

## Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

### Date:

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

### 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 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  
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council  
Diane Dibley, Local Community Representative  
Jan Gregson, Local Community Representative  
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative  
Sergeant Anthony Alves, Lancashire Constabulary  
Andrew Mullaney, Lancashire County Council  
Steve Molyneux, Environment Agency  
Laura Hughes, Cuadrilla  
Rowland Wright, Cuadrilla  
Charlotte Woods, Lexington Communications  
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

### Apologies:

Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative  
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative  
Jim Stancliffe, Health & Safety Executive

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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b>  Members approved the meeting report as an accurate record.	
3.	<b>Review actions arising from previous meeting</b>  <i>Action 1. Laura Hughes to confirm</i> – Laura Hughes advised that most tankers removed from the site during May contained rainwater, but several tankers contained septic waste from cleaning undertaken on site.	

	<p><i>Action 2. Andrew Mullaney to liaise with colleagues – Andrew Mullaney</i> informed attendees that his highways colleagues had inspected the roads and pavements around the site and confirmed these meet the standard for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.</p> <p><i>Action 3. Laura Hughes to liaise with the operational team – Laura Hughes</i> confirmed that she had liaised with the operational team regarding part of the site appearing waterlogged. She noted that there is no specific reason as to why the area adjacent to where the noise barrier was located appears damp. However, she advised that there had been no traffic movements in this area and that it had now dried out.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>United Utilities Update</b></p> <p><b>Steven Wong</b> stated that he welcomed the opportunity to brief members regarding United Utilities water pipe installation works on Preston New Road. He advised that following several bursts, Ofwat, the Water Services Regulatory Authority, has advised that the pipe needs to be fixed or penalties will be incurred.</p> <p>Circulating two preliminary drawings of the construction of the pipe, <b>Steven Wong</b> advised that work will commence around Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June until late September / early October. Referring to the preliminary drawings, Steve Wong provided an overview of the route of the pipe and advised that notices have been served in accordance with relevant legislation.</p> <p><b>Councillor Brickles</b> expressed concern that United Utilities is commencing work in the coming weeks, but that there are no notices around the site. Seeking to reassure attendees, <b>Steven Wong</b> advised that banners will be displayed around the site entrance ahead of work commencing to provide further details of the proposed activity. He noted that leaflets will be distributed to local residents to inform them of the work and to provide a community information line number for people to contact United Utilities.</p> <p><b>Councillor Hayhurst</b> suggested that United Utilities issue a press release to the local media, notably the Lytham St. Annes Express, the Blackpool Gazette and the Weeton Crofter. <b>Steven Wong</b> agreed to liaise with United Utilities’ media team regarding this.</p> <p>Members suggested that details of the planned activity should be displayed on the notice boards of parish councils in the area to inform local residents. Steven Wong agreed to liaise with <b>David Kirkham</b> regarding this.</p> <p>It was also suggested that nearby residents of Carr Bridge Residential Park should be informed, and Diane Dibley agreed to facilitate disseminating information. <b>Steven Wong</b> agreed to liaise with Diane Dibley regarding this.</p> <p><b>Councillor Kirkham</b> asked whether the road will be dug up or tunnelled underneath to install the pipe. <b>Steven Wong</b> confirmed that half of the road</p>	<p>Steven Wong to liaise with UU’s media team, David Kirkham and Diane Dibley</p>

	<p>will be dug up, with temporary traffic lights during this time. However, he noted that this will be for a relative short period of time and is currently scheduled for the end of July. <b>Steve Wong</b> advised attendees that he would provide further details of the schedule to members via the secretariat.</p> <p><b>Andrew Mullaney</b> advised that subsistence has been identified on Preston New Road adjacent to Maple Farm and asked whether United Utilities is aware of this. <b>Steven Wong</b> suggested that Lancashire County Council’s highway department is informed of the issue to allow United Utilities to investigate further.</p>	<p>Andrew Mullaney to liaise with highways colleagues</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Lancashire Police update</b></p> <p><b>Sergeant Alves</b> informed attendees that the number of police officers attending the site has been reduced to seven each day, with Lancashire Police seeking a return to normality. He noted that during quiet periods, officers are deployed to other divisions across the County to provide additional support. <b>Sergeant Alves</b> cited that officers have recently been deployed to Blackburn and Kirkham Prison on this basis.</p> <p><b>Sergeant Alves</b> noted that he had received several complaints regarding noise from Maple Farm as a result of the Samba band practicing. He advised that Fylde Borough Council has been informed of these complaints.</p> <p>Referring to arrests, <b>Sergeant Alves</b> informed attendees that there had been two arrests since the last CLG meeting. He noted that these were not at the Preston New Road site but related to the operation and involved public order offences and harassment. <b>Sergeant Alves</b> noted that one complaint has been received against police officers involved in Operation Manilla, with four complaints ongoing.</p> <p><b>Councillor Brickles</b> asked what was meant by the statement that Lancashire Police is seeking a ‘return to normality’. <b>Sergeant Alves</b> advised that decisions regarding the number of police officers deployed to the site are taken by Silver and Gold Commanders. However, he noted that a lower threat level from campaigners at the camps and roadside would reduce the number of police officers deployed to Preston New Road.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Site update</b></p> <p><b>Laura Hughes</b> advised that Cuadrilla has been undertaking inspections and maintenance of the equipment onsite and preparing for the next phase of activity. She informed attendees that a Hydraulic Fracture Plan has been submitted to the Environment Agency and Oil &amp; Gas Authority and that Cuadrilla intends to hydraulically fracture later in the year.</p> <p>Referring to the manning of the community helpline being taken in-house, <b>Laura Hughes</b> advised that those residents in closest proximity of the site have been notified of the change to the telephone number. She noted that the</p>	

<p>previous community helpline number has a voicemail that provides details of the new number to ensure anyone wanting to speak with a member of Cuadrilla’s team can do so.</p> <p><b>Laura Hughes</b> reiterated earlier comments that all vehicle movements during May related to the removal of rainwater or septic waste. She advised that there were no right turns of vehicles into site during May, but informed members that on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May, a HGV attempted to turn right into site. Expressing disappointment regarding this, she stated that the incident is currently under investigation and would advise members further at the next CLG meeting.</p> <p>Several questions were raised by attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– When did Cuadrilla undertake cold venting? To provide background, <b>Laura Hughes</b> explained that the Environment Agency undertook an audit on flaring and gas management to assess compliance against the environmental permit conditions. She noted that the EA’s compliance assessment report for Preston New Road published last month details that the audit found some venting of methane and stipulates when this venting occurred.</li> </ul> <p>Is Cuadrilla planning to do this again? <b>Laura Hughes</b> explained that the nitrogen lift relates to a standard oil and gas procedure which is performed in operations around the world. <b>Laura Hughes</b> went on to emphasise that Cuadrilla is committed to complying with the environmental permit conditions and working closely with the regulators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If nitrogen lift is a standard procedure, why was it a surprise that the gas was not combustible? <b>Laura Hughes</b> reiterated that the nitrogen lift is a standard oil and gas procedure, but that Cuadrilla had expected more gas to flow which would have allowed the gas to be combusted in the flare. She advised that Cuadrilla will continue to work with the Environment Agency to better explain what the Company is doing.</li> <li>– If the Traffic Light System is not reviewed, is there a future for fracking in the UK? <b>Laura Hughes</b> advised that commercialisation of the Bowland Shale through hydraulic fracturing is unlikely to be viable under the current Traffic Light System. However, she went on to explain that Cuadrilla is gathering operational data relating to its activity to demonstrate the potential shale gas resource available and understand issues relating to seismicity. She noted that the activity appraisal seeks to demonstrate proof of concept.</li> <li>– Can Cuadrilla frack under the current regulations and guidelines? <b>Laura Hughes</b> advised that Cuadrilla can undertake hydraulic fracturing under the</li> </ul>	<p>Laura Hughes to update at next meeting</p>
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	<p>current Traffic Light System, but that commercial development would be hindered by the 0.5ML red event threshold. She reiterated that Cuadrilla is acquiring data relating to its operation to inform future activity.</p> <p>Referring to previous comments made by Cuadrilla that the Company would operate within the current guidelines, <b>Councillor Hayhurst</b> questioned whether Cuadrilla is trying to change the Traffic Light System now it has got ‘its foot in the door’. <b>Laura Hughes</b> disputed this, advising that the Traffic Light System has allowed Cuadrilla to understand the relationship between micro-seismic and trailing events.</p> <p>A brief discussion followed regarding the trailing event that was reported by one person in 2018 and the seismic activity felt by local residents at Preese Hall in 2011. <b>Councillor Hayhurst</b> emphasised that the Traffic Light System seeks to protect people living on the Fylde Coast and questioned whether Cuadrilla is seeking to revise the regulations. <b>Laura Hughes</b> reiterated that Cuadrilla intends to operate within the guidance to acquire further data regarding seismicity and trailing events to demonstrate proof of concept.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If Cuadrilla plans to undertake hydraulic fracturing later in the year, will equipment need to be brought back to site? <b>Laura Hughes</b> confirmed that equipment will need to be mobilised onto the Preston New Road site in due course.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Lancashire County Council Update</b></p> <p>Providing an update from Lancashire County Council, <b>Andrew Mullaney</b> advised that no complaints have been received since May’s CLG meeting.</p> <p><b>Councillor Hayhurst</b> asked whether Lancashire County Council had received any planning applications to extend the existing consent relating to exploration of the Preston New Road site. <b>Andrew Mullaney</b> confirmed the Council had not received any application.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Industry regulators update</b></p> <p><b>Steve Molyneux</b> advised attendees that Cuadrilla had submitted its Hydraulic Fracture Plan and that this was currently under review by the EA. He explained that the EA would shortly determine Cuadrilla’s application to vary the environmental permit.</p> <p>Elaborating on the previous discussion regarding the venting of methane, <b>Steve Molyneux</b> informed members that this had occurred on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January for 25 minutes and on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> January for 80 minutes. Explaining the findings of the audit, he stated that the elevated levels of methane detected in January remain relatively low and estimates regarding the amount of methane</p>	

	<p>vented are between 2.7 and 6.8 tonnes. He noted that a herd of dairy cows produces up to 19 tonnes of methane emissions every year.</p> <p><b>Steve Molyneux</b> advised that the audit identified three non-compliances. Firstly, the venting of methane that resulted in elevated methane levels. Secondly, Cuadrilla did not chose to add the support fuel, propane, which was contrary to the approved flaring operation procedure for the site. Thirdly, Cuadrilla undertook methane concentration monitoring in flare feed gas at a frequency of 30-minute intervals, rather than every 10 minutes as stated by procedure.</p> <p>In response to questions regarding the implications for Cuadrilla of non-compliance, <b>Steve Molyneux</b> explained that the EA has issued a formal warning and opted to resolve the matter through providing advise and guidance. He advised that if Cuadrilla continues to breach its permit conditions, further enforcement action would be taken.</p> <p>Referring to the elevated methane levels, <b>Councillor Hayhurst</b> emphasised the potential risk this could cause and referred to the disaster at the water pumping station at Abbeystead in the village of St Michael’s on Wyre following a build-up of methane. <b>Steve Molyneux</b> informed members that a methane’s flammability range is 50,000 parts per million (ppm), whereas the levels of methane detected at Preston New road equate to 31 ppm. He advised that the elevated levels had no impact on human health or the environment.</p> <p><b>Steve Molyneux</b> informed attendees that the EA is reviewing Cuadrilla’s groundwater monitoring data that had not been submitted to the regulator. Furthermore, he advised that the regulators would circulate a Community Update shortly following the determination of the permit variation application.</p> <p><b>Jackie Dobson</b> advised attendees that the Health &amp; Safety Executive had provided a written response.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Confirm date of next meeting</b></p> <p>It was confirmed that the next meeting should take place at:</p> <p>7pm on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> July at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><b>Laura Hughes</b> asked whether Kirkham Town Council had identified a representative to replace Miranda Cox. <b>David Kirkham</b> advised that this was due to be raised at a previous meeting of the Town Council, so he would liaise with the Clerk for an update.</p> <p><b>Jan Gregson</b> asked whether the £100,000 community payment for the first well had been distributed to local projects. <b>David Kirkham</b> confirmed that the Community Benefit Fund, managed by the Community Foundation for</p>	<p>David Kirkham to liaise with the Clerk</p>

	<p>Lancashire, had distributed money to community projects. He noted that this included high speed broadband for Westby, as well as keep fit classes for Westby residents every Monday in Wrea Green that is organised by AFC Fylde.</p> <p>Several members expressed concern that local projects, such as providing defibrillators, had not received any money and that AFC Fylde Foundation had been allocated funds. In response, <b>Laura Hughes</b> advised that whilst money was paid to the Community Benefit Fund for the first well, a consultation with the local community on how the £100,000 for the second well was undertaken. She informed members that local residents decided that the money should be split proportional between households closest to the site. As such, she advised that local people could be consulted on how future payments would be distributed.</p> <p>Members of the CLG agreed to write to the Community Foundation for Lancashire to request details of how the £100,000 payment for the first well had been distributed to local projects and to be consulted on future payments prior to monies being provided.</p>	<p>Andrew Mullaney to draft letter for Chair's approval</p>
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## **Health & Safety Executive Update**

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) continue to inspect the weekly well operations reports submitted, as required, by Cuadrilla and remains satisfied that they are fulfilling their regulatory duties.
2. HSE will continue to undertake site-based inspections and other interventions, where appropriate.