

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 22nd May 2017

Venue:

Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH

Attending:

Councillor Paul Hayhurst, member for Fylde West
Councillor Julie Brickles, member for Warton and Westby
Councillor Michael Cornah, member for Warton and Westby
Councillor Dawn Ansell, Weeton-with-Preese Parish Council
Councillor Miranda Cox, Kirkham Town Council
Jonathan Haine, Lancashire County Council
Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive
Tom Glyn-Jones, Environment Agency
Sergeant Andy Hill, Lancashire Constabulary
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative
Helen Taylor, Local Community Representative
Sam Schofield, Cuadrilla
Nick Mace, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

Superintendent Richard Robertshaw, Lancashire Constabulary
Graham Daniels, Local Community Representative
Mary Ellison, Local Community Representative
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and introductions Councillor Hayhurst advised that Councillor Ben Aitken, member of Fylde Council, was attending as an observer, as agreed by Cuadrilla and Lancashire County Council. Jackie Dobson noted apologies received.	
2.	Agree meeting report of 26th April 2017 Referring to the request for further details to be provided in the meeting note, Councillor Hayhurst noted that this approach had been adopted. Members	

	<p>approved the meeting report as an accurate record.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Site update</p> <p>Nick Mace provided an overview of activity at the Preston New Road site, referring to the delivery of stone to site and the preparation of the geogrid. He noted that construction activity is nearing completion, specifically citing the surfacing of the site access road and connection to the water supply.</p> <p>Nick Mace noted that an inspection had been undertaken by the Environment Agency and referred to the launch of the ePortal. He went on to note that a video detailing operational progress would be available on Cuadrilla’s website shortly.</p> <p>He explained that Cuadrilla needs to remove spoil from the site as part of the Section 278 works and noted that there had been no incidents to report.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked whether there had been any breaches of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP), specifically vehicles turning right in and out of the site. Nick Mace explained that Cuadrilla undertakes a risk assessment of vehicle routes in consultation with the police and liaises with Lancashire County Council regarding compliance with the TMP. He advised that a variation to the TMP has been submitted to Lancashire County Council.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday asked whether there had been breaches to the TMP as a result of vehicles movements outside of operational hours. Nick Mace stated that he had not been informed of any incidents or received any complaints regarding out of hours activity.</p> <p>Referring to the ePortal, Christopher Holliday stated that during April, 347 vehicles arrived to site, whilst an additional 23 vehicles departed. He suggested the discrepancy was due to vehicles arriving outside of operational hours. Nick Mace explained that not all vehicles arriving to site leave, with several vehicles remaining onsite.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell sought clarity on the operational hours. Nick Mace advised that during site construction, the operating hours are 07.30 – 18.30 Monday to Friday, 08.30 – 12.00 Saturday and no activity on a Sunday or public holiday. He noted that during the drilling phase, the site will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday referred to a vehicle that had arrived to site at 07.00 on 28th April that waited on the A583 for half an hour until it was able to enter the site and questioned whether this was a breach of the TMP. Jonathan Haine advised that, as the vehicle did not enter the site, it had not breached the TMP. Nick Mace requested vehicle and registration details to investigate further.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell questioned whether a parked vehicle on the public highway</p>	<p>Christopher Holliday to provide details</p>

	<p>posed risk to other road users and Councillor Cornah suggested that if it did, so too would the 'Fracking Bus' that parks on the A583.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst requested that a schedule of vehicle movements is provided to members of the CLG. This view was shared by Mary Finn who suggested that this would provide clarity regarding alleged discrepancies relating to vehicle movements. Nick Mace advised that a schedule is submitted to Lancashire County Council up to three times a week.</p> <p>Councillor Cox cited difficulty in accessing the ePortal link provided via email to all CLG members. She was advised to visit Cuadrilla's website to access the ePortal and notify Sam Schofield should she continue to experience technical difficulties.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p> <p>Jonathan Haine advised that 16 complaints have been made to Lancashire County Council. He summarised these and advised that issues relating to dust generated from vehicles, absence of wheel washing and noise fencing had been raised with Cuadrilla.</p> <p>He advised that Cuadrilla had applied to vary the TMP to allow further flexibility regarding vehicle routes. Councillor Ansell questioned whether consultation had been undertaken at borough and parish level. Jonathan Haine stated it had, but advised that he would investigate further following suggestions that consultation had not been undertaken.</p> <p>With regard to wheel washing, Jonathan Haine explained that Lancashire County Council has liaised with Cuadrilla regarding previous concerns and mitigation measures, such as installing steel trackway, which have been implemented. He advised that Lancashire County Council will continue to liaise with Cuadrilla to ascertain whether these measures are sufficient.</p> <p>Jonathan Haine noted that Cuadrilla has submitted a lighting proposal for work undertaken during the installation of the conductor casing. Nick Mace confirmed to members that additional light would be required during operational hours, but could be required 24 hours a day for a few weeks during the installation of the final 25 metres.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst questioned whether a variation to the TMP could be revoked. He went onto cite concerns regarding vehicle convoys using Kirkham and Wesham, suggesting that all construction traffic should be routed to and from junction 4 of the M55 Motorway. Councillor Hayhurst referred to concerns raised at the previous CLG meeting regarding vehicles using rural roads, such as Spen Lane.</p> <p>Jonathan Haine confirmed that the variation could not be revoked and advised</p>	

	<p>that the TMP only relates to access to the motorway network, rather than the impact on rural roads. Clarifying the position, Nick Mace explained that the variation to the TMP includes routing vehicles to the primary road network as quickly as possible to avoid rural roads. He encouraged attendees to contact the complaints helpline to allow Cuadrilla to address concerns and investigate alleged incidents.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell noted that a convoy of vehicles had travelled at high speed through Weeton at 08.40 on 28th April and cited concerns raised by parents at a local school. She expressed concern that Lancashire County Council had not consulted Weeton-with-Preese Parish Council regarding proposed variations to the TMP. This view was shared by Councillor Cox. Echoing sentiments raised, Mary Finn also referred to the smell generated from a HGV and suspected that this had arisen from a faulty clutch on one of the vehicles travelling to site.</p> <p>Councillor Cornah questioned how long convoys would continue to deliver stone to the site. Nick Mace confirmed that all stone should be delivered within the next week. Whilst acknowledging attendees concerns regarding vehicle convoys, Councillor Cornah stated that these concerns would be alleviated in the short term.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell raised concerns that vehicle convoys would continue to be used to progress the operation onsite. Nick Mace confirmed that Cuadrilla would prefer not to use vehicle convoys, but has to consider the threat posed to vehicles as a result of direct action of the protestors.</p> <p>Sam Schofield appealed to attendees to exert any influence they might have over the protestors to encourage behaviour to be moderated. Councillor Cox advised that it was inaccurate to suggest every vehicle is threatened by the presence of protestors at the site. Councillor Hayhurst questioned whether members have any influence over the protestors. Councillor Brickles stated that she attends the CLG as a councillor, whilst activity undertaken in her personal life is her own business.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst summarised the concerns raised relating to the variation of the TMP, as well as vehicle convoys and impact on rural roads.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Tom Glyn-Jones advised that the EA continues to monitor Cuadrilla’s activity onsite, including an inspection in April regarding the installation of the lining containment system. It was noted that an Inspection Report would be prepared and would be available on the EA’s website in due course.</p> <p>Referring to a concern raised at the previous CLG meeting regarding a pipe near Moss House Lane, Tom Glyn-Jones confirmed it to be an agricultural pipe. He</p>	

	<p>advised that the pipe, referred to as 'umbilical', is from the farm and linked to a pump from their farm slurry lagoon. The pipe is then linked to a tractor and spread to land. He noted that this is standard procedure on all dairy farms and is expected to continue until October.</p> <p>Tony Almond noted that one concern had been raised to the Health & Safety Executive regarding the measurements for Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), as displayed on the ePortal under air quality. He advised that the concern had been investigated and the level of dust is below required limits.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Sergeant Hill advised that as of the 19th May, there have been 136 arrests made, primarily for offences relating to the Trade Union Labour Relations Act and Public Order Act.</p> <p>A discussion was had regarding the police facilitating Cuadrilla to breach the TMP and Sergeant Hill explained that any decision taken by the Silver Commander regarding an alternative route has to be logged and justified.</p> <p>Members raised concerns regarding police vehicles accompanying HGV convoys at high speed, with blue flashing lights and through red traffic lights. Councillor Brickles suggested this approach is dangerous and could result in accidents if motorists are unaware of the oncoming HGV convoy once the police vehicles have passed.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell noted that a HGV had been seen parked on the hard shoulder of the M55 and that vehicles are travelling slowly on the motorway to wait for additional HGVs to join the convoy. She advised that as a result of the convoys, motorists are also experiencing traffic coming to a sudden standstill when driving onto Junction 4 of the M55 from Blackpool. Councillor Ansell emphasised the danger this presents.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion as to whether the police are accompanying vehicles from junction 4, Councillor Hayhurst reiterated earlier comments that the local parish and town councils, as well as Highways England, need to be consulted on the variation of the TMP.</p> <p>Sergeant Hill advised that the police had recently attended a meeting with the campaigners and that several issues had arisen from this forum. He advised that a further meeting is planned in due course.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Actions arising from 26th April 2017</p> <p>Sam Schofield advised that Cuadrilla had considered the suggestion to audio</p>	

	<p>record CLG meetings, but noted that this was explicitly ruled out in the Terms of Reference and not considered appropriate.</p> <p>He advised that a link to the EA’s website for information regarding Preston New Road had now been provided on the Preston New Road page on the Cuadrilla website.</p> <p>Referring to the mortgage valuation letter provided by Councillor Hayhurst, Sam Schofield advised that the letter related to a property in Blackpool. He advised that the mortgage valuation letter stated that as the property was located within an area identified for shale gas exploration and that this could impact on public perception regarding the saleability of the property.</p> <p>Sam Schofield explained that Cuadrilla had liaised with UKOOG, the representative body for the UK onshore oil and gas industry, who in turn consulted the Council of Mortgage Lenders who had referred UKOOG to a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors’ document which dealt with shale gas. The RICS document stated that:</p> <p><i>“Fracking for shale gas is in its embryonic stage and therefore market evidence on its affect (if any) on property values has not yet emerged. RICS Valuation Professional Standards are based on current market evidence and therefore this issue will not be reflected in our members’ valuations until it is reflected in the market.</i></p> <p><i>Currently there are few sales of property in areas directly affected by fracking therefore there is a limited data set on which valuers can draw. Should any market evidence emerge then our members will take note of this and reflect it in their valuation. Any commentary on any possible effects on property value therefore would be very premature, including the attempt to draw any parallels with other nations.”</i></p> <p>Councillor Brickles advised that David Kirkham has emailed the Security Industry Authority (SIA) on several occasions regarding the request that security personnel be identifiable, but had yet to receive a response. Sergeant Hill advised that a response would be forthcoming.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Agreed date of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should take place at:</p> <p>7pm on Monday, 26th June at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p><u>CLG Membership</u></p>	

	<p>operate on other private sites and referred to an incident involving staff on private land. Sergeant Hill noted that security is contracted by Cuadrilla to act in a reasonable and appropriate manner. When questioned on this, Sergeant Hill advised that minimal, reasonable force could be used to remove trespassers from land and any action would need to be justified if brought to court.</p> <p>Councillor Cox suggested that security personnel are exerting too much force. Sergeant Hill advised that any complaints received will be investigated by an experience team of officers.</p> <p><u>The British Geological Survey (BGS)</u></p> <p>Christopher Holliday asked whether BGS would attend the CLG meeting. Nick Mace will liaise with BGS regarding the request.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst closed the meeting.</p>	
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