

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 4th June 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 Dawn Ansell, Weeton-with-Preese Parish Council
Councillor Miranda Cox, Kirkham Town Council
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative
Sergeant Anthony Alves, Lancashire Constabulary
Andrew Mullaney, Lancashire County Council
Tom Wyn-Jones, Environment Agency
Katherine Bentley, Lancashire Resilience Forum
Julian Williams, Lancashire Fire & Rescue
Mark Lappin, Cuadrilla
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

Councillor John Kirkham, member for Warton and Westby ward on Fylde Borough Council
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Christopher Holliday, 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 30th April 2018 Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.	
3.	Review actions arising from previous meeting <i>Action 1. Jackie Dobson to amend</i> – Jackie Dobson amended the meeting note	

	<p>following Steve Molyneux's request.</p> <p><i>Action 2. Mark Lappin to investigate and report back</i> – Referring to previous discussions regarding security staff taking photographs and video footage, Mark Lappin advised that employees will no longer do this unless they believe that they are witnessing an incident that could lead to a crime or feel threatened, which would include being filmed themselves. Mark Lappin informed attendees that he'd welcome feedback from the Group regarding this.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst stated that he felt this was a reasonable approach to take, whilst Councillor Brickles questioned whether this would lead to a change in behaviour. She commented that, as the site is constantly filmed and a live stream provided, this would allow security staff to continue to take photographs. Mark Lappin acknowledged this point but stated that instruction had been passed to staff and he would seek feedback at future meetings on this. Councillor Ansell advised that the situation at the site regarding employees using mobile phones to take images has improved and it was agreed that the Group would consider whether the approach works over the coming months.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Mark Lappin to consider</i> – In response to previous concerns regarding storing imagery and information, Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla has engaged external advisors who have reviewed the Company and its suppliers. He confirmed that Cuadrilla and its suppliers are fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that became enforceable on Friday, 25th May.</p> <p>Referring to the High Court interim injunction, Councillor Cox asked whether Cuadrilla will be relying on CCTV to ascertain if anyone breaches the court order. Mark Lappin confirmed that CCTV footage would be used. Councillor Brickles advised that GDPR requirements stipulates how data is stored and questioned whether employees are taking photographs or video footage on mobile phones provided by Cuadrilla. Mark Lappin confirmed that several employees will be using company mobile phones, but stated that all data will be handled and stored in accordance with GDPR requirements.</p> <p><i>Action 4. Sergeant Alves to invite LRF to next CLG meeting</i> – Sergeant Alves confirmed that Katherine Bentley of the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) and Julian Williams of Lancashire Fire & Rescue had been invited to inform attendees regarding risk assessments undertaken at the site.</p> <p>Katherine Bentley explained that Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) assesses the likelihood and impact of risks across Lancashire using generic planning arrangements for several types of risks. She advised that these risks are either identified by the Government or are specific to Lancashire, citing potential</p>	
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<p>localised issues of foot-and-mouth disease, flu and flooding.</p> <p>Katherine Bentley circulated several handouts to members, including a briefing note that identified and categorised potential risks. She noted that generic planning is used to prepare responses to incidents unless it is considered there is something specific to the situation when a specific incident response plan is required.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, she explained that the evacuation procedure required as a result of flooding or a fire is the same procedure as evacuation for other reasons. She advised that training courses are held throughout the year across Lancashire to prepare for emergencies, including dealing with displaced people for example.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst expressed concern that a bespoke emergency plan has not been produced for Preston New Road. Referring to the briefing note that identified and categorised potential risks, Councillor Hayhurst noted that Onshore Oil & Gas Installation (Risk ID L40) is categorised as a medium risk, but requested further details of how the risk had been assessed.</p> <p>In response, Katherine Bentley explained that since she last attended the CLG meeting in July 2017, the LRF has undertaken its own appraisal of risks associated with Cuadrilla’s activity, but that specific details of the assessments undertaken cannot be provided for security reasons. She advised that the Government has not provided criteria for assessing risks associated with onshore oil and gas operations, but suggested that this could be provided in updated guidance provided in the Autumn.</p> <p>Mary Finn noted that she was surprised that no guidance has been provided to assess the risks associated with an industry that the Government is supporting. Councillor Hayhurst reiterated earlier comments regarding the need for a site specific emergency plan. Jan Gregson asked whether the risk categories overlap and Katherine Bentley confirmed that there is cross-over.</p> <p>Julian William explained that in addition to the generic response arrangements of the LRF, Lancashire Fire & Rescue has had a site specific plan for the past 18 months and undertakes regular site visits to review the current operation. He referred to a site visit having been undertaken eight weeks ago and advised attendees that further visits will be undertaken once the horizontal drilling is complete.</p> <p>In response to concerns, Julian Williams explained that Lancashire Fire & Rescue is fully prepared to deal with an incident at Preston New Road and informed members that the site specific plans are held on secure portals. He advised that due to commercial sensitivity, further details regarding these plans cannot be</p>	
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<p>disclosed.</p> <p>Addressing previous concerns raised regarding a multi-agency emergency response exercise, Julian Williams informed attendees that there is reluctance for fire engines to be deployed to Cuadrilla’s site for a mock exercise due to concerns that the vehicles could be prevented from leaving site. Councillor Cox stated that emergency vehicles have never been interfered with by protestors. Andrew Mullaney pointed out that it might be problematic exiting the site if people were locked-on in the bellmouth.</p> <p>Elaborating on previous concerns raised, Councillor Hayhurst stated his view that shale gas exploration and extraction has a negative reputation, which has led some local residents to fear Cuadrilla’s operation. He noted that a lack of a site specific emergency plan has further compounded their concerns, particularly those residents living in close proximity of the site, and cited concerns regarding water pollution and fires.</p> <p>Responding to concerns, Tom Wyn-Jones advised that not all potential incidents at Cuadrilla’s site require a multi-agency response. Noting Councillor Hayhurst’s comment regarding water pollution, he advised that the Environment Agency assesses the risk of water contamination, but that this is considered low risk in terms of impact because drinking water in the area is not extracted from the ground. He noted that this does not require the involvement of Lancashire Fire & Rescue or Lancashire Police.</p> <p>Referring to the incident in Oklahoma, Councillor Brickles advised of a three mile evacuation area around the site following the accident. She noted that three schools are located within three miles of Cuadrilla’s Preston New Road site and questioned whether procedures are in place for education providers to respond to an incident. Katherine Bentley advised that schools are provided with support and guidance on how to respond to incidents.</p> <p>With regard to the level of risk that the site presents, Julian Williams advised that Lancashire Fire & Rescue had categorised the site as four out of five with regard to the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH). Elaborating on this, he explained that the site had only recently increased from level three to four, noting that this is essentially an industrial site.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst stated his view that residents believe that they are being treated like “guinea pigs” by Central Government and repeated the concerns raised by local people.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney suggested that Lancashire County Council work with LRF to produce a list of risks associated with Cuadrilla’s operation and advise whether</p>	<p>Andrew Mullaney and</p>
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<p>these risks have been assessed. He stated that he would work with Katherine Bentley and circulate at the next CLG meeting.</p> <p><i>Action 4 & 5. Councillor Cox and Andrew Mullaney to liaise & Councillor Cox to coordinate distribution</i> – Councillor Hayhurst advised that, as two residents of Carr Bridge Residential Park had expressed an interest in joining the Group, the second proposed mailing had not been necessary.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles confirmed that those who had expressed an interest, including a resident who does not live on Carr Bridge Residential Park, would be invited to attend Westby-with-Plumpton's Parish Council's meeting on Thursday, 7th June to discuss further.</p> <p><i>Action 6. & 7. Councillor Ansell to provide photographs to Mark Lappin & Steve Molyneux & Mark Lappin to investigate</i> – Mark Lappin confirmed that Councillor Ansell had shown him images from the site which confirmed the reason for steam. He explained that during drilling operations, drilling fluid is used to keep the drilling bit cool and lubricated. He noted that the temperature below the surface is higher than at surface, so it can form steam vapour as the fluid circulates back to surface especially on cooler mornings and evenings at the time.</p> <p><i>Action 8. Sergeant Alves to confirm</i> – Referring to the recent eviction to remove the wooden pallets, Sergeant Alves advised that this was undertaken under section 161 of the Highways Act.</p> <p><i>Action 9. & 10. Councillor Ansell to circulate photographs & Sergeant Alves to raise with colleagues</i> – Referring to an incident on Thursday, 26th April of a vehicle turning right that Lancashire Police did not appear to be expecting, Sergeant Alves confirmed that he had raised this with colleagues. He went onto advise that the same police officer will be stationed at Preston New Road to liaise with the officers and prevent a similar incident occurring.</p> <p><i>Action 11. Mark Lappin to raise internally</i> – In response to Councillor Hayhurst's question regarding when Cuadrilla would anticipate bringing forward a planning application for a production site, Mark Lappin explained that this depends on the results of the exploratory works. Elaborating on this, Laura Hughes advised that several variables would determine whether the site would be commercially viable and noted the difficulty in providing timescales for this until results of exploration wells are available.</p> <p><i>Action 12. Andrew Mullaney to add contact details to letter</i> – Andrew Mullaney confirmed that the email address and telephone number for the Planning Department at Lancashire County Council had not been provided to residents of Carr Bridge Residential Park as the second letter had not been necessary.</p>	<p>Katherine Bentley to produce note</p>
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<p>Councillor Hayhurst requested that residents of Carr Bridge Residential Park are informed of communications channels to allow them to raise concerns or complaints regarding operations at site. Sergeant Alves noted that he had received several complaints from residents regarding noise relating to a rave at Maple Farm and Andrew Mullaney noted that he too had been contacted about the incident. It was agreed that this would be monitored to ascertain whether further contact details need to be distributed, such as via a leaflet or posted on the resident's notice board.</p> <p><i>Action 13. Councillor Brickles to provide photographs</i> – It was confirmed that photographs had been sent to Tony Almond of the Health & Safety Executive regarding equipment being lifted. Mark Lappin advised that the incident was taken very seriously by Cuadrilla and had been investigated internally. While it was a breach of procedure the potential for harm was low.</p> <p><i>Action 14. Mark Lappin to check alarm system</i> – Mark Lappin advised that two alarms are used at the site; one relating to gas and another for other incidents. Whilst Councillor Brickles acknowledged that members had been informed of a recent evacuation exercise, she noted that councillors had not been informed prior to it being undertaken at the site. Councillor Brickles also questioned whether this had been an exercise, stating that the response of staff had differed from the previous one undertaken.</p> <p>Mark Lappin explained that he would be unable to notify members ahead of exercises being undertaken, noting that only the Drilling Supervisor is aware of when these will occur, with no prior warning being a key to the effectiveness of such exercises. He reiterated that members would be informed when the exercises have been undertaken to allow members to respond to questions from local people. He noted that he would look into the details of the evacuation exercise.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked how many muster points are located at the site and Mark Lappin confirmed that there are two. Councillor Cox asked whether protestors should evacuate from around the site if an alarm is heard. Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla cannot advise how people should respond and instead suggested advice should be taken from the emergency services in the event of an incident.</p> <p>A discussion followed as to how local residents would be informed of an incident at the site, particularly the hard-to-reach, such as elderly inhabitants of Carr Bridge Residential Park. Katherine Bentley advised that the LRF would co-ordinate a response, alongside other organisations and agencies, to inform local people via multiple communication channels, including social media, radio and television.</p> <p>In response to concerns raised regarding the need for people to evacuate their</p>	<p>Mark Lappin to investigate to exercise</p>
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	<p>homes, Katherine Bentley advised that transportation could be provided, such as coaches from Lancashire County Council. Sergeant Alves advised that in emergency situations, Lancashire Police has also undertaken door-knocking exercises to inform local residents.</p> <p>Mark Lappin encouraged attendees to consider the risks associated with Cuadrilla’s operation proportionally. He cited Barrow-in-Furness gas processing plant and COMAH sites in densely populated areas of Merseyside that all operate without major incidents for extended periods. Whilst he acknowledged the need to assess the risk of Cuadrilla’s operation, Mark Lappin emphasised the need to guard against causing unnecessary panic and fear amongst the local community by talking-up the risk.</p> <p>Echoing previous comments raised, Councillor Ansell stated that a lack of a site specific emergency plan that people can view is raising concerns locally regarding the risks involved with Cuadrilla’s operation. She acknowledged that an overview of the risks associated with the site and confirmation that these have been addressed would be welcomed by members.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, Councillor Hayhurst advised that the failures of emergency services in response to the Manchester Arena bombing and the Grenfell Tower fire have reinforced local concerns. He reiterated the need for a site specific emergency plan to address people’s concerns.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Question & Answer session</p> <p>Councillor Brickles advised that she and several members had attended a meeting with United Utilities regarding a planning application for work near to Cuadrilla’s site and Foxwood Chase. Representatives from United Utilities would welcome an opportunity to present to local residents and stakeholders to allow information about the plans to be disseminated locally.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles asked whether United Utilities could be invited to attend a forthcoming CLG meeting to present its plans. Attendees agreed and Councillor Brickles advised the she would provide contact details to Jackie Dobson to invite.</p>	<p>Councillor Brickles to provide details to Jackie Dobson</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Sergeant Alves informed attendees that policing activity has been dominated by complaints regarding the camps and referred to the Notice to Quit issued to a camp occupier. He went onto note that concerns had been raised by residents of Carr Bridge Residential Park regarding a sign that suggested that surface water was toxic. Sergeant Alves informed attendees that concerns had been allayed</p>	

	<p>regarding the sign following liaison with the regulators.</p> <p>Sergeant Alves noted that Chief Inspector Keith Ogle continues to monitor the number of officers required at Preston New Road on a daily basis, with minimal numbers currently deployed. He noted that additional staff had been deployed to the site in response to a two-day lock-on to the caravan at the site entrance.</p> <p>With regard to future policing operations, Sergeant Alves noted that additional officers will be posted to Preston New Road to deal with expected protestor activity by Reclaim the Power.</p> <p>Speaking hypothetically, Councillor Brickles asked whether the High Court interim injunction would impact on the policing activity should protesters lock-on. Sergeant Alves advised that protestors would be arrested for lock-ons and advised the interim injunction is a civil matter.</p>	
6.	<p>Site update</p> <p>Mark Lappin provided an overview of operational activity, advising that Cuadrilla should complete the drilling of the second horizontal well over the next few weeks. In response to Councillor Ansell's question regarding the depth of the well, Mark Lappin confirmed that this is not as deep as the first lateral.</p>	
7.	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p> <p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, Andrew Mullaney advised that a noise complaint had been received, but that this had not breached the noise limit. He went onto explain that concerns are being raised regarding the increase in unsightly paraphernalia around the site, citing specifically milk bottles, bras and yellow ribbons. He noted the potential for items to become hazardous in strong winds. Councillor Brickles and Councillor Cox agreed to convey this to protestors.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney explained that several complaints have been received regarding the number of camps that have recently appeared. He explained that Lancashire County Council has concerns regarding the safety of camps located close to the highway, particularly as several appear to be used as sleeping accommodation, and concluded his update by advising that a Notice to Quit had recently been issued to a camp occupier.</p>	
8.	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Tom Wyn-Jones advised that the Environment Agency (EA) has undertaken one site investigation since the last CLG to assess the water drainage options. He advised attendees that the EA, along with the Health & Safety Executive, Public</p>	

	<p>Health England, the Oil & Gas Authority, Lancashire County Council and Fylde Borough Council, had held a 'Meet the Regulators' drop-in event last month.</p> <p>Tom Wyn-Jones advised that the event had provided an opportunity for local people to find about more and ask questions to representatives. He advised that this is the last Meet the Regulators event that is planned regarding Cuadrilla's Preston New Road operation.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell questioned whether local people were aware of the event, advising that several people in her Village did not know it was happening. Tom Wyn-Jones acknowledged that lessons had been learnt regarding how to disseminate information about the event to local people. Members suggested that utilising village notice boards and distributing leaflets are the most effective methods of notifying local communities.</p> <p>Tom Wyn-Jones informed attendees that the permit had been issued in relation to Cuadrilla's application to vary the waste environmental permit to discharge surface water into Carr Bridge Brook. He noted that further details would be publicised on Citizen Space in due course.</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, 2nd July at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Mary Finn stated that local residents have expressed concerns that Cuadrilla's activity at Preston New Road will reduce house prices in the area. Citing compensation received by residents as a result of large scale infrastructure projects, such as HS2, she questioned whether financial recompense should be provided to local residents, as well as suggested a reduction in Council Tax payments.</p> <p>A brief discussion followed, with Andrew Mullaney advising that unless a development has a direct material impact in planning terms, such as noise, compensation is not required. With regard to Council Tax reduction, Councillor Hayhurst advised that a 'test case' of a local resident applying for a reduction is required to change property Council Tax bands.</p> <p>Reference was made to an escaped prisoner of HM Prison Kirkham who ran through the farmers fields adjacent to the Preston New Road site and was detained after being identified by Cuadrilla's CCTV.</p>	

Health & Safety Executive Update

Apologies from Tony ALMOND

The three concerns raised with HSE last month have all been responded to. One concern has been raised with HSE since the last meeting. This is regarding possible exposure of one of the workforce to chemicals on the site. The concern will be responded to as soon as possible.