

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 5th February 2018

Venue:

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

Attending:

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
Councillor Stuart Harrison, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Graham Daniels, Local Community Representative
Sergeant Andy Hill, Lancashire Constabulary
Andrew Mullaney, Lancashire County Council
Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive
Mark Lappin, Cuadrilla
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

Mary Ellison, Local Community Representative
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and introductions In the absence of Councillor Hayhurst, David Kirkham moved for Andrew Mullaney to Chair the meeting. Councillor Kirkham seconded. Andrew Mullaney welcomed attendees. Jackie Dobson noted the apologies received.	
2.	Agree meeting report of 15th January 2018 Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.	
3.	Review actions arising from previous meeting <i>Action 1. Mark Lappin to write to Lancashire County Council & Fylde Borough</i>	

<p><i>Council</i> – Mark Lappin confirmed that he had written to Lancashire County Council regarding the number of employees residing on site. He noted that he would check that the letter had been copied to Fylde Borough Council.</p> <p><i>Action 2. Jonathan Haine to liaise with Fylde Borough Council</i> – Andrew Mullaney confirmed that Lancashire County Council had contacted officers at Fylde Borough Council and is awaiting a response.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Steve Molyneux and Westby-with-Plumptions Parish Council to liaise</i> – In the absence of a representative from the Environment Agency, Andrew Mullaney suggested the action be discussed at a future meeting.</p> <p><i>Action 4. Laura Hughes to check</i> – Laura Hughes confirmed that the height of the flare stack is 10 metres.</p> <p><i>Action 5. Mark Lappin to check</i> – Referring to Christopher Holliday’s comment that noise was heard from the site on Friday, 12th January and Saturday, 13th January, Mark Lappin confirmed that he had reviewed the monitoring data. He explained that the monitoring data showed that there was a low level of noise.</p> <p>Referring to his previous comment that the ePortal states that Cuadrilla is monitoring noise 26 hours a day, Christopher Holliday explained that the data refers to the month, rather than the hour.</p> <p><i>Action 6. Lancashire Police, Lancashire County Council and Cuadrilla to discuss</i> – Noting that heras fencing had been added to the agenda [<i>Action 7 – Jackie Dobson to add to the agenda</i>], Andrew Mullaney suggested the issue be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p><i>Action 8. Steve Molyneux to produce flow diagram</i> – In the absence of a representative from the Environment Agency, Andrew Mullaney advised that the action regarding a flow diagram being produced and provided to members remains outstanding.</p> <p><i>Action 9. Mark Lappin to consider</i> – In response to questions raised regarding Cuadrilla’s security team wearing yellow hi-vis jackets, Mark Lappin reiterated that the hi-vis jackets recently worn by some staff are warmer and provide higher visibility.</p> <p>Councillor Cox questioned why the security team are wearing jackets that display Cuadrilla’s logo, rather than the security company they work for. Mark Lappin advised that the security company is employed by Cuadrilla and noted that they are part of the wider team.</p> <p><i>Action 10. Mark Lappin to provide graphs to CLG members</i> – It was noted that Cuadrilla agreed to provide more detailed noise data to CLG members, rather</p>	<p>Mark Lappin to check</p> <p>Lancashire County Council to update on response received</p> <p>Steve Molyneux and Westby-with-Plumptions Parish Council to liaise</p> <p>Steve Molyneux to produce flow diagram</p>
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	<p>than via the ePortal. He noted that weekly noise monitoring reports had been circulated to Christopher Holliday for his review. Mark Lappin apologised that the first instalment had only been provided that day and advised that he would provide further data ahead of meetings.</p> <p><i>Action 11.</i> Jackie Dobson to update the agenda to reflect change – It was noted that the agenda had been amended to provide a Question & Answer session ahead of the update from Lancashire Police and Cuadrilla.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Question & Answer session</p> <p>Mark Lappin provided responses to questions raised by Councillor Cox ahead of the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does the Cuadrilla gate hut have a defibrillator and, if so, would it be available to protestors? Mark Lappin confirmed that Cuadrilla has a defibrillator onsite and that it would be available in an emergency. – Has Cuadrilla produced an integrity test report for the membrane, as specified by the Environment Agency? If so, can it be viewed by public? Mark Lappin confirmed that the report has been submitted to the Environment Agency and could be provided to the public. – As the gate camp is now the nearest neighbour, do they qualify for the community fund? Mark Lappin confirmed that they would not be eligible for the community benefit payment. – In the aftermath of the tragedy in Oklahoma, is it still the case that Preston New Road is classified as the same risk level as the Pleasure Beach, as was reported at the last CLG? Mark Lappin acknowledged the tragic and unusual events in Oklahoma, but noted that there is no need to change the risk level for Preston New Road as a result. – Many locals have said they are concerned about the flooding in fields and are very worried about the application to discharge more water. Mark Lappin acknowledged concerns raised regarding Cuadrilla’s application to vary the waste environmental permit to discharge surface water into Carr Bridge Brook. <p>Whilst he noted previous comment that this will exacerbate existing issues relating to flooding in the area, he noted that the application is currently being reviewed by a flood risk specialist at the Environment Agency and conditions to control discharge during flooding events are being considered.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney advised that Lancashire County Council has liaised with the Environment Agency regarding the need for conditions to control discharge should the application be approved. Mark Lappin confirmed that, as required</p>	

	<p>by regulators, Cuadrilla could refrain from discharging water from the site at times of heightened flood risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Someone has seen drone photographs of skips holding what appears to be iridescent fluid. What is this? Mark Lappin explained that without being able to view the photographs, it would be difficult to confirm the source. Councillor Cox advised that she would endeavour to obtain the photographs. – Are hoses running from the rig into a hole near the fence? Is drill fluid being pumped into tankers? Mark Lappin advised that there are no hoses running from the rig pumping drilling muds into the fields. Laura Hughes explained that if pictures are provided, this would assist Cuadrilla in responding to concerns. – Why are samples from the core not being analysed by the British Geographical Survey? Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla is required to provide samples to the British Geographical Survey for analysis. – Are more core samples being taken? Mark Lappin stated that it is not Cuadrilla’s intention to collect further core samples in current programme. – There have been reports of lights on Anna's Road, Westby. Is this connected to Cuadrilla? Mark Lappin confirmed that Cuadrilla has no current operations at Anna’s Road. – The seismic monitors did not pick up activity at the time of the thumper truck testing. Do they work? Mark Lappin confirmed that the seismic monitors do work. – Did the seismic monitors stop working before Christmas? Mark Lappin confirmed that the geophysical survey on land adjacent to the Preston New Road exploration site using a seismic vibroseis unit commenced Saturday, 6th January. During a brief discussion regarding the question raised, it appeared that the question related to monitoring being undertaken by the British Geographical Survey. – Has baseline monitoring for radioactivity been carried out before fracking? Mark Lappin confirmed that monitoring has been undertaken on the pad, both prior to and following construction. He noted that baseline monitoring has also been undertaken on the watercourses, groundwater and soil. – Did locals visit site last week? Elaborating on this, Councillor Brickles advised that she had requested details of which groups attended the tour of Cuadrilla’s site last week. Mark Lappin advised that several groups have visited the site, including members of Lancashire for Shale. – If locals visited the site, were they told that no radioactive materials are being used? We have seen radioactive labels on wireline logging equipment. There had been apparently debate on social media about this visit. Mark Lappin explained that he has never told anyone participating in a site visit that Cuadrilla does not use radioactive materials. He explained that radioactive sources are required for the wireline logging, citing comparisons with the use 	<p>Councillor Cox to obtain imagery</p>
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	<p>of radioactive sources in medical practices, such as X-Rays. These are not always at site.</p> <p>Laura Hughes sought clarification regarding the reference to a debate on social media. Councillor Ansell advised that she had informed online users on social media that the relevant agencies, such as Lancashire Fire & Rescue, are aware of radioactive sources on site. Nonetheless, she explained that local residents are concerned regarding substances used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Are the large containers used to store water new or have they been used before? If previously used, can you guarantee they do not carry contamination? Mark Lappin confirmed that the water containers are new on this site and do not contain hazardous substances. He noted that water is subject to analysis at treatment plants and that no contamination has been detected from radiological pad sweep, odour or visual sheens. – The minutes on website were not available beyond October. Mark Lappin stated that all minutes are provided on the website up to December 2017. He advised that January’s minutes would be shortly available following members’ approval. Jackie Dobson advised that the minutes are uploaded once approved by members or, in the event of changes made, by Councillor Hayhurst, as Chair. – Graham Daniels asked why Cuadrilla is drilling to the west. Providing an explanation regarding the geology terraces, Mark Lappin explained why the horizontal wells will be drilled approximately 1 km to the west from surface location after building the angle from vertical to horizontal. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Sergeant Hill advised that the number of police officers at site had increased as a result of protestor activity and that the police continue to facilitate peaceful protest, as well as work with campaigners, where possible. He went on to advise of two arrests earlier in the day; one for highways offences and one for obstructing a police officer. Sergeant Hill informed attendees that he had not had an opportunity to review all the footage relating to the two incidents at site.</p> <p>Referring to her long-standing working relationship with Sergeant Hill and her respect for Lancashire Police, Councillor Brickles stated that the police had behaved appallingly. She questioned the number of officers and the force used. Echoing this view, Councillor Cox advised that she would be raising concerns at the forthcoming meeting between campaigners and Lancashire Police regarding the approach by officers.</p> <p>A brief discussion was had regarding the arrests, including in relation to swearing.</p>	

	<p>Whilst Sergeant Hill explained that it has been stated that campaigners will not be arrested for swearing, he informed attendees of the difference between ‘swearing in context’ and ‘abusive swearing’ towards police officers. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the campaigners meeting and that Councillor Cox would liaise with Sergeant Hill ahead of the meeting to outline her concerns.</p>	<p>Councillor Cox to liaise with Sergeant Hill</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Site update</p> <p>Mark Lappin provided an overview of operational activity, advising that Cuadrilla will commence preparations for drilling the horizontal well. He outlined the next steps of the process, including the need to complete the hole, log, run the casing, cement and drill the well approximately 1 km to the west.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday questioned what had caused the noise heard from the site earlier that day. Mark Lappin explained that Cuadrilla had been running a trip (pulling the drill string out of the well bore and running it back in with a new drill bit) involving repeated movements of the top drive. He advised that the top drive was working as usual but that the still weather conditions may have allowed noise to travel more than usual. Both Mark Lappin and Andrew Mullaney advised that they would review the noise monitoring data.</p> <p>Referring to previous comments made regarding the brightness of the operation, Councillor Ansell questioned why the site had become significantly brighter on Thursday, 1st February at 11.10pm. Mark Lappin advised that the site had lost power and that staff had switched on the lights, but acknowledged that this had been too bright. He explained that staff have been advised to use torches in similar circumstances to prevent this happening in future.</p> <p>Mark Lappin explained that he had viewed the site in hours of darkness from nearby locations, including Ballam Road, as requested, when concerns were raised. He explained that several lights were casting light up and down which could make the site appear brighter, particularly at night, and that these had been adjusted. He encouraged attendees to provide Jackie Dobson with feedback on whether Cuadrilla’s action had addressed these concerns.</p> <p>A discussion was had regarding the view of the site from Ballam Road. Andrew Mullaney advised that Cuadrilla is required to submit a lighting plan to Lancashire County Council for each phase of operational activity and advised that the view from Ballam Road should be considered.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p> <p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, Andrew Mullaney advised</p>	

	<p>that one complaint had been received regarding the protest camp opposite the site drifting into the footpath. He explained that the complaint has been raised with Lancashire County Council’s Highways Department for review.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Tony Almond of the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) advised attendees that inspectors continue to scrutinise activity on the site through the operations reports. He noted that one concern had been raised with the HSE regarding a recent site visit and that is being dealt with.</p> <p>Acknowledging the question raised regarding the incident in Oklahoma, Tony Almond informed attendees that the HSE liaises with agencies around the world to share best practice and lessons learnt from incidents in other countries.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Heras fencing</p> <p>Referring to the question raised at the previous CLG meeting that questioned the need for the heras fencing now that there is a blue line painted on the ground within the bell mouth, Andrew Mullaney reminded attendees that the presence of the heras fencing does not constitute a planning breach. He reiterated previous comments made that there is no requirement to remove the heras fencing other than for good housekeeping.</p> <p>Mark Lappin asked attendees, as representatives of the community, what local residents want regarding the heras fencing. Councillor Ansell stated that the heras fencing should be opened wide enough to allow vehicles to enter and exit the site. Councillor Brickles noted that failure to open the gate wide enough leads to the police having to close Preston New Road.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles noted that the heras fencing was a temporary structure to allow Cuadrilla to construct the site and stated that protestors are not stepping over the blue line in the bell mouth. Mark Lappin advised that he would discuss removing the heras fencing across the bellmouth for a trial period, with a caveat that in the event of security issues, the heras fencing could be reinstated.</p> <p>Elaborating on the position of the heras fencing, Councillor Brickles suggested that if Cuadrilla seeks planning permission to continue its operation at Preston New Road, consideration should be given to where the gate should be located.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney noted that the original planning application had proposed the installation of a cattle grid and dry wheel wash facility at the site entrance. He went on to explain that consideration had been given regarding the potential injury that could be caused by a cattle grid if protestors trespassed on the site. He noted that this was one of the reasons this had not been installed. Councillor</p>	<p>Mark Lappin to consider removing heras fencing</p>

	<p>Brickles disputed that the site had been invaded by protestors at the main entrance, but Andrew Mullaney and Sergeant Hill advised that protestors had accessed the site.</p> <p>With regard to wheel washing, Councillor Ansell questioned whether this is done at the site. Mark Lappin confirmed that this was a clear requirement during the construction phase, noting that it is against the law for mud to be transferred onto the road. He noted that vehicles are assessed when leaving the site.</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, 5th March at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
10.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Mark Lappin sought attendee’s feedback on the amended order of the agenda and the inclusion of a Question & Answer session ahead of the update from Lancashire Police and Cuadrilla. Attendees welcomed the approach and it was agreed that advance notice of the questions would be provided to allow considered responses. Councillor Harrison requested that the answers be provided to attendees in writing.</p> <p>Several attendees asked whether Cuadrilla still has ‘Topic of the Week’ signs on the site. Laura Hughes confirmed that Cuadrilla uses notice boards to brief staff on key issues and announcements, but noted that the ‘Topic of the Week’ was the approach taken during construction phase.</p> <p>Referring to Cuadrilla’s newsletter and the Lancashire Commitments Tracker that notes £161k has been provided in local community benefit [Page 3], Christopher Holliday advised of a £26k discrepancy between figures provided elsewhere. Laura Hughes advised that this could be due to cheques issued to residents who are eligible for the community benefit payments having not been cashed. Mark Lappin advised that he would confirm.</p> <p>Jackie Dobson advised that hard copies of the Lancashire First News would be distributed to households across the Fylde over the coming weeks and that hard copies were available for attendees.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney closed the meeting.</p>	<p>Mark Lappin to confirm</p>