

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 9th April 2018

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
Councillor Stuart Harrison, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Mary Ellison, Local Community Representative
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative
Sergeant Anthony Alves, Lancashire Constabulary
Andrew Mullaney, Lancashire County Council
Steve Molyneux, Environment Agency
Mark Lappin, Cuadrilla
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Graham Daniels, Local Community Representative
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative
Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and apologies Councillor Hayhurst welcomed attendees and Jackie Dobson noted the apologies received.	
2.	Agree meeting report of 6th March 2018 Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.	
3.	Review actions arising from previous meeting <i>Action 1. Mark Lappin to liaise with staff and update – Referring to the</i>	

<p>suggestion raised that the Head of Security should be invited to attend the next CLG meeting regarding employees taking photographs, Mark Lappin advised attendees that he had liaised with the security team. He noted that photographs are not being requested by Cuadrilla and any images captured are taken by individuals for personal use.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison questioned why Cuadrilla is not providing members of the security team with body cameras and a brief discussion followed as to whether these would be preferable. Elaborating on this, Councillor Cox questioned whether it was appropriate for security staff to take photographs of children.</p> <p>Referring to a specific incident of a child who was standing in a dangerous position on the side of Preston New Road, Mark Lappin suggested that staff may consider it appropriate to take a photograph of a child in that instance. Councillor Cox suggested that it should be the parent’s judgement as to what is appropriate.</p> <p>Echoing comments made, Councillor Brickles questioned whether photographs taken by the security team should be shared on social media platforms, in particularly images of children. Mark Lappin agreed that individuals should consider what is appropriate to share on social media. Councillor Hayhurst referred to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will supersede the UK Data Protection Act and questioned whether this will have implications for storing imagery, both for Cuadrilla and the protestors. Mark Lappin confirmed that he would liaise with the security team regarding GDPR requirements.</p> <p><i>Action 2. Mark Lappin to consider</i> – Mark Lappin explained that Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service has a standard Emergency Plan to deal with an incident at the site. He noted that if Cuadrilla produces its own Emergency Plan, this would be no different from the existing version. Nonetheless, he advised attendees that as Cuadrilla prepares for gas production, an exercise will be undertaken to practice the response to an incident at the site.</p> <p>Several members questioned whether members of the public would be advised of when the exercise would be undertaken, noting that the community would be reassured if local residents were aware that Cuadrilla is planning its response to potential incidents. In response, Mark Lappin advised that this would be a hypothetical “desktop” exercise undertaken by Cuadrilla.</p> <p>A discussion followed as to whether a multi-agency approach, with all emergency services participating in an exercise, would be preferable. Steve Molyneux advised attendees that it is not within Cuadrilla’s remit to undertake a multi-agency emergency response exercise, noting potential budgetary</p>	<p>Mark Lappin to ascertain GDPR requirements</p> <p>Sergeant Alves to raise with</p>
---	---

<p>constraints. He advised that the Lancashire Resilience Forum, chaired by Lancashire Constabulary, may be able to advise further. Sergeant Alves agreed to raise this as a suggestion.</p> <p>Sergeant Alves explained that Lancashire Constabulary undertakes hypothetical exercises to ascertain how officers deal with potential emergencies, such as responding within certain timescales. He noted that these exercises do not involve other emergency services and questioned whether this would be achievable.</p> <p>Reiterating previous comments that local residents would be reassured to witness a multi-agency emergency response exercise, Councillor Hayhurst cited his recent experience of witnessing a mock exercise being undertaken which fabricated a plane crash. He noted that local people were informed about the exercise in advance and stated that the emergency services had learnt from undertaking the exercise. Councillor Hayhurst also referred to recent tragedies where the emergency services have been criticised, specifically the Grenfell Tower fire and the Manchester Arena bombing.</p> <p>Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla is not averse to undertaking a multi-agency emergency response exercise and would participate in any exercise which Emergency Services considered to be helpful, but reiterated comments that there may be constraints regarding budget and resources. Whilst he acknowledged that a mock exercise could allay the fears of local residents, Mark Lappin noted that it could also create concerns within the community. Councillor Brickles also highlighted that Fylde has experience of undertaking mock exercises, noting that Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service's standard Emergency Plan is used in relation to any incident at BAE Systems.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Mark Lappin to provide update</i> – It was noted that Mark Lappin would provide an update regarding the number of right turns in and out of site during his site update [Agenda Item 6].</p> <p><i>Action 4. Jackie Dobson to circulate</i> – Jackie Dobson confirmed that the monthly briefing note detailing waste disposal from the site and a flow diagram had been circulated to members.</p> <p><i>Action 5. & Action 6. LCC to issue mailing & LCC to liaise with Westby-with-Plumpton's Parish Council</i> – Andrew Mullaney advised that a letter to residents of Carr Bridge Residential Park had been issued. Jackie Dobson advised that she had liaised with David Kirkham, Clerk of Westby-with-Plumpton's Parish Council, the previous week and that no expression of interest had been made.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst reiterated the need for representation from Carr Bridge</p>	<p>Lancashire Resilience Forum</p>
--	------------------------------------

	<p>Residential Park following concerns raised regarding the impact of Cuadrilla's operation on its residents. It was suggested that an update would be requested from David Kirkham at the next meeting.</p>	<p>David Kirkham to provide update</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Question & Answer session</p> <p>Members reviewed the responses provided to questions raised ahead of the meeting. A handout was provided to attendees.</p> <p>During the review of responses, several additional questions were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Will United Utilities repair the road surface following its recent work on Preston New Road? It was noted that the road is in a poor state, with a number of potholes. Andrew Mullaney advised that he would liaise with the Highways Department at Lancashire County Council regarding the issue. – Have previous issues regarding noise monitoring been resolved? Andrew Mullaney explained the difficulties associated with differentiating between noises identified by the monitoring equipment due to the actual sensor being in a very noisy environment next to Preston New Road. <p>He advised that a new monitoring station (L3) has been located closer to the site to address previous issues. Andrew Mullaney went onto advise that to ensure the noise monitoring is accurate, several decibels will need to be deducted from the data obtain from L3. He noted that following consultation between Cuadrilla and Lancashire County Council, it has been agreed that 23dB will be deducted from the noise monitoring data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In response to a question raised regarding bras being displayed by protestors at the site entrance, Councillor Ansell confirmed that this was to mark 100 years since the Suffragette movement. A request was made by several members to encourage the protestors to remove the bras from the site. – Following an incident of loud drumming on Tuesday, 4th April, a request was made to encourage CLG members in touch with the protestors to explain this. Councillor Hayhurst noted that it is difficult for members of the CLG to criticise Cuadrilla regarding noise associated with its operation if the protestors are also creating noise that is disturbing local people. <p>Councillor Brickles pointed out that CLG members do not lead protestor groups or control their behaviour. Councillor Ansell stated that the drumming was not excessively loud and Councillor Cox questioned whether this activity is acceptable as part of a protest. Councillor Hayhurst reiterated that it may undermine the case made to Cuadrilla to limit the level of noise from the site if the protestors are also continually making noise.</p>	<p>Andrew Mullaney to liaise with Highways Department</p>

	<p>Commander for Operation Manilla watches the footage to assess the number of officers required in relation to the number of protestors at the site. Sergeant Alves advised that the Silver Commander is usually on the ground, rather than watching the footage. It was noted that the CCTV camera is recording 24 hours a day.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Site update</p> <p>Mark Lappin provided an overview of operational activity, advising that Cuadrilla is undertaking the final logging of the first horizontal well and will drill the second horizontal well in the next few months. Councillor Cox asked how far the well extends and Mark Lappin confirmed that, once horizontal, the well extends laterally for some 800 metres through the shale gas reservoir.</p> <p>Mark Lappin informed the group that recent weeks had seen a significant increase in protestor activity and direct action, but noted that this had caused no delay to the rig operations.</p> <p>In response to the request to advise members regarding the number of right turns in and out of the site, Mark Lappin explained that two right turns were undertaken in February, whilst six occurred during March. He explained that all were authorised and undertaken following a risk assessment conducted by Cuadrilla’s security team in consultation with the Police. He noted that there were six incidents of vehicles crossing the central road markings.</p> <p>With regard to out of hours deliveries, Mark Lappin noted that on Monday, 12th March a cement vehicle suffered mechanical issue which meant that it could not fulfil its part in the operation by bringing a final load of cement back to site once emptied. He advised that a replacement vehicle entered site at 1914hrs and left at 2016hrs to complete the works safely. Mark Lappin confirmed that Lancashire County Council was made aware of the decision taken under the terms of Condition 19 and that this is therefore not a breach of Traffic Management Plan.</p> <p>Mark Lappin advised attendees that Lancashire County Council was also informed of Cuadrilla’s intention to utilise a single ‘out of hours’ occurrence on Friday, 16th March due to a day of significant protestor activity by Reclaim the Power. He confirmed that this was the first occurrence of a maximum of nine permitted under condition 19b of planning permission.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked what Cuadrilla requires the market to be for the operation to be considered financial viable. Mark Lappin explained that exploration wells cost more and are not an indicator of the operational costs associated with extraction. The “break-even” price of gas requested depends upon how much production wells cost (not exploration wells); how much natural</p>	

	<p>gas they can produce and how many wells are needed. He also noted that the gas price fluctuates and is cyclical.</p> <p>Referring to several photographs, Councillor Ansell questioned what the tankers were in the images and whether skips are being used to store drilling fluid. Mark Lappin advised that the images showed drilling fluid tanks and explained that skips are not used to transport drilling fluid.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles indicated that there had been concern regarding transport of such fluids in skips.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p> <p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, Andrew Mullaney advised that several noise complaints had been received from Carr Bridge Residential Park. He advised that a complaint had also been received regarding obstruction of the highways and pedestrian footway in relation to the small hut opposite the site entrance. He also noted the emergence of a new shack. Councillor Cox advised that she would pass on feedback regarding the hut.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Steve Molyneux advised that the Environment Agency (EA) is finalising the conditions in relation to Cuadrilla’s application to vary the waste environmental permit to discharge surface water into Carr Bridge Brook. He noted that these include the management of water quality and flood risk. Steve Molyneux advised that Cuadrilla will have 14 days to respond once issued.</p> <p>In relation to the Hydraulic Fracture Plan, Steve Molyneux advised that the formal assessment is due to be completed shortly and will be publicised on Citizen Space in due course.</p> <p>Attendees were informed that a new application has been submitted for Incidental Oil Storage Permit regarding the potential production of liquid hydrocarbons during testing of wells. Steve Molyneux advised that this application is not subject to public consultation.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux also advised that Friends of the Earth has launched a Judicial Review regarding a permit variation that was not advertised. He suggested that this is on the basis of the BAT (Best Available Technology) assessment, but informed attendees that the change to the permit did not represent a significant change and was not required.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux stated that no significant issues were identified at the last site inspection on Tuesday, 20th March. He noted that with regard to air quality</p>	

	<p>monitoring, the EA had measured a spike in Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), but noted that this is below the limits, is not concerning and is likely related to United Utilities' works.</p> <p>With regard to waste, he advised that the EA is finalising a full waste audit which will be shared with Cuadrilla who will have 28 days to comment. He advised that there were no issues regarding current waste management practices, but noted that recommendations had been provided regarding how this could be further improved.</p> <p>He noted that a briefing session has been arranged for the EA and key regulators, such as the Oil & Gas Authority and Public Health England, to engage with the local community. Steve Molyneux advised that this will be held on Wednesday, 16th May at Weeton Village Hall and provide an opportunity for local people to ask questions about the process. He noted that sessions are normally held between 2pm and 7pm.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux informed attendees that several enquiries had been made following the flood risk management team having commenced work to clear the watercourses, but that work was now complete.</p> <p>At this juncture, Councillor Kirkham advised of a culvert that is repeatedly blocked, but questioned whether this is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council or the Environment Agency. Steve Molyneux advised that the Making Space for Water groups allows Lancashire County Council to communicate and engage with other Flood Risk Management Authorities and organisations, such as the Environment Agency and United Utilities. He advised that he would liaise with Councillor Kirkham regarding the specific location of the culvert and Councillor Hayhurst requested to be kept updated.</p> <p>Jackie Dobson advised that she would circulate the update provided by Tony Almond of the Health & Safety Executive.</p>	<p>Steve Molyneux and Councillor Kirkham to liaise</p> <p>Jackie Dobson to circulate</p>
<p>9.</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, 30th April at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Referring to a PNR Live session on the Friday, 9th February, an attendee questioned how the 50 full time jobs created by Cuadrilla are proportioned between employees, contractors and security. Laura Hughes stated that the 50</p>	

	<p>jobs are evenly split between employees, contractors and security, and confirmed that security included Cuadrilla's business resilience unit, rather than security staff at Preston New Road.</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. There have been no concerns received by HSE regarding activity at the site since the last meeting. We have received one Freedom of Information request regarding the recent completion of the first well at Preston New Road. We will respond to this within the set timescales.