

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 4th February 2019

Venue:

The Villa, Wrea Green, Moss Side Lane, Wrea Green, Preston PR4 2PE

Attending:

Councillor Paul Hayhurst, member for Fylde West division on Lancashire County 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
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative
Diane Dibley, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, 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:

Councillor Julie Brickles, member for Warton and Westby ward on Fylde Borough Council
Councillor Stuart Harrison, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Mary Ellison, Local Community Representative
Mary Finn, 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 7th January 2019 Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.	
3.	Review actions arising from previous meeting	

	<p><i>Action 1. Jackie Dobson to amend</i> – Jackie Dobson confirmed that the meeting report had been amended.</p> <p><i>Action 2. Andrew Mullaney to raise</i> – In response to concerns regarding evacuating Carr Bridge Residential Park, Andrew Mullaney confirmed that he had raised this with the emergency planning team. He advised that text would be provided for inclusion in the standard evacuation and emergency plan for Carr Bridge Residential Park.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Mark Lappin to investigate</i> – Mark Lappin confirmed that he had investigated whether the website had not been updated by 10am one day in October. He explained that the website had been updated, but that there had been no change to report. Councillor Ansell suggested that this is conveyed on the website to acknowledge that it is updated daily, but there may be nothing to report.</p> <p><i>Action 4. Mark Lappin to confirm</i> – In response to how long flow back fluid can be stored on site, Mark Lappin advised that it can be stored for up to 3 months in accordance with the permit.</p> <p><i>Action 5. Mark Lappin to confirm</i> – Mark Lappin advised that Cuadrilla had demobilised some equipment ahead of the Christmas period and had publicly stated that the Company expects to be back onsite in 2019. He noted that it had not been stated that Cuadrilla would move back onto the Preston New Road site in January.</p> <p>Regarding whether equipment from the site had been removed to reduce costs, Mark Lappin explained that Cuadrilla had removed the equipment once the job had been completed. He noted that this meant Cuadrilla was not paying rent on equipment not in use but reiterated that the work had been completed.</p> <p><i>Action 6. Mark Lappin to consider</i> – Referring to the suggestion of a blog to provide local people with an update on activity, Mark Lappin reiterated the communication challenges of providing the community with helpful information, rather than delivering repetitive updates regarding operational activity.</p> <p>Nonetheless, he noted that Cuadrilla has endeavoured to be more responsive on social media and remains open to suggestions of how to improve communication with the local community. Councillor Hayhurst requested Cuadrilla consider a blog to provide updates for local people when operational activity increases. He suggested that this does not need to be daily, just periodically when enough information is available to provide updates.</p>	
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	<p>Action 7. Councillor Cox to reiterate – Councillor Cox confirmed that she had reiterated concerns regarding material burnt on the boiler following a strong smell of plastic during a December evening.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Question & Answer session</p> <p>Several questions were raised by attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does Cuadrilla have plans to dispose of nuclear waste down the bore holes at the Preston New Road site? Mark Lappin confirmed that Cuadrilla does not. – Would Cuadrilla consider an extension to the time limits associated with the existing planning consent? Mark Lappin confirmed that Cuadrilla has no plans to seek at extension at this stage. – When would Cuadrilla be required to seek an extension to the time limits? Andrew Mullaney advised that it would not be expedient for Lancashire County Council to take enforcement action against Cuadrilla if the deadline has past, and if an application has been submitted through which the Company was seeking to regularise the situation. Councillor Hayhurst requested that Cuadrilla consider public perception regarding this and encouraged the Company not to operate without required consents. – Will the flow test results from the first well be sufficient for Cuadrilla to secure the next phase of funding from investors? Mark Lappin confirmed that investors will be advised of the results, but that funding depends on several factors. – When will the next phase of funding from investors be provided? Mark Lappin informed attendees that the timescales depend on various factors. – Is Cuadrilla still flow testing at Preston New Road? Mark Lappin confirmed that Cuadrilla is currently flow testing. Elaborating on this, he explained how this is being undertaken, notably monitoring the gas build up during the shut-in period. – Why had the ‘glow’ not been seen during the day? Mark Lappin advised that the ‘glow’, influenced by atmospheric conditions, may not be visible during the day. – Do the tankers that remove flow back fluid contain one or multiple stages of flow back fluid? Mark Lappin confirmed the tankers contain flow back fluid from multiple stages. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What tests are undertaken on the flow back fluid prior to removal from site. Mark Lappin advised that he would confirm this. – Where is the fluid back flow transported to? Steve Molyneux advised that it is transported to a treatment facility in line with Cuadrilla’s permit. Elaborating on this, Steve Molyneux informed attendees that the Environment Agency (EA) is undertaking a waste audit and details of this would be provided to members in due course. – How is well integrity tested? Is it independently assessed? Mark Lappin confirmed that an independent examiner assesses the well and verifies its integrity to the regulators, specifically the EA and Health & Safety Executive (HSE). – Why was there a large number of police officers at the site on Monday, 28th January? Sergeant Alves was unaware of any specific reason that would have resulted in an increased level of policing on Monday, 28th January. However, he informed attendees that the number of police officers deployed to the site can depend on several factors, such as expected protestor activity or deliveries to the site. 	<p>Mark Lappin to confirm</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Sergeant Alves informed attendees that there had been a similar level of policing activity at the Preston New Road site over the past month. He referred to the number of police officers deployed to the site, as well as noted that there had been no arrests since the January CLG. Sergeant Alves advised that three additional complaints had been received against police officers involved in Operation Manilla, with 10 complaints currently being investigated.</p> <p>Sergeant Alves advised that he will be undertaking a visit to the Preston New Road site on Wednesday, 6th February, along with several members of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG). He explained that these are independent members of the local community that provide feedback to Lancashire Police on various issues.</p> <p>Sergeant Alves explained that police officers are aware of a new born baby at the site and have advised relevant agencies accordingly. He explained that the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) work together with key agencies, such as the police and local authorities, to co-ordinate activity.</p> <p>Councillor Cox questioned whether the police would have intervened under different circumstances, citing an example of a child attending a music festival. Sergeant Alves confirmed that police officers have a duty to report any</p>	

	instances where they feel action is needed and confirmed that there have been other instances where children at the site have been identified.	
6.	<p>Site update</p> <p>Mark Lappin provided an overview of operational activity, explaining that Cuadrilla has been undertaking flow testing at site and reiterated that this involves monitoring the gas build up during the shut-in period. He went onto explain that there has been relatively low activity at the site, with the Company having de-mobilised some of the equipment.</p>	
7.	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p> <p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, Andrew Mullaney advised that one complaint had been received since January’s CLG meeting regarding vapor seen from the site. He confirmed that this has been investigated and advised that the cold temperature of liquid nitrogen causes air to condense which was the vapor seen at the Preston New Road site.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney informed attendees that Lancashire County Council had received a Freedom of Information Request (FOI) relating to PNR (Gates) Community Protection Camp. More specifically, he noted that concerns are being raised by local people regarding the activity ‘creeping’ onto the carriageway and regarding the wood boiler.</p> <p>Councillor Cox noted that she had reiterated the concerns regarding the wood boiler to the protestors and confirmed this has been removed. Elaborating on this, Councillor Cox noted that the protestors have made efforts to tidy the Camp and questioned whether enforcement action is still proposed. Andrew Mullaney confirmed that he would liaise will colleagues to ascertain this.</p> <p>Referring to the complaints regarding the Camp, Councillor Ansell asked whether these are from local people. Andrew Mullaney stated that FOI requests are anonymous, but noted that concerns have been raised by people in the area, including a resident in Kirkham.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell and Councillor Cox asked whether a temporary toilet tent could be allowed at Gate Camp. Andrew Mullaney said he would consider this request.</p>	<p>Andrew Mullaney to liaise with colleagues</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney to consider</p>
8.	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Steve Molyneux advised that the Environment Agency (EA) has received no complaints since the last CLG meeting. He referred to a site inspection on</p>	

	<p>Tuesday, 15th January and the use of an optical gas camera. He confirmed that no issues had been reported.</p> <p>Referring to earlier discussions, Steve Molyneux reiterated to attendees that the EA is undertaking a waste audit and details of this would be provided to members in due course.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux informed members that since the last CLG meeting, a FOI request had been received by the EA. Elaborating on this, Councillor Ansell questioned whether all requests for information are treated as FOI requests by the EA, citing the recent experience of a resident who believes her emails are treated as information requests.</p> <p>In response, Steve Molyneux provided an overview of how correspondence is dealt with by the EA, noting that enquiries receive a response within 20 days. He noted that enquiries that cannot be responded to within this timeframe receive a further email advising that further time will be required.</p> <p>He went on to differentiate between enquiries requesting information and those raising complaints regarding specific incidents, such as pollution, or regarding the performance of the EA. Steve Molyneux advised attendees that members of the public can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office if they believe the EA has not upheld their rights to information.</p> <p>Councillor Cox raised concerns regarding alleged discrepancies relating to the date that the flare plan was approved. She stated that pre-operational condition 10 of the permit requires approval of a flare plan prior to flow testing or well testing. She advised that the flaring plan on Citizen’s Space appears to have been approved following flow testing commencing on site. Steve Molyneux advised that he would look into this.</p> <p>Jackie Dobson advised attendees that the HSE had provided a written response. Councillor Hayhurst requested that a representative of the HSE is asked to attend a forthcoming meeting.</p>	<p>Steve Molyneux to investigate</p> <p>Jackie Dobson to ask HSE</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Confirm date of next meeting</p> <p>It was confirmed that the next meeting should take place at:</p> <p>7pm on Monday, 4th March at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Any other business</p>	

	<p>Mark Lappin advised attendees that he will no longer be attending the CLG as a Cuadrilla representative and that Laura Hughes, along with another Director, will represent the Company at forthcoming meetings.</p> <p>On behalf of the Group, Councillor Hayhurst thanked Mark Lappin for participating in the meetings and engaging with the local community by answering questions and concerns raised by CLG members.</p>	
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Health & Safety Executive Update

The update from Health & Safety Executive is –

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) continue to inspect the weekly well operations report submitted by Cuadrilla and remains satisfied that they are fulfilling their regulatory duties.

HSE will continue to undertake site-based inspections and other interventions, where appropriate.