

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 2nd July 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
Mary Eillison, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Sergeant Anthony Alves, Lancashire Constabulary
Andrew Mullaney, Lancashire County Council
Steve Molyneux, Environment Agency
Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive
Steven Wong, United Utilities
Mark Lappin, Cuadrilla
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

Councillor John Kirkham, member for Warton and Westby ward on Fylde Borough Council
Councillor Stuart Harrison, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council
Diane Dibley, Local Community Representative

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and apologies Councillor Hayhurst welcomed attendees and Jackie Dobson noted the apologies received.	
2.	Agree meeting report of 4th June 2018 Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record. Councillor Brickles requested that it be noted that several members of the CLG remain unhappy regarding a lack of a site specific emergency plan. Echoing these	

<p>concerns, Councillor Hayhurst referred to recent evidence provided to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry that the firefighter who led the initial response to the fire had not received training on evacuating tall buildings. Councillor Hayhurst emphasised that the CLG has a responsibility to request a site specific emergency plan to ensure all agencies are prepared to deal with an incident at Preston New Road.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion followed, with several members expressing concern that they are unaware of what would happen in the event on an incident at Cuadrilla’s site. Specific concerns were cited regarding the logistics relating to an evacuation procedure, particularly for elderly residents of Carr Bridge Residential Park.</p> <p>Referring to comments made by Julian Williams of Lancashire Fire & Rescue at the previous CLG meeting, Andrew Mullaney advised attendees that site specific emergency plans have been prepared by the emergency services. He noted that Lancashire Fire & Rescue has undertaken several site visits to review Cuadrilla’s operation.</p> <p>Clarifying his position, Councillor Hayhurst expressed concern regarding a lack of an overarching multi-agency site specific emergency plan that has been tried and tested to deal with an incident at Preston New Road.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell advised that residents have raised concerns regarding the lack of a site specific emergency plan and suggested that the production of a single plan could allay the anxieties of local people. Mark Lappin reiterated previous comments raised that there is a need to guard against causing unnecessary panic and fear amongst the local community by talking-up the risk.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux advised that various agencies have specific responsibilities to deal with an incident onsite, noting that Lancashire Fire & Rescue would deal with the emergency, Lancashire Police would protect and secure the area, and Lancashire County Council would deal with the evacuation of local people.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles suggested that the CLG had been raising the same issues regarding the lack of a site specific emergency plan over the past 12 months. Councillor Brickles advised that she had received threatening email correspondence advising that members would have <i>“blood on their hands”</i> should there be an incident that is not dealt with properly. Councillor Brickles suggested that a site specific emergency plan, such as those produced for Springfields or BAE Systems, should be prepared.</p> <p>Members voted in favour of a co-ordinated multi-agency site specific emergency plan that is periodically tested to deal with an incident at Preston New Road. Andrew Mullaney confirmed that he would advise the Lancashire Resilience</p>	<p>Andrew Mullaney and Sergeant Alves to pass on the</p>
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	Forum (LRF) regarding the views of members, whilst Sergeant Alves advised that he too would pass this on.	views of the CLG
3.	<p>Review actions arising from previous meeting</p> <p><i>Action 1. Andrew Mullaney and Katherine Bentley to produce note</i> – Whilst acknowledging the view of the CLG regarding the emergency plan, Andrew Mullaney advised that he would continue to work with the LRF to produce a list of risks associated with Cuadrilla’s operation and to advise whether these risks have been assessed.</p> <p><i>Action 2. Mark Lappin to investigate the exercise</i> – Referring to her suggestion that the response of staff to an evacuation exercise had differed from a previous one undertaken, Councillor Brickles advised that Mark Lappin’s confirmation that there are two muster points had addressed this query. Mark Lappin advised that employees have been advised to proceed in an orderly manner, rather than run, in the event they hear an alarm.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Councillor Brickles to provide details to Jackie Dobson</i> – Councillor Brickles noted that a representative, Steven Wong, from United Utilities was in attendance to brief members regarding its planning application for work near to Cuadrilla’s site and Foxwood Chase.</p> <p>In light of the UK heat wave, members jovially asked when a hosepipe ban would be brought into force. Steven Wong advised that United Utilities is encouraging north west residents to use water conservatively due to pressures on the supply due to a lack of rainfall over the past few months, as well as an increase in demand due to the warm weather.</p> <p>Steven Wong circulated a plan to members to illustrate the proposed work adjacent to Preston New Road. He explained that the water pipe needs to be replaced to address issues regarding pressure and supply to residents in Lytham. Steve Wong advised that the plans are at the early stages, with topographical surveys needing to be undertaken, and a planning application expected to be submitted to Fylde Borough Council in January 2018.</p> <p>Steven Wong advised that he welcomed the opportunity to present to local residents and stakeholders to allow information about the plans to be disseminated locally. Members suggested that signage is provided once work commences to ensure local residents are aware that this is not associated with Cuadrilla’s activity. Mary Ellison requested that Steven Wong present to Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council and he agreed.</p>	Jackie Dobson to pass on contact details

<p>4.</p>	<p>Question & Answer session</p> <p>Several questions were raised by attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Why have there been several vehicle movements to and from the site by Greens Environmental tankers? Are you taking surface water off site? In response, Mark Lappin advised that he is unaware of surface water being transported off site during a recent dry spell and stated that he would investigate. – Is monitoring for methane and carbon dioxide being undertaken? Are vulnerable receptors, such as schools, being monitored? Steve Molyneux advised that the Environment Agency has approved Cuadrilla’s Emission Plan which will be available on Citizen’s Space in due course. He advised that air quality has been monitored since August 2017 to establish baseline data and will continue to be assessed during and after hydraulic fracturing. It was noted that the British Geological Survey (BGS) and Manchester University are also undertaking monitoring. Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla’s monitoring is available via the ePortal on its website. – Against the background of a potential hosepipe ban, will Cuadrilla’s site continue to be provided with water? Mark Lappin advised that in the event of any extreme constraint, water supply to the Preston New Road site would be limited by United Utilities, rather than limiting supplies to domestic customers. Elaborating on this, Mark Lappin explained that Cuadrilla is not at the hydraulic fracturing stage and therefore does not require large volumes of water for its operation. Steve Molyneux advised that if water resources decrease, United Utilities will prioritise homes for hygiene and sanitation over industry and business. – What activity was taking place at the site on Thursday, 28th June when the front cover of the top drive was removed and several men in overalls looked at the cogs? Mark Lappin advised that a part on the top drive was being replaced. 	<p>Mark Lappin to investigate</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Sergeant Alves informed attendees that there had been a reduction in direct action following the interim injunction. He noted that the Police Liaison Team (PLT) is leading policing operations at the site, but that additional police officers had been deployed to Preston New Road during the previous week to deal with expected protestor activity by Reclaim the Power.</p> <p>Referring to a piano that had been positioned in the bellmouth, Jan Gregson asked whether the police could arrest protestors following the interim injunction.</p>	

	Sergeant Alves advised that the interim injunction is a civil matter.	
6.	<p>Site update</p> <p>Mark Lappin provided an overview of operational activity, advising that Cuadrilla is near to completing drilling the second horizontal well. Referring to earlier comments regarding water, he reiterated that Cuadrilla is not at the hydraulic fracturing stage and therefore does not require large volumes of water for its operation.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell questioned why a member of staff was seen jet washing the bellmouth. Mark Lappin explained that paint was being removed from the bellmouth following protestor activity. Councillor Brickles stated that she did not condone the use of paint by protestors, noting that this is vandalism.</p>	
7.	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p> <p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, Andrew Mullaney made an impassioned plea for CLG members to support the removal of signs and banners around the Preston New Road site.</p> <p>He informed attendees that 13,000 vehicles and 250 HGVs use Preston New Road every day and noted that Lancashire County Council, as the Highways Authority, is concerned regarding the potential for drivers to be distracted by the signage and banners around the site and the potential for an accident to occur.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney advised that in a joint operation between Lancashire County Council and Fylde Borough Council, several signs have been removed from around the site. He reiterated the potential dangers associated with drivers being distracted by signs and banners, as well as the potential for paraphernalia, such as milk bottles and ribbons, to become hazardous in strong winds. Andrew Mullaney went onto note that items attached to the heras fencing are also reducing visibility of drivers.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst stated that he had been contacted by a protestor who wanted to have his signs returned, but had been unable to obtain them. Councillor Cox stated that those collecting signs and banners had been advised that they would have to pay for them to be returned. Andrew Mullaney stated that Lancashire County Council can charge a minimal administrative cost for returning items that have been removed. He encouraged attendees to consider the wider issue of safety on the local highway network and reiterated his ask for members of the CLG to support the request for banners, signs and paraphernalia to be removed.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles stated that she would not ask the protestors to remove</p>	

	<p>signage or items from around the site and advised that she does not know all of them. Elaborating on this, she stated that the rights of protestors are being eroded and suggested that every advert across Fylde would need to be removed to avoid drivers becoming distracted. Andrew Mullaney disputed that this was a meaningful comparison.</p> <p>Members of the CLG voted to support Lancashire County Council’s request that all signage, banners and items are removed from around Cuadrilla’s site due to concerns regarding safety. Sergeant Alves advised that he would raise this at the next meeting with protestors.</p> <p>Continuing with his update, Andrew Mullaney stated that two noise complaints had been raised by a local resident and that Lancashire County Council would liaise with Cuadrilla to investigate.</p>	<p>Sergeant Alves to raise at next meeting</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Steve Molyneux advised that the Environment Agency (EA) has undertaken a joint inspection with the Health & Safety Executive regarding well integrity. He noted that the EA has investigated concerns regarding pond contamination after drone footage seemed to show an unusual appearance of the water. Steve Molyneux confirmed that there has been no contamination of the pond. He advised attendees that a complaint had been received regarding the smell of hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) or an odour of rotten eggs, but that no further complaints had been reported.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux explained that the EA will be undertaking an inspection of Cuadrilla’s site in preparation of flaring. He noted that the EA is in the final stage of approving the Hydraulic Fracture Plan and that this would be publicised on Citizen Space in due course.</p> <p>Mary Ellison asked whether Health & Safety Officers have visited the protestor camps. Andrew Mullaney advised that officers have visited the camps to ascertain cooking and sanitation conditions, noting that Fylde Borough Council is concerned regarding the potential for a food poisoning outbreak within the camps. He went on to advise that complaints have been raised regarding the lack of planning permission for the protestor camps. It was agreed that Andrew Mullaney would invite an officer of Fylde Borough Council to attend a CLG meeting to discuss these issues further.</p> <p>During a discussion regarding the protestor camps, Sergeant Alves advised that a local resident of Carr Bridge Residential Park had requested protestors at Maple Farm reduce noise disturbance at 11pm on Saturday, 30th June. He advised that the resident was told to leave the camp and this has soured the relationship</p>	<p>Andrew Mullaney to liaise with Fylde Borough Council</p>

	<p>between the residents of Carr Bridge Residential Park and the protestors at Maple Farm.</p> <p>Councillor Cox noted that there are additional camps that are not related to the anti-fracking protests, such as Penny Farm and Pipers Height Caravan Park, which could be sources of noise disturbance. Councillor Brickles also cited that a nearby property is hosting karaoke on Saturday nights and stated that the protestor activity stopped at 10pm last Saturday. Sergeant Alves reiterated that noise was heard from Maple Farm at 11pm when the local resident visited the camp.</p> <p>Tony Almond of the Health & Safety Executive informed attendees that one concern had been raised regarding the use of depleted Uranium in perforation guns. He confirmed that depleted Uranium has never been used in oil and gas operations, either on or offshore. Mark Lappin also confirmed that Cuadrilla is not using perforation guns.</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, 6th August at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
10.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Councillor Brickles asked whether the Preston New Road site is sinking and whether the levels of the pad are checked. Mark Lappin advised that he would investigate, but noted that this would be noticeable for the rig equipment and membrane continues to demonstrate full integrity.</p>	<p>Mark Lappin to investigate</p>