

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Monday, 4th March 2019

Venue:

Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH

Attending:

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
Andrew Mullaney, Lancashire County Council
Steve Molyneux, Environment Agency
Jim Stancliffe, Health & Safety Executive
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla
Rowland Wright, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

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 Julie Brickles, member for Warton and Westby ward on Fylde Borough Council
Councillor Dawn Ansell, Weeton-with-Preese Parish Council
Councillor Stuart Harrison, Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Sergeant Anthony Alves, Lancashire Constabulary

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and apologies In the absence of the Chair, Andrew Mullaney welcomed attendees and Jackie Dobson noted the apologies received.	
2.	Agree meeting report of 4th February 2019 Christopher Holliday suggested an amendment to Page 3 regarding whether Cuadrilla would be required to seek an extension to the time limits associated with the existing planning consent; 'but' should be changed to 'and'. Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.	Jackie Dobson to amend

<p>3.</p>	<p>Review actions arising from previous meeting</p> <p><i>Action 1. Mark Lappin to confirm</i> – Laura Hughes advised that tests are undertaken on the flow back fluid prior to removal from site, as outlined in the Cuadrilla’s Waste Management Plan, for the presence of metals and salts. The flow back fluid is then removed from the site and treated in accordance with relevant permits.</p> <p><i>Action 2. Andrew Mullaney to liaise with colleagues & Action 3. Andrew Mullaney to consider</i> – Andrew Mullaney explained that he had liaised with colleagues regarding whether enforcement action is proposed and informed members that the situation is being kept under review.</p> <p>Elaborating on this, Andrew Mullaney reiterated previous comments made regarding safety issues relating to obstacles that could create hazards for pedestrians being unable to access the footpath or vehicles on the highways. Councillor Cox advised that she and Councillor Brickles have reiterated these concerns to the protestors.</p> <p><i>Action 4. Steve Molyneux to investigate</i> – Referring to previous concerns raised regarding the date that the flare plan was approved, Steve Molyneux explained that under the Environment Agency (EA) issued permit, pre-operational condition 10 requires approval of a flare plan prior to flow testing (or well testing).</p> <p>He advised that the flaring plan was approved on Wednesday, 21st November 2018 and flow test was started the last week of December 2018. Steve Molyneux informed attendees that prior to this phase, the use of the flare is limited to flaring natural gas for safety purposes, and / or due to maintenance of surface equipment. He noted that the flare was used a number of times in this respect during hydraulic fracturing when entrain gas was present in return waters between fracturing stages.</p> <p><i>Action 5. Jackie Dobson to ask HSE</i> – Following the request for a representative of the Health & Safety Executive to attend a forthcoming meeting, Jim Stancliffe advised that he would provide the regulatory update from the HSE.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Question & Answer session</p> <p>Several questions were raised by attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Are the recently reported spikes in methane being detected due to wind direction or is it an indication of a leak? Laura Hughes explained that nitrogen was used to lift the column of water in the well above the 	

reservoir to allow the gas to flow into the well and to the surface during the early stages of the well test phase.

Laura Hughes noted that this was a controlled release of methane through the flare during this early well test operation. She emphasised that there has not been a methane leak at the site.

Steve Molyneux advised that the EA undertook a site inspection on Tuesday, 15th January which included the use of an optical gas camera. He confirmed that no issues of a leak had been reported by the site inspection team.

Elaborating on this, he went on to explain that the British Geological Survey (BGS) observed ambient methane levels of up to 70 ppm during the 'baseline' period before the Preston New Road site was constructed. He advised attendees that three spikes of methane have been recorded with the highest spike being 30ppm. He noted that this is still a very low level of methane detected around the site and reiterated that the elevated levels are a result of flaring during the well testing phase.

Steve Molyneux advised that the EA is reviewing the data and went on to outline the reporting process, specifically that Cuadrilla is provided with 28 days to respond to the EA's findings prior to publication under the Government's regulator code. He noted that during this time, information is not released into the public domain, but noted that the EA will provide a 'Community Update' document to allow local people to understand the process.

- What assurances can be provided that the elevated methane levels are not an indication of a slow leak? **Steve Molyneux** advised that continuous monitoring of the Preston New Road site ensures that any spikes are identified and investigated to ascertain the cause.
- Are there any other sources of methane that could contribute to the elevated methane levels? **Steve Molyneux** noted that methane is also produced by cows.
- What are the risks associated with methane? **Steve Molyneux** noted that methane can become explosive in high concentrations, can cause asphyxiation in confined spaces and contribute to climate change as a greenhouse gas.
- What is the cumulative impact of elevated methane emissions, such as to human health, particularly if Preston New Road site moves into production and other sites are developed across Lancashire? With regard to human

	<p>health, Jim Stancliffe advised that asphyxiation is only caused by methane in extremely large quantities and in confined spaces. He noted no long-term health concerns relating to exposure to methane.</p> <p>In response to the question regarding the cumulative impact of other shale gas exploration and extraction sites, Andrew Mullaney explained that this depends on several factors, such as economic viability, planning consents and permitting approvals. He encouraged a proportionate view be taken regarding the elevated levels of methane.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What other gases are being detected? Has benzene or radon been identified? Steve Molyneux stated that the BGS and EA are undertaking continuous monitoring and confirmed that neither radon or benzene had been detected. Laura Hughes confirmed that Cuadrilla has tested the gas samples and that no harmful gases have been detected in the samples. – What is being stored in the turquoise tanks at the site? Laura Hughes confirmed this is well testing equipment used to separate water and gas onsite and no produced gas is stored. – During the flaring operation in November and December, what volume of methane was flared? Unable to provide specifics, Steve Molyneux advised that the EA was reviewing compliance with flaring operations and advised that he would confirm the volume. – Christopher Holliday expressed condolences for the non-work related fatality that occurred at the Preston New Road site during February. Was the fatality required to be reported to the regulators? Laura Hughes advised that Cuadrilla informed the HSE out of courtesy. However, she noted that, as the death was not a work-related incident, it did not need to be formally reported. Jim Stancliffe expressed appreciation for being informed of the death. 	<p>Steve Molyneux to confirm</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>In the absence of a representative from Lancashire Police, Jackie Dobson outlined the statement provided by Sergeant Alves.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Site update</p> <p>Laura Hughes advised that there has been relatively low operational activity at the site since the last CLG on Monday, 4th February, with the company demobilising equipment no longer needed.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p>	

	<p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, Andrew Mullaney advised that no complaints have been received since February’s CLG meeting.</p> <p>He advised attendees that Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government had refused planning permission for the Roseacre Wood application in February. He noted that the decision upheld the recommendation of the Inspector that the impact on highways would be too severe.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney advised attendees that campaigners have lost the appeal against a High Court decision that rejected claims that Lancashire County Council had failed in its duty regarding emergency planning arrangements. He noted that the judge was clear that no further attempts should be taken by campaigners to appeal this decision.</p> <p>Noting that bird nesting season is approaching, Jan Gregson requested that the hedges are tidied from banners, signs and paraphernalia. Councillor Cox agreed to raise with protestors regarding this.</p>	<p>Councillor Cox to raise with protestors</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Jim Stancliffe advised that the HSE has not undertaken any site visits at the Preston New Road site and continues to receive weekly reports regarding Cuadrilla’s operation. He noted that no Freedom of Information (FOI) requests have been made since prior to Christmas.</p> <p>Referring to earlier discussions, Steve Molyneux advised that the EA has been undertaking its flaring audit and inspected the site on Wednesday, 27th February. He reiterated that the EA will provide a ‘Community Update’ document to allow local people to understand the process.</p> <p>He informed attendees that the EA is undertaking a waste audit and details of this, including a flow diagram, would be provided to members in due course.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux advised that Cuadrilla has recently applied to the EA for a permit variation. He explained that this includes amends to the Waste Management Plan and to vary the type of hydraulic fracturing fluid used at the Preston New Road site. Regarding the hydraulic fracturing fluid, he noted that this proposes the addition of methanol and the use of gelling agent. It was noted that the permit variation application is subject to public consultation.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday asked whether Lancashire County Council will review the application for the permit variation. Andrew Mullaney confirmed that as a statutory consultee, Lancashire County Council will review the application and</p>	

<p>respond during the consultation, but noted that no planning implications have been identified at this stage.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux informed members that following an FOI request for the daily reports received by the EA from Cuadrilla, these will now be issued to those who had requested the information.</p> <p>Councillor Cox asked whether the EA is currently considering the Hydraulic Fracture Plan for the second well. Steve Molyneux advised that since the Hydraulic Fracture Plan was submitted, Cuadrilla has withdrawn the document following experience obtained from undertaking hydraulic fracturing on the first well.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday questioned whether Cuadrilla is awaiting the outcome of the permit variation prior to resubmitting the Hydraulic Fracture Plan. Laura Hughes explained that the Hydraulic Fracture Plan for the second well had been drafted prior to incorporate the experience of the first well, but noted that the application submitted to vary the permit reflects the knowledge Cuadrilla has acquired.</p> <p>Councillor Cox referred to comments made by Claire Perry, Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Mark Menzies, Member of Parliament for the Fylde, that suggests the Government has no plans to review the Traffic Light System (TLS). Elaborating on this, Councillor Cox asked whether Cuadrilla is waiting for the optimal conditions to continue its operation by requesting a review of the TLS and varying the permit.</p> <p>Laura Hughes advised that the knowledge and experience obtained by hydraulically fracturing the first well contributes to how Cuadrilla will operate moving forward. She advised that data regarding the operation has been submitted to the Oil & Gas Authority (OGA) for further analysis.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday questioned whether Cuadrilla can operate without a change to the TLS. Laura Hughes advised that the permit variation requests the use of alternative additives that will help with the fracturing process. However, she noted that the permit variation and TLS are separate issues, albeit running parallel.</p> <p>Councillor Cox asked how chemicals can be considered toxic, but not hazardous. Steve Molyneux explained that additives must be non-hazardous as defined by the Groundwater Directive and advised that the hazardous substances must be prevented from entering groundwater. He noted that</p>	
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	<p>classification of additives is reviewed by the Joint Agencies Groundwater Directive Advisor Group (JAGDAG).</p> <p>In response to concerns regarding the risk to public health from contamination of drinking water, Steve Molyneux noted that there is no plausible route to a water resource, such as a lake or river, from Cuadrilla’s operation at Preston New Road.</p> <p>Jan Gregson asked whether livestock is protected, noting that cattle graze on the land and are then eaten by humans. She stated that whatever is consumed by animals ends up in the human food chain. Steve Molyneux reiterated that there is no route to water supplies to be contaminated by Cuadrilla’s operation.</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, 1st April at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Jim Stancliffe asked whether attendees wanted a representative of the HSE to attend every meeting or whether written updates would suffice when the regulator’s activity has been minimal. Attendees agreed that a representative was not required to attend every meeting and that a written update would suffice. It was suggested that any concerns or queries raised by CLG members could be passed onto the HSE via Jackie Dobson.</p> <p>Councillor Cox requested an update regarding a recent social media post. To provide context, Laura Hughes explained that on Thursday, 28th February, staff arrived at site to find what appeared to be human or animal faeces on the fences and locks. She advised that Lancashire Police had been notified, as was Lancashire County Council and Fylde Borough Council.</p> <p>Councillor Cox advised that the substance was coffee grounds and represented action against Cuadrilla’s request to vary the permit. She was critical of the post on social media and referred to the emotional distress caused to the protestors involved. Councillor Cox requested that the social media post be removed from Cuadrilla’s Facebook page and that this is clarified publicly.</p> <p>Laura Hughes advised that the matter is subject to a police investigation, but agreed to ascertain an update on the issue.</p>	<p>Laura Hughes to ascertain update</p>

Lancashire Police Update

Apologies from Sergeant ALVES

Arrests – This month has seen 6 arrests all for Obstruction of the Highway. 4 were released without charge, 1 person received a caution and 1 person was charged.

Complaints - Currently working on 10 complaints.

Policing update

A question was asked last month re the number of officers at the site when there were only two campaigners and whether something had just happened. I cannot find anything significant happening on the date mentioned that would suggest this was anything other than a normal day.

We continue to review the number of officers on the operation and have recently reduced the number of officers working on a Friday. We have continued to try the non-deployment days and we are continuing to try and withdraw the police altogether. The first non-deployment day was on the 8th Feb. Officers had to deploy at approximately 9am due to a campaigner refusing to let a vehicle leave site. On the 25th Feb we did not deploy and there were no issues until the afternoon when officers had to deploy due to campaigners stopping vehicles from entering the site. We also had another non-deployment day on Feb 28th and there were no issues.

We have received a report of criminal damage to the HSBC bank in St Annes. Various words or phrases have been written on the bank in chalk which relate to climate change and the fracking industry. The incident is currently being investigated.