to local businesses going bust within 24 hours.

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SS explained that Cuadrilla and Centrica are jointly and severally responsible but in the highly unlikely event that both went bust AJ Lucas, an Australian mining company would carry any liability.

If all three went bust the liability would revert to the landowner but there was acceptance from the companies and the Government that this was not good enough and they were looking at the issue.

TL commented that HMG needed to underwrite all risks for at least 50 years and with a better regulatory regime than the USA the risks that needed to be taken should be manageable.

SS reaffirmed that the longer-term issues were for the Government to solve.

JP drew a parallel with the coal industry that had never been fully underwritten by the Government because the costs were too high with disasters happening despite regulation and 8 miners per 100,000 dying each year. (SS observed that unlike mining all well work staff were above ground.) She thought it inevitable that something would go wrong at some point and it was essential that there were clear lines of responsibility.

All agreed that scaremongering was the key problem and SS added that for shale gas to be successful in the Fylde it was vital that the industry coexisted with agriculture.

SS identified the opportunity to discuss issues of long-term responsibility with OUGO.

## **8.0 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on:

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at the Wrea Green Institute subject to availability.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.