

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 18th December 2017

Venue:

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

Attending:

Councillor Paul Hayhurst, member for Fylde West division on Lancashire County Council
Councillor Julie Brickles, member for Warton and Westby ward on Fylde Borough Council
Councillor John Kirkham, member for Warton and Westby ward on Fylde Borough Council
Councillor Dawn Ansell, Weeton-with-Preese Parish Council
Councillor Miranda Cox, Kirkham Town Council
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative
John Neville, Environment Agency
Jonathan Haine, Lancashire County Council
Mark Lappin, Cuadrilla
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Graham Daniels, Local Community Representative
Mary Ellison, Local Community Representative
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Councillor Stuart Harrison, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council
Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive
Sergeant Andy Hill, Lancashire Constabulary
Chief Inspector Keith Ogle, Lancashire Constabulary

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and introductions Councillor Hayhurst welcomed attendees. He apologised for rescheduling from Monday, 4 th December, advising that this was due to a diary clash with a meeting at Fylde Borough Council that members were required to attend.	
2.	Agree meeting report of 6th November 2017 Referring to the discussion had regarding whether Cuadrilla has planning permission for people to stay overnight on the site, Councillor Miranda Cox	

	<p>stated that it remains unclear whether the issue is within the remit of Fylde Borough Council or Lancashire County Council [Page 5].</p> <p>Referring to the site visit by members of the CLG, Councillor Ansell referred to comments made that employees work in shifts with two weeks on and two weeks off. Mark Lappin explained that employees do not reside onsite when they are not on their shift. He confirmed that certain employees are required to sleep onsite due to the site operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, Councillor Ansell requested details of how long employees are residing on the site. Mark Lappin questioned whether the concern relates to whether employees are residing on the site or the exact duration of their stay.</p> <p>Councillor Paul Hayhurst expressed concern that employees could apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness to permanently live on the site. Jonathan Haine stated that Lancashire County Council, as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, would be responsible for planning permission, but advised that he would confirm with Fylde Borough Council.</p> <p>In response to Councillor Hayhurst's concerns, he explained that an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness could not be made due to the temporary nature of the exploratory drilling. He went on to advise that Cuadrilla's 24 hour operation requires employees to sleep at the site.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles disputed this and noted that the planning application proposed canteen facilities, not sleeping accommodation. Jan Gregson questioned whether the protestors residing at nearby camps could also apply for Certificates of Lawfulness and requested clarification be sought.</p> <p>Referring to the meeting note and the update provided by the police, Jackie Dobson explained that Sergeant Hill had confirmed that the visits to the camps at Maple Farm, near B&Q and Lytham Windows had been conducted by Lancashire Fire & Rescue and Fylde Borough Council, rather than by the police.</p> <p>Jackie Dobson advised she would amend the meeting report. Councillor Brickles questioned this, as the written statement provided by Lancashire Police referred to Police Officers having visited each of the four camps to speak to campaigners. Jackie Dobson advised would liaise with Sergeant Hill to confirm.</p> <p>Noting that Steve Molyneux had sent his apologies, John Neville advised that the Environment Agency may have amends.</p>	<p>Jonathan Haine to confirm with Fylde Borough Council</p> <p>Jackie Dobson to liaise with Sergeant Hill regarding the meeting note</p> <p>Jackie Dobson to liaise with Steve Molyneux to confirm any amends</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Review actions arising from previous meeting</p>	

<p><i>Action 1 & 2. Jackie Dobson to amend the meeting report</i> – Referring to the removal of post meeting notes, it was confirmed that the meeting report had been amended.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Mark Lappin to investigate</i> – In response to Councillor Cox’s request for the notice board at the front gate that displays the community information line to be located in its previous location, Mark Lappin confirmed that it had been moved to ensure visibility.</p> <p><i>Action 4. Mark Lappin to advise</i> – Referring to the discussion had regarding unauthorised right turns in or out of the site and whether these are being made by the same company and/or drivers, Mark Lappin confirmed that individual drivers have not made repeated unauthorised turns, but acknowledged that the same companies have more than once. He reiterated that Cuadrilla briefs its suppliers to guard against unauthorised right turns.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, Mark Lappin advised that during November, three right turns were made; two were authorised and one was unauthorised. He explained that the unauthorised right turn was made by a DHL courier on Thursday, 16th November and noted that the delivery was requested by a supplier on-site without going through Cuadrilla protocol. Supplier had been spoken to regarding this protocol.</p> <p>Referring to the reduced number of unauthorised right turns in and out of the site, Councillor Paul Hayhurst suggested this demonstrates that improvements are being made in response to feedback from members of the CLG. He requested that Cuadrilla supply this information as part of a regular update.</p> <p><i>Action 5. Andrew Mullaney to update</i> – Ahead of providing an update regarding noise monitoring, Jonathan Haine outlined efforts to improve noise monitoring which is difficult due to high level of noise at position of nearest residents. He advised that a new monitoring station (L3) is intended but the location had yet to be decided. Councillor Paul Hayhurst requested this be added to next month’s agenda.</p> <p>Referring to previous concerns raised regarding a noise heard from the site that from moving the top-drive, Councillor Hayhurst asked attendees whether neighbours had noticed an improvement. Jan Gregson advised that this noise had been heard occasionally but the noise was no longer excessive.</p> <p>A brief discussion was had regarding whether recent wind direction and leaves having fallen from the trees had reduced the noise. Liz Cheadle also noted that local residents are less likely to be outside during the winter to hear any activity at the site. Mark Lappin advised members to inform Cuadrilla regarding noise</p>	<p>Jackie Dobson to add to agenda</p>
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<p>from the site and reiterated a commitment to address any concerns raised. Mark Lappin mentioned that operating parameters are varied depending upon conditions in order to minimise rig noise.</p> <p>Councillor Cox asked Jonathan Haine whether Lancashire County Council has received any complaints regarding noise since the last meeting. He advised that only one complaint regarding noise had been received.</p> <p><i>Action 6. Mark Lappin to provide details</i> – Referring to the request to provide details of the water monitoring undertaken on the site, Mark Lappin confirmed that rainwater does collect on the skips, but that this poses no risk. He went on to advise that the drainage ditch is sampled and sent to a UKAS accredited laboratory for testing. He explained that the results are sent back to confirm classification for disposal and confirmed that all drainage ditch water has been classified as non-hazardous to date.</p> <p>Mark Lappin advised that there are a number of sampling locations surrounding the site and that Cuadrilla has appointed an independent consultant to carry out this monitoring on its behalf. He noted that the data is submitted to the Environment Agency, as per permit requirement. He advised attendees that the Environment Agency also carries out its own sampling of the watercourses.</p> <p><i>Action 7. Mark Lappin to investigate</i> – In response to concerns raised by Councillor Cox regarding gaffer tape and a plastic bag being used to prevent a vehicle leaking on Monday, 6th November, Mark Lappin advised that he had investigated the incident. He confirmed that a temporary repair had been made to an IVAC vehicle that had been leaking rainwater due to grit having entered the valve seal. The temporary repair was only applied in order for the vehicle to return to main site for full inspection and permanent repair.</p> <p>Mark Lappin informed attendees that a visible inspection is now being undertaken prior to vehicles leaving the site. Responding to questions from Councillor Cox, he confirmed that the inspection will be undertaken prior to the vehicle leaving the pad by members of the site staff, rather than security.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst questioned which agency is responsible for inspecting Cuadrilla’s waste disposal from the site. John Neville confirmed that waste is within the Environment Agency’s remit and he would elaborate on this during his update.</p> <p><i>Action 8. Councillor Brickles to provide details to Sergeant Hill</i> – Councillor Brickles confirmed she had liaised with Sergeant Hill following the meeting.</p> <p><i>Action 9. Mark Lappin to raise issues</i> – Reiterating previous concerns raised, Councillor Cox referred to a further incident of a vehicle approaching the site at</p>	
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	<p>issued to Lancashire County Council and that he had been informed of the letter by a journalist who had submitted a Freedom of Information Request.</p> <p>In response to comments made regarding online posts, Mark Lappin referred to an incident where he had informed the CLG about ground water that was produced during operations to set the shallow conductor pipe. He noted that it came to Cuadrilla attention that social media was reporting that Cuadrilla had said we had hit an underground well. To his knowledge this was not from Councillor Brickles’ Facebook account.</p> <p>Both Councillor Cox and Councillor Brickles advised attendees that they had not posted on social media that Cuadrilla had hit the aquifer and noted that they regularly sought to correct the misinformation that was being circulated online.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Site update</p> <p>Mark Lappin provided an overview of operational activity, explaining that the pilot hole has been drilled to around 2.5km to obtain geological data. He advised that fracturing equipment has begun to be moved onto site for the next phase of activity and that this will continue.</p> <p>In response to Councillor Ansell’s question regarding the length of the drill-pipe, Laura Hughes advised explained that the pipes vary in lengths from 12 metres to a maximum 14 metres. An explanation was provided regarding how the horizontal well would be drilled from the vertical well and it was noted that the well will be drilled towards west.</p> <p>Mark Lappin advised that a geophysical survey on land adjacent to the Preston New Road exploration site will be undertaken using a seismic vibroseis unit. He went onto explain that the equipment creates sound waves that are reflected from the various rock layers underground. He stated that by measuring how long it takes for sound to be reflected back to surface, Cuadrilla will be able to calibrate the well position to previously acquired seismic data. Mark Lappin concluded that this will be used to facilitate the positioning of the horizontal exploration wells.</p> <p>Councillor Kirkham asked whether the seismic exploration will use dynamite or machines, noting that the latter would be preferable to explosives. Mark Lappin confirmed that dynamite will not be used and it will be a single articulated hydrostatic vehicle.</p> <p>Referring to previous seismic survey’s undertaken, Councillor Brickles requested that local councillors are informed when this will be conducted to allay concerns raised by residents. Councillor Hayhurst suggested that details of the seismic</p>	<p>Jackie Dobson to inform CLG members &</p>

<p>members of Lancashire County Council’s Development Control Committee approved Cuadrilla’s application to amend Condition 19 that had prevented deliveries during the night. He raised concerns regarding the disruption this could cause and urged Cuadrilla to minimise disturbance to local residents.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell expressed concern that the variation allows up to 30 vehicles in each convoy. Councillor Brickles stated that the delivery of the rig required a convoy of 28 vehicles, as well as a police escort, which had disturbed local residents.</p> <p>Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla applied to vary Condition 19 to provide an option to allow the delivery or removal of material outside the previously agreed working hours. He noted that Lancashire County Council will be informed of any intention to deliver outside these hours and an explanation provided as to why.</p> <p>Referring to the delivery of the rig in the early hours of the morning in July, he explained that the decision was taken to avoid another major road blockage by protestors and prolonged inconvenience to local road users. He pointed out that a day-delivery the same week had resulted in closure/partial closure of the Preston New Road from Monday to Saturday requiring a constant police presence. The out-of-hours delivery had caused the road to be closed for approximately 10 minutes and required police support for approximately 2 hours.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked whether the current rig onsite is the only one needed. Mark Lappin confirmed that the rig is the only one required to drill, but noted that other machinery would be used on site as the operation progresses, such as pumps and stimulation equipment. He advised that the equipment would not be as high as the rig and agreed to confirm the height of the equipment at the next meeting.</p> <p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, Jonathan Haine advised that two complaints had been received. He explained that one related to noise on Monday, 11th December and informed members that Cuadrilla is investigating the issue. It was agreed that an update would be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Jonathan Haine stated that the second complaint received referred to surface water and flooding on the site. He noted that this is within the Environment Agency’s remit to monitor.</p> <p>Addressing concerns raised regarding the variation of Condition 19, Jonathan Haine explained the amendment allows a maximum of nine single convoys across the operation phase, with up to 30 vehicles in a convoy. He confirmed the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) requires all vehicle movements to be recorded and for Lancashire County Council to be informed prior to night time deliveries.</p>	<p>Mark Lappin to confirm the height of equipment</p> <p>Jonathan Haine to update</p>
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	<p>Councillor Cox expressed frustration at the number of variations made to the original permission, citing that the TMP is now on its 12th iteration. In response, Mark Lappin recognised the perception but pointed out that the original conditions were based on a set of assumptions and Cuadrilla has responded to changing circumstances relating to operational activity as things such as water quality, protest activity have become apparent.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>John Neville of the Environment Agency (EA) advised that the consultation on Cuadrilla’s application to vary the mining waste environmental permit to discharge surface water into Carr Bridge Brook will be open until Friday, 26th January. He advised that further details are available on the EA’s Citizen’s Space.</p> <p>With regard to the consultation, Councillor Hayhurst suggested that the EA ensure that local parish councils within close proximity of Carr Bridge Brook are informed. Of note, he suggested Westby-with-Plumpton; Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton; Staining; Wrea Green; Weeton-with-Preese; and Bryning-with-Warton.</p> <p>John Neville informed attendees that the EA’s Citizen Space website will be updated in due course to provide further details of monitoring undertaken at the site, notably ground water, surface water and air quality.</p> <p>Referring to heavy rainfall on Wednesday, 22nd November, John Neville advised that a site visit was undertaken on Thursday, 23rd November and no evidence of pollution was detected. He advised that a follow-up audit will be undertaken.</p> <p>John Neville advised that details of waste disposal from the site, including identifying waste streams, will be provided on the Citizen Space shortly. Referring to a previously circulated briefing note provided by Steve Molyneux, Councillor Ansell requested an updated version is provided each month to understand where waste is disposed.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles questioned the difference between a permit variation and the need for a new permit. John Neville advised that if operational activity remains the same, a permit variation is required. He explained that if onsite operations change, the operator will require a new permit.</p> <p>Referring to earlier comments made regarding water monitoring undertaken on the site, Councillor Brickles questioned the independence of the sampling when Cuadrilla has paid for the testing to be conducted. Mark Lappin reiterated that the sample is sent to a UKAS accredited laboratory and is independently tested.</p> <p>Councillor Cox informed the Environment Agency representative that she has</p>	<p>John Neville to liaise with Steve Molyneux</p>

	<p>been informed that two deer had been found dead in pools of water near Penny Farm. She noted that this was unrelated to Cuadrilla's activity. Councillor Kirkham questioned the reports of dead deer, advising that he would have been aware of this. He noted that an employee at Penny Farm had been followed by a drone, with concerns regarding the presence of mercury. Councillor Kirkham advised that blue clay soil had been mistaken for mercury.</p> <p>Jackie Dobson advised that Tony Almond of the Health & Safety Executive had given his apologies and provided a written statement.</p>	<p>Jackie Dobson to circulate to CLG members</p>
7.	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Jackie Dobson advised that Sergeant Andy Hill had given his apologies and provided a written statement.</p>	<p>Jackie Dobson to circulate to CLG members</p>
8.	<p>Vehicle incident</p> <p>Mark Lappin advised that this referred to temporary repair made to an IVAC vehicle which had been discussed earlier in the meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Agreed date of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should take place at:</p> <p>7pm on Monday, 15th January at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
10.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked whether Cuadrilla will be onsite over Christmas and New Year. Mark Lappin confirmed that the site operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including over the festive season. However, he advised that whilst Cuadrilla seeks to minimise noise at all times, over the Christmas period particular care will be taken to avoid disturbance to local residents.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst closed the meeting.</p>	

Health & Safety Executive Update

Apologies from Tony ALMOND

HSE inspectors continue to scrutinise activity on the site through the operations reports required of Cuadrilla and to liaise with fellow regulators from the Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council. There have been no new concerns raised with the HSE since the last CLG. There has been a follow up correspondence received following a release of information through Freedom of Information rules. It concerns responsibility for regulating use of chemicals and will be responded to before the Christmas break.

Lancashire Constabulary – Police Update – OP MANILLA

Apologies from Ch. Insp OGLE and Sgt Andy HILL

November has seen another reasonably quiet month however we have continued to facilitate peaceful protest and work with campaigners when possible. We have continued to facilitate the Women in White March each Wednesday by monitoring the march from Maple Farm to the site entrance and facilitating crossing of the road and ensuring everyone remains safe. Other meetings this month have included the Gyuto Monks and the blessing of the land by a campaigner as a mark of respect for a fellow campaigner who sadly died in November.

A Trade Union demonstration saw approximately 100 people attend Maple Farm and then walk to the site entrance on Saturday 11th November. Police monitored the march to site due to numbers involved and a contraflow was then implemented for a short time to allow the demonstration to gather in the site entrance. The event passed off peacefully.

Concerns had been raised by members of the local community regarding the gate camp obstructing the footpath opposite the site entrance. Following a discussion between Police and campaigners, campaigners have moved the “shelter” back slightly and the pavement is now more accessible to pedestrians.

November 22nd saw flash flooding due to torrential rain. This was compounded by a large water leak caused during works being conducted by United Utilities which resulted in the A583 past the site and the gate camp being flooded. Parts of the A583 were closed and contraflows implemented due to surface water. Police Officers visited each of the 4 camps, Gate, Maple, Lytham Windows and B and Q to try and speak to campaigners to ensure everyone was safe and no one required assistance. The day in general saw all parties pulling together, police, campaigners, residents, Cuadrilla, United Utilities and businesses etc. to try and return things to normality as soon as possible.

Concerns were raised to me regarding a traffic update by a local radio station advising the disruption and contraflow was due to campaigner activity. The police and other agencies pass traffic information to a company called Inrix who then distribute the messages to local radio and media. I was aware of 3 calls made to Inrix regarding the A583. I pulled and listened to all 3 calls and none mentioned anything about

campaigners. Likewise all social media messages that day confirmed the disruption was due to flooding. I can confirm to the best of my knowledge this information did not come from the police and I can only assume there has been a misunderstanding or breakdown in communication somewhere.

Concerns were raised to me regarding police interventions following a visit by Tim FARRON once he and the media had left. Police facilitated the gathering for some time and ensured everything was peaceful and cooperative. After the majority of people had dispersed, Cuadrilla wished to re start vehicle movements of staff etc and some campaigners immediately obstructed this resulting in further requests from police and further time being given before interventions took place to enable the movements. We had facilitated people's right to peaceful protest earlier but people (staff on site) wanted to leave and they also have a right to a private/ family life.

Update and reassurance letter has been delivered to all residences on Carr Bridge Caravan Park to give an overview of the police operation to date and included contact numbers of partner agencies and Cuadrilla's help Line number.

We have continued to re assess resourcing levels on a regular basis and are currently at probably the lowest numbers we have seen all year having reduced staff in line with the reduced activity from campaigners. Throughout the summer we saw 9 serials plus support staff on the operation, while we are now, most days, working with just 2 serials and support staff. We continue to return to PLT led approach at any opportunity and stand down officers when possible.

We have held a further meeting with campaigners who amongst other things indicated their clear determination and dedication to continue. We will continue to meet with a work with campaigners. Following the meeting a suggestion was made regarding the frequency of police / campaigner meetings. As a result monthly meetings are now being organised.

Some campaigners continue to raise concerns with their actions as seen today, where some have stood in front of HGVs and slow walked them onto the A583 in busy and foggy conditions. This type of activity ultimately has an impact in how we police the operation and the officer presence at the gate. For everyone's safety we continue to deliver personal safety messages when appropriate.

As we enter the New Year we are expecting to see increased activity and disruption, especially during the first week of January as 5th January sees the 1st anniversary of Cuadrilla starting work on the site. We are aware of events planned and further possible visits from groups like Reclaim the Power throughout the year which will likely see an increase in direct action.

Up to 12th December 332 arrests have been made with 78 people being convicted at court for 136 offences. 15 people have been found not guilty at court for 15 offences.