

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 4th September 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
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
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
Steve Molyneux, Environment Agency
Jonathan Haine, Lancashire County Council
Sergeant Andy Hill, Lancashire Constabulary
Superintendent Richard Robertshaw, Lancashire Constabulary
Sam Schofield, Cuadrilla
Nick Mace, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and introductions Councillor Hayhurst welcomed attendees. Jackie Dobson noted the apology received.	
2.	Review actions arising from previous meeting <i>Action 1. Jackie Dobson to amend meeting report</i> – Referring to the suggested amendment proposed by Tony Almond, Jackie Dobson confirmed she had amended the meeting report.	

	<p>Action 6. Tony Almond to provide details regarding enforcement – Jackie Dobson advised that a website link had been circulated to members.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Agree meeting report of 31st July 2017</p> <p>Referring to comments made at the previous meeting whereby he questioned the effectiveness of the Community Liaison Group [page 2], Councillor Hayhurst advised that Westby-with-Plumpton is due to discuss this at its next meeting, including whether he should continue to attend and Chair future meetings.</p> <p>Councillor Cox suggested that <i>“aggressive protestor activity”</i> referred to in the meeting note [Page 3] as the reason why Cuadrilla delivered the rig in the early hours of the morning be reworded. She stated that the protests have been peaceful.</p> <p>Citing the 30 days of activity during July by Reclaim the Power that resulted in the closure of Preston New Road, Sam Schofield referred to the impact that protestor activity has had on local residents and businesses. He advised that this activity has been aggressive for those directly affected and questioned how many arrests had been made for such behaviour.</p> <p>Sergeant Andy Hill advised that since the start of operations, seven people have been arrested for police assault, whilst 45 have been arrested for public order offences; 52 arrests in total for violent offences. Following a discussion regarding the wording, it was agreed that <i>“aggressive”</i> would be replaced with <i>“disruptive”</i>.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, Christopher Holliday questioned what <i>“consultation”</i> had been undertaken with Lancashire Police regarding the decision to deliver the rig. Superintendent Robertshaw advised that Cuadrilla informed Lancashire Police of the intention to breach the Traffic Management Plan and arrangements were made by the police. It was agreed that the meeting report would be updated.</p> <p>Referring to comments made regarding High Court enforcement officers removing two wooden pallet structures from the protestor camp [Page 5], Councillor Brickles stated that one pallet had been removed by Lancashire Police and one pallet by High Court enforcement officers. It was agreed that the meeting report would be updated to reflect this. Jackie Dobson confirmed the changes would be made and passed to the Chair for approval.</p>	<p>Jackie Dobson to amend meeting report to incorporate suggestions</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Site update</p> <p>Nick Mace provided an overview of activity at the Preston New Road site,</p>	

<p>advising that the site is now connected to the water supply and that further noise fencing has been installed. He noted that drilling commenced on Thursday, 17th August and has reached approximately 1,000 metres.</p> <p>Referring to recent drone footage that had shown water pooling on the site and concerns from local residents that the well pad was leaking, he advised that Cuadrilla, the Environment Agency and Fylde Borough Council, have investigated and confirmed this was due to rainwater.</p> <p>Nick Mace noted that a complaint had been received regarding fluid split on the road from vehicles leaving the site. He confirmed that the liquid spilled onto the road from the vehicles was rainwater that had pooled on the container tops and trailer; he advised this posed no hazard.</p> <p>Advising of recent site visits, Nick Mace explained that the Environment Agency visited the site to audit Cuadrilla’s Waste Management Plan. Whilst no significant issues had been identified, he explained that Cuadrilla has agreed to undertake increased frequency of sampling of the drainage ditch.</p> <p>He noted that the Health & Safety Executive visited the site to inspect the future installation of a pipeline; no significant issues were identified, as well as noting that a visit had been undertaken by Fylde Borough Council. Councillor Julie Brickles questioned the nature of the visit undertaken by representatives of Fylde Borough Council, suggesting that attendees had merely been on a tour of the Preston New Road site.</p> <p>Nick Mace advised that Fylde Borough Council had received complaints regarding the pooling of water onsite and investigated this when visiting the site. Steve Molyneux advised that local residents have raised concerns regarding the pooling of water onsite and the impact on livestock. He suggested that Fylde Borough Council may have jurisdiction regarding animal welfare issues.</p> <p>Nick Mace informed attendees that a complaint had been made regarding noise from the site on Friday, 11th August. He noted that Lancashire County Council is investigating the issue. At this juncture, Liz Cheadle advised that she and her neighbours had heard a noise on Saturday, 2nd September. She described it as similar to a siren and Christopher Holliday noted that a similar noise was heard on Sunday, 3rd September. Nick Mace confirmed that he would investigate the source of this noise.</p> <p>As no complaints had been received via Cuadrilla’s community information line, Sam Schofield reminded attendees that local residents can contact Cuadrilla 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Several attendees questioned whether</p>	<p>Nick Mace to investigation noise source</p>
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<p>local residents are aware of the community information line number and Councillor Hayhurst suggested that the line is probably being used by protestors.</p> <p>Jackie Dobson explained that the facility is used by local residents, citing that a call had been received on Sunday, 2nd September regarding the Community Benefit Fund as an example of its use outside of working hours. Councillor Brickles stated that protestors should also be allowed to contact Cuadrilla via the community information line. Jackie Dobson clarified that she had been responding to Councillor Hayhurst’s suggestion that the facility is being used by protestors.</p> <p>To make residents aware of the community information line telephone number, it was agreed that Cuadrilla would issue a letter to properties within Great Plumpton; Carr Bridge; and Foxwood Chase.</p> <p>Elaborating on the discussion regarding the community information line, Councillor Cox questioned why those raising a complaint are required to provide their name, address and contact details. She cited her recent experience of contacting Cuadrilla on behalf of a local resident who was uncomfortable with providing his personal details when raising a complaint.</p> <p>Sam Schofield advised that this procedure allows Cuadrilla to prioritise enquires received from those residing closest to the site and that most people are willing to provide their details. He noted that providing contact details is a standard requirement when engaging with other organisations.</p> <p>Graham Daniels suggested that a disclaimer advising how Cuadrilla will use personal details, such as in accordance with the Data Protection Act, could alleviate any reluctance by a complainant to supply required information. Following a discussion regarding the requirements of the Data Protection Act, Sam Schofield advised that Cuadrilla recognise that they are bound by Data Protection legislation, and take care in handling personal details. He undertook to look at examples of how other organisations refer to data protection considerations on communications materials, and consider whether overt references to this legislation would be appropriate for Cuadrilla’s own materials.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst suggested that local residents should be informed that if they are uncomfortable with providing their contact details to raise a complaint, they should contact one of the elected political representatives who are members of the CLG.</p> <p>Elaborating on the discussion regarding the Data Protection Act, Councillor</p>	<p>Cuadrilla to issue a letter to residents</p> <p>Sam Schofield to review</p>
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	<p>Brickles questioned why Cuadrilla’s security has been taking photographs of vehicles number plates parked near the gates of the site. She questioned who had shared footage of the protestors with a local business owner and questioned whether this was a breach of the Data Protection Act.</p> <p>Jan Gregson advised that she has seen footage of her car appear online posted by protestors and questioned whether this breaches the Data Protection Act. Councillor Brickles stated that the two scenarios are different, as one involves a company passing on information to a third party, whilst the other involves information relating to an individual.</p> <p>Referring to the comment raised regarding the noise recently heard from the site, Christopher Holliday sought further clarity regarding the noise limit. Nick Mace advised that Cuadrilla is required to adhere to noise limits onsite, specifically 55dB during the day (8am to 9pm) and 39dB during the night. He explained that the noise on site will vary and applies to the average noise level during an hour period.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding the monitoring of noise generated from the site and the difficulties associated with differentiating between noises identified by the monitoring equipment. Nick Mace explained that due to natural background noise, such as traffic on Preston New Road and scheduled flights, it is difficult to identify noise specifically from the site.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, Jonathan Haine advised that Lancashire County Council is provided with access to noise data from the monitoring equipment. Councillor Hayhurst requested access to the data and suggested that local residents should be able to view real time information to identify any peaks in noise levels.</p> <p>Jonathan Haine explained that the raw data requires interpretation by a noise consultant and would not be suitable for the public to view. Nick Mace advised that noise data will be provided on Cuadrilla’s ePortal for local people to view.</p> <p>A discussion was had regarding the importance of providing the community with information to allay potential concerns. Councillor Harrison suggested providing a user friendly traffic light system that provides justification of any peaks in noise levels on the site, whilst Councillor Ansell suggested disseminating information via social media regarding future high-pitched, siren noises, as well as a Frequently Asked Question section that local people could use.</p>	
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<p>In the absence of Tony Almond, Steve Molyneux read a written statement provided by the Health & Safety Executive. He advised that HSE regulatory activity continues through the scrutiny of weekly reports submitted by Cuadrilla, as required by the Offshore Installations and Wells Regulations 1996. Steve Molyneux advised that no concerns have been raised by members of the public with the HSE since the last meeting.</p> <p>Referring to section 6.13 of the environmental permit regarding storage arrangements for waste types produced on site [page 36], Graham Daniels stated that with regard to surplus natural gas, it states that up to 15,444 tonnes per years and a maximum of 130,000m³ per day flared to the atmosphere. He questioned the inconsistency regarding the different metrics used for estimated volume and capacity.</p> <p>Nick Mace provided an overview regarding flaring to address the concern raised and noted that there will be a limited flare due to flow capacity. A brief discussion was had regarding the flaring process, as well as the sliding scale of enforcement powers of the Environment Agency. Councillor Hayhurst questioned who determines the level of enforcement that is applied to operators and Steve Molyneux provided details of how decisions are taken within the organisation.</p> <p>Mary Finn asked what measures have been put in place to ensure that the seismic activity experienced at the Preese Hall drilling site in 2011 will not be repeated. Steve Molyneux explained that following the moratorium imposed after the seismic event, the Department of Energy (DECC) introduced a traffic light monitoring system. This is now required by the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA).</p> <p>He advised that the traffic light system will determine whether the injection of water is safe to proceed, with red indicating a tremor of magnitude 0.5 or higher. Steve Molyneux noted that operations will be suspended immediately in this instance. He explained that the Environment Agency and Oil and Gas Authority will jointly approve the Hydraulic Fracture Plan.</p> <p>In response to a question from Christopher Holliday regarding seismic monitoring, it was noted that a request has been made to vary the permit regarding the monitoring array. Christopher Holliday was advised that this is to increase the sensitivity of the seismic monitoring.</p> <p>Noting that the drill onsite is not the one originally envisaged, Councillor Ansell asked whether the well pad remains fit-for-purpose. Nice Mace advised that the well pad remains suitable for the drill rig and will comply with the noise limits stipulated in the planning conditions, as well as the white colour scheme</p>	
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7.	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Superintendent Robertshaw advised that 316 arrests have been made since the start of operations in January, with 28 convictions, 2 people found not guilty, and over 30 people due to attend court week commencing 11th September.</p> <p>He advised that the number of officers policing the operation has been scaled back in light of reduced protestor activity following a month of direct action by Reclaim the Power. Superintendent Robertshaw provided attendees with an overview of the additional support provided by police forces in England and Wales, namely Merseyside, Cumbria, West Mersia, West Midlands, Surrey and Kent.</p> <p>He explained how police from other forces provide support to Lancashire Police, with an additional 75 police on Monday and Friday, with 50 officers involved in the operation on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It was noted that Lancashire Police are responsible for providing accommodation and subsistence to officers from outside the County.</p> <p>Superintendent Robertshaw advised of the current cost of policing the operation at Preston New Road and explained that Lancashire Police is using its contingency reserves; this equates to one percent of the Police’s overall budget which is safeguarded. He noted that Lancashire Police will be submitting a bid to the Home Office to seek financial assistance to support current policing efforts.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst stated that everyone is suffering as a result of the level of policing at Preston New Road, advising that local people never see a policeman and that this was due to Cuadrilla. In response, Sam Schofield noted that the police are only present at Preston New Road as a result of the protestor activity, whilst Councillor Cox advised that people have a democratic right to protest and referred to hostility toward the shale gas industry.</p> <p>Sam Schofield outlined that a lawful decision was made by the Secretary of State and referred to the number of arrests made by the police to demonstrate the level of activism at the site, as well as the disruption caused to local business and the community as a result of direct action by the protestors.</p> <p>Reiterating previous concerns regarding the effectiveness of the CLG, Councillor Hayhurst referred to the decision to bring the drill rig onto site by breaching the TMP and stated that Cuadrilla is ignoring Lancashire Police and</p>	

	<p>Lancashire County Council. Disputing this, Sam Schofield explained that Cuadrilla took the decision to avoid further disruption and inconvenience to local people.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell stated that Cuadrilla’s defensive attitude at CLG meetings regarding activity at the site is not constructive. Sam Schofield explained that representatives of Cuadrilla will challenge unsubstantiated criticisms, as well as constructively address concerns raised at meetings.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison questioned whether Cuadrilla is addressing concerns or listening to the views of the community. Sam Schofield stated that Cuadrilla is committed to engaging with local people and spends considerable time dealing with enquiries from the community.</p> <p>Referring specifically to the CLG meetings, Councillor Harrison sought examples of where Cuadrilla has listened to attendees. Nick Mace advised that in direct response to feedback from members, Cuadrilla agreed to extend the consultation on the proposed amendments to the TMP, as well as undertake further investigations regarding the lighting proposals.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles asked Sergeant Hill to inform local people via Facebook of contra flows through Warton. Sergeant Hill agreed to this request.</p> <p>Expressing frustration regarding the policing activity, Councillor Brickles stated that Superintendent Robertshaw has a duty to act if someone answerable to him acts out of line, rather than advising that a complaint has not been made. She stated that action should be taken in the event that someone is “knocked out and abused”, rather than ignored. She stated that if a protester was murdered on Preston New Road by one of the police officers, she would expect the police to simply go home for their tea.</p> <p>Superintendent Robertshaw advised that evidence has not been provided to support allegations made. He noted that any police commander wants to run an effective operation, with the vast majority of its officers conducting themselves professionally. Councillor Brickles cited incidents of officers pushing people out of the way, including people in wheelchairs and those who have had stokes. Sergeant Hill noted that none of the complaints made against police officers have been upheld.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst suggested this is discussed further at the next CLG meeting.</p>	<p>Sergeant Hill to inform local people via Facebook</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, 2nd October at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked when local councillors will be invited on a tour of the Preston New Road site. Sam Schofield stated that as an operational site, Cuadrilla currently has a high level of demand from industry regulators who are required to visit site to undertake their duties. He advised that once Cuadrilla is in a position to offer visits, key stakeholders will be invited for a tour.</p> <p>Following the recent launch of the public consultation on the Community Benefit Fund, Jan Gregson sought clarification as to whether local people will be involved in determining where the money is spent. Councillor Hayhurst stated that two or three local parishes should be involved to identify what is needed in the area, citing an example of a community centre in Westby.</p> <p>He noted that the money should not fund initiatives in Blackpool or Lytham St Annes. David Kirkham advised Councillor Hayhurst that the organisation administrating the fund, the Community Foundation for Lancashire, will be attending Westby with Plumpton Parish Council’s meeting in October and stated he could attend. Councillor Hayhurst then stated that the money should only be spent within Westby-with-Plumptions Parish boundaries.</p> <p>Sam Schofield advised that, following the commencement of exploration drilling, Cuadrilla has made a payment of £100,000 to an independent Community Benefit Fund which will distribute the money to community projects to be agreed with the community local to the Preston New Road shale gas exploration site, with the parish of Westby with Plumpton as the starting point for the targeted area of benefit for the Fund.</p> <p>He explained that a public consultation has been launched to ask those who live close to the Preston New Road site about their priorities for the £100,000 which will stem from the beginning of drilling well one at Cuadrilla's site. Sam Schofield noted that the Community Foundation for Lancashire will shortly be contacting local people to seek representatives to sit on the panel. Members requested contact details for the charity.</p> <p>Jan Gregson asked whether the costs associated with the administration of the monies will be deducted from the £100,000 payment. Sam Schofield advised that the administration costs are separate and will not be deducted from the payment.</p> <p>Referring to the 256 households that reside within 1.5km of the site who have</p>	<p>Jackie Dobson to provide details</p>

	<p>been informed of the consultation, Liz Cheadle suggested fewer households would be preferable to ensure properties receive a larger share of the funds. Mary Ellison noted the error on the consultation pack that referred to the M65, rather than the M55, and stated that the map wasn't clear which properties were included. Sam Schofield acknowledged the numbering error and explained that the map included in the consultation pack was illustrative.</p> <p>Referring to previous questions raised regarding the traffic data provided on the ePortal, Christopher Holliday asked how 50 vehicles arrived and departed on Thursday, 27th July. Nick Mace advised that he would investigate this further.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst closed the meeting.</p>	<p>Nick Mace to review</p>
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