

**Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group**

**Date:**

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 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  
Councillor Stuart Harrison, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council  
Mary Eillison, Local Community Representative  
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative  
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative  
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative  
Diane Dibley, Local Community Representative  
Sergeant Anthony Alves, Lancashire Constabulary  
Jonathan Haine, Lancashire County Council  
Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive  
Steve Molyneux, Environment Agency  
Mark Lappin, Cuadrilla  
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla  
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

**Apologies:**

Councillor John Kirkham, member for Warton and Westby ward on Fylde Borough Council  
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative  
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council

Item		Action
1.	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>  Councillor Hayhurst welcomed attendees and Jackie Dobson noted the apologies received.	
2.	<b>Agree meeting report of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018</b>  Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.	
3.	<b>Review actions arising from previous meeting</b>	

<p><i>Action 1. Andrew Mullaney to advise the LRF</i> – Referring to previous discussions regarding how Carr Bridge Residential Park would be evacuated in the event of an incident, Jonathan Haine advised that an evacuation procedure is not the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. Additionally, he reiterated previous comments made that site specific emergency plans have been prepared by the emergency services to respond to an incident at Cuadrilla’s site.</p> <p><i>Action 2. Diane Dibley to liaise with the site owners</i> – Diane Dibley advised that she had written to the site owners to ascertain whether an evacuation procedure exists, but had not received a response. Sergeant Alves advised that he had spoken to the site owners who had informed him that the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) undertakes regular checks of the Residential Park, but that an evacuation procedure is not considered necessary.</p> <p>Reiterating previous concerns raised regarding the difficulties in evacuating Carr Bridge Residential Park, Councillor Hayhurst suggested that this is discussed further at the next meeting when an update from Andrew Mullaney could be provided following his discussions with the LRF.</p> <p>Referring to issues raised by several residents on Carr Bridge Residential Park at the previous CLG meeting regarding noise from Maple Farm, Councillor Ansell advised that the protestors do not use fireworks. She noted that the use of fireworks goes against the principles of protestors, but did question whether residents had heard those used at other local events, such as Lytham Proms.</p> <p>A brief discussion was had regarding the law surrounding the use of fireworks, with Sergeant Alves advising that fireworks can be set off up to 11pm, except on Bonfire Night. Councillor Brickles advised that she regularly receives complaints regarding the use of fireworks, including on Bonfire Night.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Jackie Dobson to pass on contact details</i> –Jackie Dobson confirmed that she had passed on the contact details of Gary Marcus, Corporate Support Officer at Fylde Borough Council, to Diane Dibley.</p> <p><i>Action 4. To be discussed at the next meeting</i> – Referring to her previous question as to whether the Preston New Road site is sinking, Councillor Brickles advised that this issue had been addressed by Mark Lappin.</p> <p><i>Action 5. Mark Lappin to consider</i> – In response to Christopher Holliday’s request for local residents to be informed of planned fracking activity, such as being provided with a schedule, Mark Lappin reiterated that it would not be practical to inform residents of how many fracs would be undertaken, as it would depend on operational activity.</p>	<p>Andrew Mullaney to provide feedback from the LRF</p>
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<p>Elaborating on this further, Mark Lappin provided an overview of the fracking process and informed attendees that during the first 10 stages, only one frac will happen each day, whilst Cuadrilla would carry out up to three fracs a day beyond the initial stages. Against this background, he advised that it is difficult to predict how many fracs will be carried out each day.</p> <p>Mark Lappin confirmed that hydraulic fracturing is permitted only within the hours of 08.30 to 18.00 Mondays to Fridays and 09.00 to 13.00 on Saturdays.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday asked whether hydraulic fracturing will be carried out on consecutive days and Mark Lappin confirmed it is Cuadrilla’s intention to frac every day, operating within the limits of the permit.</p> <p>Referring to the fracking process, Councillor Cox asked how flowback fluid will be treated. Mark Lappin explained that flowback fluid will be temporarily stored on site and removed to an appropriate water treatment facility permitted by the Environment Agency. He advised that treatment will depend on its composition, such as levels of salt or iron.</p> <p><i>Action 6. Sergeant Alves to investigate graffiti on M55</i> – With regard to the anti-fracking based graffiti on the M55, Sergeant Alves confirmed that he was liaising with Highways England, but that the issue was not yet resolved. He agreed to continue to liaise with Highways England regarding the issue.</p> <p><i>Action 7. Mark Lappin and Diane Dibley to liaise regarding a site visit</i> – Diane Dibley advised that due to work commitments, she had been unable to liaise with Mark Lappin. Mark Lappin confirmed that it’s an open offer and advised attendees that all CLG members will be invited to attend the Preston New Road site for a visit to see the next stage of operational activity.</p> <p><i>Action 8. Councillor Ansell to check with the school secretary</i> – Councillor Ansell confirmed that Weeton Primary School had not received a letter stating that children will die as a result of Cuadrilla’s activity.</p> <p><i>Action 9. Sergeant Alves to ascertain the number of complaints made</i> – Sergeant Alves advised that he would provide an update during Agenda Item 5. Lancashire Police Update.</p> <p><i>Action 10. &amp; Action 11. Councillor Ansell to provide further details &amp; Mark Lappin to investigate</i> – Councillor Ansell advised that she had not emailed details relating to an employee taking photographs in the bellmouth. Instead, she showed Mark Lappin an image of a member of security staff taking photographs and/or video footage at Cuadrilla’s site. Councillor Ansell questioned Cuadrilla’s position regarding this. Mark Lappin confirmed that employees are only permitted to take photographs or video footage when they</p>	<p>Sergeant Alves to liaise further to Highways England</p>
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	<p>believe that they are witnessing an incident that could lead to a crime or feel threatened. Councillor Ansell questioned this, citing an occasion where a member of staff took a photograph of a protester eating her dinner. Mark Lappin advised that he was unable to comment on the specifics of the alleged incident, but would investigate.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, Councillor Ansell informed attendees that an individual had recently made a Subject Access Request by asking to obtain details of their personal data held by Cuadrilla. She explained that Cuadrilla had advised that no data is held and questioned where imagery taken by security staff is stored and for how long. In response, Mark Lappin explained that CCTV imagery is removed after if not required by Police, but couldn't recall period prior to removal. Mark Lappin advised that he would investigate.</p>	<p>Mark Lappin to investigate</p> <p>Mark Lappin to investigate</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Question &amp; Answer session</b></p> <p>Several questions were raised by attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Based on Cuadrilla's own risk assessments, what is the worst off site consequence of the operation at Preston New Road? Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla has procedures in place to respond on-site in the event of an incident, such as muster points for staff to assemble at. While he didn't want to speculate upon assessments of scenarios, he noted that it would be the responsibility of the emergency services, supported as required by Cuadrilla, to respond appropriately.</li> </ul> <p>A lengthy discussion followed regarding the lack of a co-ordinated multi-agency site specific emergency plan for the site and questions raised as to whether local schools have been provided with guidance regarding evacuation procedures in the event of an incident.</p> <p>Echoing these concerns, Councillor Hayhurst cited the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the lack of training amongst firefighters regarding evacuations of tall buildings. Elaborating on this, he referred to Cuadrilla's current operation, the gas mains and gas storage bottles as potential reasons why Carr Bridge Residential Park may need to be evacuated and expressed frustration regarding the lack of a multi-agency site specific emergency plan.</p> <p>Sergeant Alves informed attendees that emergency plans have been prepared by the emergency services to respond to specific incidents at the site. Whilst he advised that the details of these plans cannot be provided for security reasons, he informed attendees that each agency has prepared emergency plans.</p>	



	<p>primarily in order to establish the scale of the resource and use this information to ensure the production equipment are appropriate to the scale of the resource. Mark Lappin informed the meeting that there will be no flare. A gas burner is situated at about 2 metres in a 10 metre high stack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– How long can you flare the gas for? Steve Molyneux advised the environmental permit currently limits the gas flaring activity to a maximum of 365 days for two wells. A brief discussion was had regarding flaring stacks, including usage at landfill sites. Steve Molyneux informed attendees regarding the air quality monitoring that is being undertaken at the site, as well as by the British Geological Survey and Manchester University.</li><li>– Should local residents be concerned regarding the potential for hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) to be released into the atmosphere as a result of Cuadrilla’s operation? Should local people run in the opposite direction from a smell of rotten eggs based on the windsock theory? Mark Lappin explained that windsocks are used to ascertain the wind speed and direction for a number of matters including noise, but sought to reassure members that hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) is not present in the gas in this area.</li></ul> <p>Elaborating on this, Mark Lappin explained that hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) is present at the Morecambe Bay gas fields, but this is due to the geology in the area. Councillor Brickles informed attendees of concerns regarding potentially deadly leaks of hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) from Cuadrilla’s site and stated that this had been noted in the letter sent to schools.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux stated that once Cuadrilla starts hydraulic fracturing on the site, daily independent odour assessments will commence. He went onto inform members of the monitoring that will be undertaken throughout Cuadrilla’s operation at the Preston New Road site to ascertain the composition of the gas extracted.</p> <p>Mark Lappin reiterated that Cuadrilla has sampled natural gas and it does not contain H<sub>2</sub>S.</p> <p>Laura Hughes informed attendees that once connected to the National Grid, Cadent, who owns, operates and maintains the gas distribution network in the area, has stringent specifications regarding the gas permitted into the system. She noted that failure to meet the requirement would result in Cuadrilla’s feeds to the network being shut down.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Why has there been an increase in deliveries of aggregate to the site? Mark Lappin explained that as a result of the demobilisation of the drilling</li></ul>	
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	<p>rig and reconfiguration of the site, additional stone has been required to level the site for the next phase of activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Has the existing membrane been replaced or ‘patched up’? Mark Lappin explained that the integrity of the existing membrane remains and has not needed to be restored or repaired. Membrane that people have seen in drone footage is to construct separate bunded areas to ensure a number of barriers are in-place and not to rely on the tertiary membrane under the entire site.</li> <li>– What is happening at the Grange Hill site? Attendees were informed that Cuadrilla has undertaken a site restoration programme at the Grange Hill shale gas exploration site near Singleton and restored it to its original pre-exploration use as agricultural land.</li> <li>– Does Cuadrilla have all necessary consents to commence hydraulic fracturing? Mark Lappin explained that Cuadrilla has received final hydraulic fracture consent from the Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the first horizontal shale gas exploration well, with all relevant planning and permits required already secured.</li> </ul> <p>He advised that the Oil &amp; Gas Authority needs to provide technical approval and the Health &amp; Safety Executive will need to review the use of the equipment once in place on the Preston New Road site. Mark Lappin concluded by advising that the fracture consent application to BEIS for the second exploration well has been submitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Following Cuadrilla’s activity at Presse Hall, tremors were felt during fracking. As such, how will the traffic light system ensure seismic activity won’t happen again? Mark Lappin advised that during hydraulic fracturing, seismic activity around the site will be monitored and the traffic light system will determine whether the injection of water is safe to proceed.</li> </ul> <p>He explained to members how operations will stop if a tremor of magnitude of 0.5 or greater is recorded following a red-light event. Mark Lappin noted that operations will pause for 18 hours to assess the situation. Tony Almond advised that the traffic light system was implemented following research undertaken by the Oil &amp; Gas Authority. The Oil &amp; Gas Authority found that when seismic activity occurred as a result of hydraulic fracturing, there had been an earlier, smaller tremor. As such, the traffic light system acts as an early warning system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– How does Cuadrilla know that the well won’t fail when fracking commences? Mark Lappin described the structure of the wells, noting that</li> </ul>	
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	<p>the wells have been lined with steel casing sealed by cement and tested to ensure that the well integrity cannot be compromised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Has SAFE-CARB been delivered to the site? Mark Lappin and Steve Molyneux confirmed they were not aware of this specific product brand name, but Mark Lappin said he would check.</li> <li>– Is a local resident, who moved off Carr Bridge Residential Park in 2016, but returned in 2018 eligible for a payment from the Community Benefit Fund? Mark Lappin explained that the deadline has passed, so the resident would not be eligible for a payment.</li> <li>– How close is Carr Bridge Residential Park to the gas mains? Should local residents be concerned? Jonathan Haine advised that he would look into this.</li> <li>– What can be done regarding the unsanitary and untidy living conditions of the protestors at Maple Farm? Councillor Hayhurst suggested that Gary Marcus, Corporate Support Officer at Fylde Borough Council, is invited to attend the next meeting to discuss this further. Jonathan Haine agreed to liaise with Fylde Borough Council regarding this.</li> </ul>	<p>Mark Lappin to check</p> <p>Jonathan Haine to investigate</p> <p>Jonathan Haine to liaise with Fylde Borough Council</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Lancashire Police update</b></p> <p>Sergeant Alves informed attendees that the Police Liaison Team (PLT) is leading policing operations at the site and that during August, there had been five arrests. In response to questions raised regarding the level of complaints received against police officers involved in Operation Manilla, Sergeant Alves confirmed that there are 18 ongoing complaints.</p> <p>He went on to inform attendees that there had been an attempt to remove the protestors occupying the B&amp;Q site by the landowner who had obtained a High Court Writ to remove the camp. Sergeant Alves informed attendees that planning permission has been granted for retail development on the site. He advised that the removal of the protestors had been unsuccessful.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles informed members of an incident regarding a member of Cuadrilla’s security staff holding up traffic on the A583 to allow vehicles to enter the Preston New Road site. She advised Sergeant Alves that Chief Inspector Keith Ogle is aware of the incident.</p> <p>In addition, Councillor Brickles informed Sergeant Alves that a police officer had been hit by a vehicle and pushed between a protestor and the heras</p>	

	<p>fencing. Due to annual leave, Sergeant Alves was unaware of the incident, but agreed to investigate further.</p> <p>Circulating photographs to members, Councillor Ansell notified Sergeant Alves of complaints received regarding police officers allowing vehicle convoys to overtake cars, including using the opposite side of the road. She stated that local residents have raised concerns regarding the safety and necessity of these vehicle manoeuvres.</p> <p>Councillor Harrison asked how many police officers are deployed to Preston New Road on a daily basis. Sergeant Alves provided an estimate of around 30 police officers. In response, Councillor Harrison questioned the level of policing activity at the site in light of the five arrests made during August and suggested that the limited number of officers available to police the rest of the area is having a detrimental impact on crime locally. Sergeant Alves noted that the primary responsibility at site is for public safety and public order. Councillor Hayhurst echoed concerns over other crime in the area but advised that the level of policing at the site is not a decision made by Sergeant Alves.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Site update</b></p> <p>Mark Lappin provided an overview of operational activity, advising that Cuadrilla has dismantled the drilling rig and moved this off site. He informed attendees that the site is now being prepared for the stimulation equipment to be brought onto site.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked whether it remains Cuadrilla’s intention to commence hydraulic fracturing ahead of Christmas and Mark Lappin confirmed this is likely to be in the remaining months of the year.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Lancashire County Council Update</b></p> <p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, Jonathan Haine noted that complaints had been received regarding seismic activity in the area as a result of Cuadrilla’s activity. He noted that as Cuadrilla had yet to commence hydraulic fracturing at the site, seismic activity could not be attributed to the operation at Preston New Road. Furthermore, he advised that the British Geological Survey had no records of any seismic activity within the timeframe provided by the complainants.</p> <p>Jonathan Haine advised that Lancashire County Council is currently considering conditions associated with Cuadrilla’s activity at Preston New Road, namely Condition 6a which requires details of the removal or disassembly scheme and</p>	

	<p>programme of works, as well as Condition 33 which relates to a light impact assessment relating to the hydraulic fracturing stage.</p> <p>Furthermore, Jonathan Haine advised that Lancashire County Council is also considering two Government consultations; one relating to the inclusion of shale gas production projects in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) regime where Government would determine the application and another regarding the introduction of a permitted development right for non-hydraulic fracturing.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, he informed attendees that officers at Lancashire County Council do not support either of the proposals put forward by the Government. He noted that members of the Cabinet will discuss Lancashire County Council’s response to the consultations at a meeting on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>Jonathan Haine advised that members of Lancashire County Council had recently attended a training session with the regulators, notably the Health &amp; Safety Executive, Environment Agency and the Oil &amp; Gas Authority, and the Emergency Planning Team, to raise awareness of the issues regarding shale gas.</p> <p>Mary Ellison asked whether a planning application for hazardous substances on Anna’s Road related to Cuadrilla’s previous activity in the area. Councillor Brickles informed members that the plans relate to storage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to power a generator in the event that there is a power outage and is not related to Cuadrilla’s previous operations.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Industry regulators update</b></p> <p>Steve Molyneux advised that the Environment Agency (EA) had received the Hydraulic Fracture Plan for the second horizontal shale gas exploration well. He informed attendees that the EA had completed a detailed ‘cradle to grave’ audit of Cuadrilla’s waste management process that had commenced in December 2017 until April 2018. He advised that the EA noted a number of relatively minor non-compliance issues which were primarily administrative errors.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux explained that the audit had involved Cuadrilla’s contactors and sub-contractors. Two issues had been identified; 1) that tankers transporting site surface water and muds had been, on at least 22 occasions, laid over at a transport yard prior to before moving on to final their final disposal destination. This site did not hold an authorisation for this. He advised that following discussions with said contractor, the EA concluded that the</p>	

<p>decision had been for logistical reasons and posed no immediate environmental risk. 2) One contractor had not registered with the EA as a waste carrier. Both issues had been addressed at the time.</p> <p>During discussions on breaches, it was noted that Cuadrilla had breaches four times on inspection by the EA in the last 18 months since operations started in February 2017. All regarded as minor.</p> <p>Explaining the reporting process, Steve Molyneux noted that the report had been drafted in April and Cuadrilla provided with 28 days to respond to the EA’s findings prior to publication under the Government’s regulator code. He informed members that during this time, Cuadrilla provided further information and an additional 28 days was provided for comment prior to the report being published on Citizen’s Space in August.</p> <p>Against this background, Steve Molyneux advised attendees that lessons had been learnt regarding how information is conveyed to the local community. He acknowledged that the April date that appeared on the audit published in August had led to questions being raised as to why there had been a delay in disseminating information into the public domain. He noted that an explanatory paragraph could have been provided as an introduction to the document.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion followed, with several members questioning the transparency of the regulators regarding Cuadrilla’s activity and whether the information had been deliberately withheld from members of the CLG. Steve Molyneux reiterated to members that they have been regularly informed that the audit was being undertaken and minor breaches had been identified, but explained that the EA was unable to provide further details during the 28 day period Cuadrilla was provided in order to respond.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux rejected the suggestion that the EA had deliberately withheld information, but accepted that the Agency could have provided an explanation as to why it appeared that the report had not been published for several months.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles asked whether the identity of the unlicensed sub-contractor that stored surface water at an unpermitted site is in the public domain. She was aware that another contractor had been wrongly implicated and wanted to be able to advise accordingly. Steve Molyneux confirmed that he would confirm.</p> <p>Addressing the concerns raised by members, Steve Molyneux noted that the relatively minor non-compliance issues were primarily administrative errors</p>	<p>Steve Molyneux to confirm</p>
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	<p>and that he would expect similar levels of non-compliance should an audit be undertaken on a sizable organisation e.g. Lancashire County Council or an Academy school.</p> <p>A brief discussion followed regarding the consequences of Cuadrilla breaching its permit, with Steve Molyneux providing an explanation of how breaches are categorised in order of severity. He noted that a warning letter had been issued to Cuadrilla and areas for improvement identified.</p> <p>He went onto advise that the EA is preparing for the regulatory activity involved with Cuadrilla commencing hydraulic fracturing, citing several assessments over the next six to eight weeks, including site inspections, emissions audit, a ground water audit, waste stream audit and odour monitoring.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell requested that a monthly update is provided of waste streams during the next stage of activity, similar to previous versions circulated to members during the previous phases of activity. Steve Molyneux advised that this had been completed for the drilling phases and agreed to provide this moving forward when flowback was being produced.</p> <p>Tony Almond of the Health &amp; Safety Executive informed attendees that four concerns had been raised regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); a Health &amp; Safety document; flowback fluid; and an Inspector’s report. He advised these are all being dealt with and noted that the HSE is also looking into the accident on site that led to an employee injuring their foot.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell advised that she had photographic evidence of a member of the security team smoking a cigarette next to a no smoking sign. Councillor Ansell agreed to circulate the photographs to Tony Almond and Mark Lappin. Mark Lappin advised that he would investigate.</p>	<p>Steve Molyneux to provide update document</p> <p>Councillor Ansell to circulate photographs</p> <p>Mark Lappin to investigate</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Agreed date of next meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should take place at:</p> <p>7pm on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p> <p>In the absence of Councillor Hayhurst and in line with the Terms of Reference, it was agreed that Councillor Brickles, as ward member for Warton and Westby, will Chair the next meeting,</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p>	

	<p>Councillor Julie Brickles requested that a discussion is had at the next meeting regarding ongoing fees and charges made to the Environment Agency by Cuadrilla.</p> <p>Following a commitment to keep members updated on progress relating to the incident in Oklahoma in January, Laura Hughes informed members that investigation by CSB, the US Chemical Safety Board, remains ongoing. She advised that a link with further information would be provided to members.</p>	<p>Jackie Dobson to add to agenda</p> <p>Jackie Dobson to circulate link</p>
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