

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Tuesday, 7th May 2019

Venue:

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

Attending:

Councillor Julie Brickles, member for Warton and Westby ward on Fylde Borough Council
Councillor John Kirkham, 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
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative
Mary Ellison, Local Community Representative
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Andrew Mullaney, Lancashire County Council
Steve Molyneux, Environment Agency
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla
Rowland Wright, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

Councillor Paul Hayhurst, member for Fylde West division on Lancashire County Council
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Diane Dibley, Local Community Representative
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative
Sergeant Anthony Alves, Lancashire Constabulary
Jim Stancliffe, Health & Safety Executive
A representative, Kirkham Town Council

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and apologies In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Brickles welcomed attendees and Jackie Dobson noted the apologies received. She noted that a representative from Kirkham Town Council will be confirmed in due course following Councillor Cox's decision not to contest her seat at the recent local elections.	
2.	Agree meeting report of 1st April 2019 Councillor Ansell suggested an amendment to Page 3 regarding drumming at Maple Farm on Saturday, 30 th March. She noted that the samba band practiced	

	<p>from 11am to 1.30pm not 3.15pm as detailed in the meeting report. Councillor Cox requested that the meeting note is amended.</p> <p>Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.</p>	Jackie Dobson to amend
3.	<p>Review actions arising from previous meeting</p> <p><i>Action 1. Jackie Dobson to amend – Jackie Dobson confirmed that the amendment to the meeting note had been made and was awaiting approval by the Chair.</i></p> <p><i>Action 2. Councillor Brickles to raise – Councillor Brickles advised that she had yet to raise the issue of noise with residents of Maple Farm but agreed to raise this with protestors.</i></p>	
4.	<p>Question & Answer session</p> <p>Several questions were raised by attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What is contained in the tankers being removed from site? Laura Hughes advised that she understood the tankers contained rainwater but agreed to confirm at the next CLG meeting. – Do any of the tankers contain flowback fluid? Laura Hughes advised that no flowback fluid has been recently removed from site. – Has Cuadrilla been venting gas or is the gas shut in? Laura Hughes explained that the wells are shut in at the surface valves. – Why has the sound barrier been taken down? Laura Hughes explained that the 10 metre noise wall has been laid down to mitigate visual impact of the site whilst Cuadrilla is not undertaking hydraulic fracturing. – Why is Cuadrilla not disseminating information about current activity at the Preston New Road site, such as issuing press releases or public statements? Laura Hughes explained that Cuadrilla is endeavouring to inform the community about current activity, citing the recent statement regarding demobilising some of the specialist equipment from the site. However, she noted the communication challenges of providing the community with useful information whilst there is minimal news to report at this juncture. <p>Laura Hughes went on to note that Cuadrilla is aware of suggestions on social media that the Company has moved off site, but confirmed that the</p>	Laura Hughes to confirm

	<p>specialist equipment had been demobilised, to manage rental expenditure, as this particular part of the work programme has been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is Lancashire County Council proposing to repair Preston New Road and pavements around the site? It was noted that several wheelchair users are forced to use cycle lanes due to the poor condition of the pavement. Andrew Mullaney advised that he would inform his highways colleagues of the concerns raised. He explained that representatives would inspect the roads and pavements to ascertain whether they meet the standard for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. – What are the current plans for the third and fourth wells at the Preston New Road site? Laura Hughes advised that Cuadrilla is focusing on completing hydraulic fracturing on the current wells. – Is Cuadrilla preparing a new planning application for the Preston New Road site? Laura Hughes advised that Cuadrilla is concentrating on completing hydraulic fracturing at the site within the current operational window but is also evaluating potential options moving forward. Andrew Mullaney stated that Lancashire County Council has not had pre-application discussions with Cuadrilla regarding a planning application for the site. – Has a PON 5 (Petroleum Operations Notice) been submitted to the Oil & Gas Authority. Laura Hughes advised that a PON 5 relates to abandoning or temporarily abandoning a well and confirmed this had not been submitted to the Oil & Gas Authority. – Is the Environment Agency (EA) checking run-off from the site to identify any leaks? Steve Molyneux explained that Cuadrilla is required to check surface water runoff, whilst the EA has been undertaking independent sampling of the brook. He advised that this information will be published on Citizen’s Space. – Does the EA monitor the levels of the nearby watercourses? It was noted that a culvert to the north of Preston New Road is blocked and that although local agencies, namely LCC and the EA, have been informed, no agency appears to be taking responsibility for the issue. A brief discussion followed, with Steve Molyneux advising that the Making Spaces for Water Group had looked into this and Councillor Kirkham noting that the issue remains ongoing. – When will particulate matter monitoring resume? It was noted that this has not occurred since Thursday, 14th March. Steve Molyneux advised that the British Geological Society (BGS) was commissioned by Government to 	<p>Andrew Mullaney to liaise with colleagues</p>
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	<p>monitor atmospheric conditions around the Preston New Road site, including measuring concentrations of particular matter. He advised that activity is not undertaken by the EA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does the variation to the environmental permit allow 250 times more hydraulic fracturing fluid to be used? It was noted that the permit allows a limit for injecting hydraulic fracturing fluid of 765 m³ during the hydraulic fracturing stage and that the permit variation does not seek a change to the maximum discharge. – Why does part of the site always appear waterlogged? Providing aerial drone imagery, representatives from Cuadrilla were shown photographs of an area adjacent to the noise barrier that is darker in colour and that this might indicate a wet surface. Laura Hughes advised that she would liaise with the operational team regarding the issue. <p>Andrew Mullaney advised attendees of new legislation that extends restrictions on drone use in the vicinity of airports following the drone-related disruption to London Gatwick operations last year. He went onto note that the Preston New Road site could be located within the buffer zone for exclusion, so suggested that the pilot of the drone used to capture imagery of the site ascertain the new rules and regulations.</p> <p>Citing his own experience of piloting a drone, Councillor Harrison noted that software can inform users of restrictions of where to pilot drones and prevent take-off in flight restricted zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is seismicity monitored when Cuadrilla is not undertaking hydraulic fracturing? Laura Hughes explained that Cuadrilla does not monitor seismicity, either at the surface or in the well, unless hydraulic fracturing is being undertaken. She noted that the BGS will still monitor seismic activity. – Why has the heras fencing been installed at the entrance? Reference was made to vehicles causing obstructions on Preston New Road when waiting for the site gate to be opened. Laura Hughes informed attendees that Cuadrilla would prefer that the heras fencing is removed and noted that this has been discussed at the CLG on several previous occasions. <p>However, she advised that when the heras fencing was moved, this had resulted in an incident at the bellmouth that required the physical intervention of Lancashire Police and Cuadrilla’s security team. Against this background, she noted that Cuadrilla has a responsibility to manage the situation, as well as protect its employees, and had re-instated the heras fencing to address safety concerns.</p>	<p>Laura Hughes to liaise with the operational team</p>
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	<p>Nonetheless, Laura Hughes informed attendees that she would welcome suggestions as to how the situation could be improved. Councillor Brickles asked whether Cuadrilla had considered submitting a planning application for a permanent gate. In response, Laura Hughes advised that initial design work had been undertaken for a new gate, but the plans had not been progressed.</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 Cuadrilla has completed verification of the two wells and referred to the demobilisation of some of the specialist equipment from the site. Furthermore, she informed members that Cuadrilla is currently undertaking inspections and maintenance of the equipment that remains onsite.</p> <p>Reiterating earlier comments made, Laura Hughes advised that the noise wall has been laid down to mitigate visual impact of the site whilst Cuadrilla is not undertaking hydraulic fracturing. She informed attendees that Cuadrilla has also undertaken work on the lighting at the site to reduce visual impact whilst the site is non-operational.</p> <p>Laura Hughes explained that Cuadrilla’s blue storage tanks are being cleaned and inspected, whilst the team consider options for future operations at the Preston New Road site later in the year.</p> <p>With regard to Cuadrilla’s communication activity, Laura Hughes advised attendees that the volume of reporting reduces when the site is not operational (well intervention / hydraulic fracturing activities) and advised that the ePortal will be updated to reflect this. As such, she explained that the ePortal will only be updated to provide data relating to air quality when Cuadrilla is non-operational.</p> <p>Furthermore, Laura Hughes informed members that whilst the site is not operational, manning the community helpline will be taken in-house and answered during working hours only. She advised that a voicemail facility will be available outside of office. Laura Hughes advised of the limited usage of the community helpline, but noted that, should this increase, Cuadrilla would review this approach.</p>	

	<p>Referring to comments made that Cuadrilla is considering options for future operations at the site later in the year, Christopher Holliday asked what criteria the Company will use to determine its approach. Laura Hughes advised that Cuadrilla is reflecting on the experiences of hydraulically fracturing the first well, as well as considering both the opportunities and constraints associated with operational activity.</p> <p>Mary Finn asked what impact the cuts being undertaken by Cuadrilla are having on personnel. Laura Hughes stated that key specialist personnel are associated with the equipment, so noted that as equipment has been demobilised, the crews that have the knowledge and experience of using said equipment have also left the site. She advised that members of Cuadrilla’s supervisory team have been retained, noting that several employees have taken holiday or are undertaken training whilst the site is not operational.</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 April’s CLG meeting. He noted that it had been a quiet month.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Steve Molyneux noted that Cuadrilla’s application to vary the permit relating to the use of open flow tanks will be determined shortly. He advised that the EA will shortly release the findings of its flaring audit. Steve Molyneux noted that the report is with Cuadrilla to allow the Company to respond to the findings prior to publication under the Government’s regulator code but expected the report to be published on Citizen Space in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Jackie Dobson advised attendees that the Health & Safety Executive had provided a written response.</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, 3rd June at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	

Lancashire Police Update

Apologies from Sergeant ALVES

Arrests: This month there has only been 1 arrest for a public order offence

Complaints: Currently working on 7 with 1 new complaint made last week.

Policing Update

This month has been a quieter month, with little to update on. Policing resources remain the same but are being reviewed today and in all likelihood they will be cut back. We have had further complaints throughout the month regarding noise coming from Maple Farm and these complaints have been forwarded onto Fylde Borough Council.

Health & Safety Executive Update

Cuadrilla continue to submit weekly operations reports as required by Regulation 19 of the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc) Regulations 1996. HSE's specialist wells inspectors continue to inspect these and, to date, there have been no outstanding issues.