

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 26th June 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
Councillor Stuart Harrison, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council
Jonathan Haine, Lancashire County Council
Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive
Tom Glyn-Jones, Environment Agency
Sergeant Andy Hill, Lancashire Constabulary
Superintendent Richard Robertshaw, Lancashire Constabulary
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Mary Ellison, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative
Graham Daniels, Local Community Representative
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Sam Schofield, Cuadrilla
Mark Lappin, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Ahead of the meeting commencing, Councillor Hayhurst advised that he had been contacted by Councillor Cox of Kirkham Town Council and Councillor Harrison of Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council who had raised concerns relating to the Terms of Reference. He noted that the Terms of Reference states that one member will represent Kirkham Town Council and Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council, with the invitation rotating between the two councils.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst questioned the practicality of this arrangement and suggested that representatives of each town council should be able to attend every CLG</p>	

	<p>meeting. Sam Schofield explained that the composition of the CLG, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, has been formally agreed between Cuadrilla and Lancashire County Council. He raised concerns that further additions to the CLG's membership would increase the size of the Group beyond a manageable size and requested assurance from the Chair that this would be the final request to revise the Group's membership.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst confirmed that no further revisions would be requested. A vote was taken on the issue and most attendees supported the request for representatives of Kirkham Town Council and Wesham Town Council to be invited to attend every CLG meeting. Sam Schofield confirmed he would liaise with Lancashire County Council to discuss this further.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst welcomed attendees. No apologies had been received.</p>	<p>Sam Schofield to liaise with LCC</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Review actions arising from previous meeting</p> <p><i>Action 1. Christopher Holliday to provide details</i> – Christopher Holliday outlined several questions relating to traffic data provided on the ePortal. Sam Schofield stated that Christopher Holliday had emailed these questions to Cuadrilla and would be provided with a response in due course. Sam Schofield advised that the action arising from the previous meeting related to Christopher Holliday providing details of the vehicle that had waited on the A583 prior to arriving to site at 07.00 on 28th April. Christopher Holliday confirmed that he did not have the registration details, but would provide a photograph of the vehicle.</p> <p><i>Action 2. Jonathan Haine to review</i> – Referring to a request raised at the previous meeting regarding whether Councillor John Kirkham, ward member for Warton & Westby, should be invited to join the CLG, Jonathan Haine advised that he could foresee no issue with this. Councillor Hayhurst informed Jonathan Haine that prior to his arrival, a discussion had been had regarding representatives of Kirkham Town Council and Wesham Town Council being invited to attend every CLG meeting. Against this background, Sam Schofield suggested that Councillor John Kirkham be invited to attend CLG meetings should Councillor Brickles or Councillor Cornah being unable to attend. He advised he would liaise with Lancashire County Council to discuss this further.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Sam Schofield to consider</i> – In response to a question regarding whether local councils would be invited to have a tour of the Preston New Road site, Sam Schofield advised that once drilling commences, Cuadrilla will invite local stakeholders for a tour of the site. Councillor Ansell noted that she had spoken with councillors representing Blackpool who would be interested in a site tour.</p>	<p>Christopher Holliday to provide photograph</p> <p>Sam Schofield to liaise with LCC</p>

	Sam Schofield confirmed that priority will be given to locally-based stakeholders prior to offering tours to elected members of neighbouring authorities.	
3.	Agree meeting report of 22nd May 2017 Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.	
4.	Site update Mark Lappin advised that he is Cuadrilla's new Technical Director. He provided an overview of activity at the Preston New Road site, explaining that the site is approaching the end of the construction phase and beginning the preparation of the well ahead of drilling commencing. He noted that the membrane is currently being tested to ensure it is impermeable. Mark Lappin noted that there had been two reportable incidents. He advised that Cuadrilla had been compliant with the Health & Safety Executive's regulatory rules and informed them about ground water that was produced during operations to set the shallow conductor pipe. Mark Lappin advised that this kind of water flow is not unusual during this type of activity. He explained that the water flow was stopped with drilling muds in accordance with the Environment Agency's guidelines and are non-hazardous. Mark Lappin advised that whilst the pipeline system was still under construction, there had been a lot of heavy rainfall which resulted in an overflow. This was proactively reported to the Environment Agency who was advised of water being discharged as a result of the excessive rainfall. Councillor Hayhurst suggested that a regular summary of forthcoming activity is provided to each Parish Council to keep members informed and to explain what should be expected from Cuadrilla's operation. He cited an example of vehicle movements to and from the site. Mark Lappin emphasised Cuadrilla's commitment to ensuring the local community is kept informed of ongoing activity at the site, such as via the website, and advised that he would consider the best way to ensure information is disseminated locally. Councillor Hayhurst noted that the Parish Councils publish regular magazines that could be used as a vehicle for Cuadrilla to inform the community of its activity. Councillor Hayhurst asked Mark Lappin to provide details of his previous experience within the industry prior to his recent appointment at Cuadrilla. Mark Lappin advised that, as a geologist, he had worked in the upstream oil and gas	

<p>industry for 35 years, both within the UK and abroad.</p> <p>Referring to the discharge of water due to excessive rainfall, Councillor Harrison questioned whether every eventuality regarding the operation had been considered, both by Cuadrilla and the regulatory agencies. Noting that the area experiences regular rainfall, he suggested that this had been overlooked. Mark Lappin explained that the incident merely involved rainwater being discharged over the top of ditches and that this had resulted in a redesign on site.</p> <p>Councillor Cox asked whether the ditches form part of the pad and Mark Lappin confirmed this.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday stated that footage captured by a drone shows the site is water lodged. Mark Lappin advised that rainwater has collected on limited areas of the site. He explained that Cuadrilla adjusts its operation in response to events and has addressed the issue of excessive rainwater on site.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst questioned whether Cuadrilla and the Environment Agency are learning on the job. He expressed concern regarding the regulation of the operation, citing the recent tragedy at Grenfell Tower as an example of inadequate regulation by public bodies. Mark Lappin reiterated Cuadrilla's commitment to reassure the community and build trust locally regarding its operation.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked whether the water removed from the well is being removed off site and if it is contaminated. Mark Lappin explained that water is being removed via tankers off the site and confirmed that it is fresh water that is not contaminated.</p> <p>Referring to a question raised at a previous CLG meeting, Councillor Ansell asked whether Cuadrilla had identified where the water that will be removed off site during the hydraulic fracturing phase will be treated. Sam Schofield advised that there is sufficient capacity within the UK to dispose of the water from the site, but explained that he was unable to confirm the location of the water treatment facility due to commercial sensitivities. Elaborating on this, Sam Schofield referred to the behaviour of protestors in targeting Cuadrilla's supply chain and advised that these incidents prevent the location of the facility being disclosed.</p> <p>Mary Finn asked when water is used during the operation. Mark Lappin explained that the components of the fracturing fluid are water; sand, which is used to keep the fractures in the shale open once the hydraulic pressure has been released; and surfactant or friction reducer, which is non-toxic and non-hazardous, and is permitted by the Environment Agency. He advised that the composition of the fluid is at least 99.95% water and sand. Graham Daniels requested that the</p>	
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	<p>surfactant is referred to as polyacrylamide.</p> <p>Mary Finn asked whether polyacrylamide could be harmful if consumed and whether it could disperse into the atmosphere or within the ground. Mark Lappin confirmed that polyacrylamide is not harmful in the quantities used during Cuadrilla’s operation and could not leak from the fractures. Sam Schofield explained that polyacrylamide is used by water treatment facilities and by the agriculture industry that all operate closer to the food chain than Cuadrilla’s operation.</p> <p>Councillor Julie Brickles stated that what returns to the surface following hydraulic fracturing is complex and could not be sufficiently addressed during the meeting. Providing an overview of the process, Mark Lappin advised that naturally occurring minerals and low level radioactive material returns up the well which will be disposed of in accordance with the permitting procedure.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding the composition of the sand used during hydraulic fracturing. Mark Lappin confirmed that the silica sand used has the same chemical composition as sand on a beach and is not hazardous. Several attendees raised concerns regarding the health and safety implications of those working with the silica sand and the impact on the local community.</p> <p>Tony Almond advised that the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) will look for Cuadrilla to implement a hierarchy of control, whereby risks are reduced to the lowest level by adopting preventative measures in order of priority. As such, he advised that with regard to sand, preventative measures would mean everyone is protected without the need for dust masks that would only protect those on site at the lowest level of the hierarchy.</p> <p>Referring to a permit for the site, Councillor Cox questioned why it is necessary for Cuadrilla to test for chemicals, such as copper, in the natural occurring minerals that return to the surface if chemicals are not used in the hydraulic fracturing fluid. Sam Schofield explained that when fracturing fluid makes contact with rock, naturally occurring minerals leach out.</p> <p>Reiterating earlier comments regarding a lack of trust in the regulatory authorities following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Mary Finn questioned her confidence in the Environment Agency (EA). Clarifying the position, Sam Schofield advised that the EA is not the regulatory body responsible for cladding on residential properties.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday asked when drilling is expected to commence on site and Mark Lappin advised drilling could start in August.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p>	

<p>Jonathan Haine advised that 6 complaints have been made to Lancashire County Council. He summarised these as relating to dust at the site entrance, difficulties in interpreting the ePortal and concerns that air quality monitoring data is provided for April on the ePortal, but May and June are not shown. He noted that all complaints have been provided with a response.</p> <p>He advised that he was aware that the police had facilitated a vehicle turning right exiting the site and a vehicle turning right into the site on 4th and 5th June respectively. Jonathan Haine advised that the variation to the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) that Cuadrilla has submitted is out for consultation with Fylde Borough Council and noted that Councillor Oades, ward member for Kirkham South, had provided a response.</p> <p>He advised that Cuadrilla has submitted a lighting proposal for work undertaken during the installation of the conductor casing to provide additional light and to illuminate the drilling rig during operations.</p> <p>Jonathan Haine explained that a highways survey is being undertaken prior to drilling to assess the condition of the road. He noted that at each stage of the operation, the local highway network will be assessed to identify any damage caused as a result of Cuadrilla's operation.</p> <p>Jonathan Haine noted that Cuadrilla had submitted plans to install an abstraction well that are being considered by Lancashire County Council.</p> <p>Referring to the consultation on the amended TMP, Councillor Hayhurst noted that he had yet to respond due to having only recently returned from holiday, but planned to formally respond. Elaborating on this, he referred to the long delays being experienced by motorists as a result of the regular closure of the A585.</p> <p>Sam Schofield questioned when the complaint regarding air quality data had been received, stating that all available data had been released onto the ePortal at the end of the previous week. Jonathan Haine confirmed the complaint had been received earlier in the week.</p> <p>With regard to vehicles turning right in and out of the site, Councillor Cox questioned whether this had been necessary and advised that protestors had not prevented the vehicle from entering the site. Citing her own experience at the site, Councillor Brickles raised concerns regarding the vehicles entering the site via both gates and failing to use the bellmouth area as intended. She reiterated the need for this to be resolved and Sam Schofield requested details of the incident cited for further investigation. Superintendent Robertshaw confirmed that Sergeant Hill would raise this with Chief Inspector Ogle.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst suggested that such incidents undermine efforts to establish</p>	<p>Councillor Brickles to provide details</p> <p>Sergeant Hill to raise the issue</p>
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	<p>confidence within the community. Graham Daniels stated that the TMP is now in its eleventh iteration and questioned why issues relating to vehicles on the local highway network had not been resolved.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Tony Almond advised that the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) had received two complaints; one regarding surface water on site and one regarding wheel washing of vehicles. He noted that complainants have been advised that these issues are not dealt with by the HSE and have been directed to the appropriate bodies. He noted that on 1st June a meeting had been held with the local fire and rescue teams to discuss emergency planning.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, Councillor Cox questioned whether an emergency plan was available to view. Tony Almond explained that the Borehole Sites and Operations Regulations 1995 (BSOR), require a health and safety document to be prepared for each phase of the operation prior to commencement. He advised that the HSE does not approve the plan, but can request to view it on site visits.</p> <p>Superintendent Robertshaw explained that at a recent meeting of the Hazardous Substances Sub Group of the Local Resilience Forum it was agreed that consideration would be given to preparing a bespoke emergency plan for the Preston New Road site. Tom Glyn-Jones confirmed that an emergency plan is being prepared through engagement with the Environment Agency, the Police and emergency services.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison questioned whether a generic emergency plan is appropriate for Cuadrilla’s site and whether sufficient planning had been undertaken. Superintendent Robertshaw confirmed that the generic emergency plan would allow the emergency services to respond to an incident at the site. He noted that due to the sensitivities regarding the operation, a site specific emergency plan is now being considered.</p> <p>Comparing the current operation at Preston New Road to a construction site, Sam Schofield questioned why it was necessary to have a bespoke emergency plan at this stage. In response, Councillor Harrison suggested this was an unfair comparison, stating that activity at construction sites do not bring radioactive materials to the surface. Sam Schofield sought to clarify this issue, advising that the radioactivity material brought to the surface is radium 226 that can be found in Brazil nuts. He went onto compare the unit of radioactivity (becquerels) in mineral water and flow back fluid.</p> <p>Echoing concerns raised by several members, Councillor Hayhurst questioned why a site specific emergency plan had not been prepared. Sam Schofield reiterated</p>	

<p>that the existing emergency plan is fit for purpose and stated that it was unhelpful to associate Cuadrilla’s activity at Preston New Road with the tragedy at Grenfell Towers by suggesting that all UK regulation is inadequate. He expressed concern regarding the impartiality of the CLG Chair.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked whether an emergency plan could be provided to the public and suggested a site specific plan is prepared prior to drilling commencing. Superintendent Robertshaw stated that the existing emergency plan would ensure that, in the event of an incident at the site, all agencies would work together. He clarified that it is not Cuadrilla’s responsibility to prepare a plan for the emergency services.</p> <p>Superintendent Robertshaw questioned whether the plan could be made public and reiterated that the Hazardous Substance Sub Group reports into the Local Resilience Forum and will determine whether a site specific emergency plan is required. It was suggested that if the emergency plan could not be made public, a representative of the Local Resilience Forum should be invited to a CLG meeting to discuss this further.</p> <p>Citing his background in the IT industry, Councillor Harrison stated that all companies were required to have site specific continuity plans and expressed concern that a site specific emergency plan had not been prepared for Cuadrilla’s operation. Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla has reporting procedures to deal with and respond to any incidents on site.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst requested that Cuadrilla’s emergency plan be added to the agenda for the next CLG meeting.</p> <p>Referring to previous assurances from the EA that all risks have been considered and mitigated against, Mary Finn stated that she was surprised that an emergency plan had not been prepared. Tom Glyn-Jones confirmed that all risks, such as to ground water and air quality, have been assessed. He explained that it is not the sole responsibility of the EA to develop an emergency plan. Instead, he noted that the EA will contribute to the preparation of an emergency plan that will deliver a multi-agency response.</p> <p>A vote was taken on the issue and most attendees supported the request for a bespoke emergency plan for Cuadrilla’s Preston New Road operation. Superintendent Robertshaw advised that he would advise the Local Resilience Forum of the CLG’s position and request a representative attend the next CLG meeting.</p> <p>Referring to recent monitoring of radon in the area, Mary Ellison asked who is undertaking this. Tom Glyn-Jones advised Public Health England monitor radon.</p>	<p>Supt Robertshaw to follow up</p>
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	<p>Graham Daniels added that the British Geological Survey is also involved.</p> <p>Providing an update from the EA, Tom Glyn-Jones advised that a recent site inspection had been undertaken to assess the conductor casing. Graham Daniel sought clarification as to whether 12 months of ground water monitoring has been undertaken at the site to establish a baseline. Tom Glyn-Jones advised that 3 months of monitoring is required ahead of drilling and will be completed by July. He explained that 12 months of monitoring is required prior to hydraulic fracturing commencing.</p>	
7.	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Superintendent Robertshaw advised that the police operation has been scaled back following the delivery of stone to the site. He noted that there have been approximately 180 arrests made, with a number of cases being processed through the courts. He noted that several arrests have resulted in convictions, whilst others have not been pursued by the Crown Prosecution Services.</p> <p>Referring to 30 days of proposed activity in July by Reclaim the Power, a direct action network, Superintendent Robertshaw advised that Lancashire Constabulary will deploy increased police resources to manage expected protestor activity during this month.</p> <p>Superintendent Robertshaw noted that Lancashire Constabulary had held another Facebook Question & Answer session that had prompted several questions regarding the policing operation. He noted concerns raised regarding the change to the speed limit on Preston New Road, advising of motorist's confusion from the recent changes and questions regarding enforcement of the 20mph limit.</p>	
8.	<p>Agreed date of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should take place at:</p> <p>7pm on Monday, 31st July at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
9.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Councillor Brickles reiterated the need for action to be taken in response to concerns regarding the use of the bellmouth area and opening of the gates. Sam Schofield encouraged attendees to raise any concerns regarding the operation directly to Cuadrilla, rather than only raising concerns on a monthly basis at the CLG meetings.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst closed the meeting.</p>	

