

Bishop Burton and Walkington Liaison Committee (Crawberry Hill)

27 February 2012

Bishop Burton Village Hall

Notes of Meeting

Attendees: Cllr Phyllis Pollard, Chair (East Riding of Yorkshire Council) - PP
Cllr David Oxtoby (Chair, Bishop Burton Parish Council) - DO
Cllr David Drew (Chair, Walkington Parish Council) - DD
Margaret Hebb (Bishop Burton Resident) - MH
Jason Chester (Bishop Burton Resident) - JC
Peter Rolinson (Walkington Resident) - PR
David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - DM-S
Tom Selkirk (Project Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - TS
Philip Silk (Planning Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - PS
Jonathan Foster (HSE Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - JF
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST

(Contact details circulated via a separate document)

Apologies: Apologies were received from John Castle.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** DM-S opened the liaison group meeting welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and the organisations they represent. DM-S explained that the purpose of the meeting was to keep residents informed about progress with the work on the Crawberry Hill site. He went on to explain that Rathlin Energy (UK) ("Rathlin") remains totally committed to engaging with residents across the Walkington and Bishop Burton parishes and that the purpose of these meetings is to provide a conduit for strong and effective two-way communication, via community representatives. He reaffirmed Rathlin's desire to be a good neighbour before, during and after any proposed work, to listen carefully to residents and, where possible, act upon the matters they raise.

DM-S then went on to talk about Rathlin's draft constitution for the community liaison meetings. He went through the draft constitution line by line. The constitution was agreed as presented (copy attached) and PP kindly agreed to become the formal Chair of the Committee.

2. **Agenda:** PP thanked DM-S and all attendees for taking the time to participate in the newly formed liaison meeting. Having discussed and agreed the draft constitution (including the election of the Chair), the rest of the agenda was agreed as follows:

- Distribution of Information
- Operations Update (Rathlin Energy)
- Members Discussion
- Any Other Business
- Date of Next Meeting

3. **Distribution of Information:** It was agreed that the meeting notes would be produced by ST and sent to PP for approval before being distributed to other meeting attendees and parish clerks for wider circulation and posting. It was also determined that project updates would be produced for parish newsletters and websites and that ST would contact parish clerks to arrange a discussion with the publication/website authors including content requirements and issue dates.

4. **Operations Update** PS was asked to lead this part of the agenda. He explained that:

a) Following East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Planning Committee's decision to approve the application for Crawberry Hill, Rathlin and Moorhouse have been working on each planning condition to ensure they are all dealt with and 'discharged' appropriately.

b) The hydrogeological risk assessment has now been submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water. The initial response has been positive. Currently waiting for the condition to be discharged.

c) The traffic management plan has now been completed and is with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's highways department for consideration. It covers details of the routes to be used (explicitly stating that NO vehicles are to travel through Walkington or Bishop Burton), the steps Rathlin will take to ensure that the plan is complied with, signage, road management and the dilapidation survey. Currently waiting for the condition to be discharged.

d) The lighting management plan has been submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, outlining the lighting requirements and methods to be used to mitigate the effects of lighting on the site. Currently waiting for the condition to be discharged.

e) An archaeology scheme of investigation has been agreed with the Humber Archaeology Partnership. The archaeological works will take approximately five weeks to complete prior to site construction works commencing. Currently waiting for approval from East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the condition to be discharged.

f) Rathlin is exploring the possible options surrounding installing a suitable speed reduction scheme in the areas approaching the Crawberry Hill site. This was clearly a concern during the planning process and Rathlin has taken on board the comments received. Preliminary consultation has been held with East Riding of Yorkshire Council's highways department and Humberside Police regarding the speed reduction. Once appropriate, Rathlin intends to submit an application to further improve road safety in the area. PS stressed that Rathlin recognises the importance of not creating a situation whereby people decide not to use this route in favour of driving through the villages and he too is very conscious of this.

g) The Drilling Engineers are currently developing the drilling programme for the Crawberry Hill site, which includes identifying potential drilling rigs which may be suitable to drill this particular well.

5. **Member discussion:** PP thanked PS for the useful update and invited other members of the liaison group to ask any questions.

Question from PP: When is the work likely to begin?

Answer from PS: Work is expected to start sometime in the summer but this is dependant on a number of factors including the 'discharge' of planning conditions, archaeological works, bird nesting survey, drilling rig availability (which, across the industry, can be uncertain due to the limited number of rigs operating in the UK) and tendering work packages.

Question from PR: What water testing will take place to ensure that the water has not been contaminated and that the water aquifer isn't damaged?

Answer from JF: Continuous water testing will take place from nearby bore holes before, during and after the drilling operation. All available hydrogeological information is currently being requested and obtained from the Environment Agency and our specialist consultants, URS Scott Wilson, are advising us as to suitable methods and locations for monitoring. They will be on-hand throughout our operations to assist with the monitoring.

JF also confirmed that the report would be shared via the liaison committee. As had been discussed during the public consultation meetings, Rathlin remains committed to openness and will make information relating to these tests public.

Question from PR: Will Rathlin also carry out tests before, during and after the drilling process to assess air quality?

Answer from JF: This isn't typically performed but ongoing air quality monitoring could take place throughout and again Rathlin will be happy to share these results.

Question from JC: Will Yorkshire Water be consulted and involved in borehole monitoring?

Answer from PS: Yes, we will keep them updated with our progress. PS reminded the liaison committee that ground and surface water protection is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. JF confirmed, recognising the significance and importance of the whole aquifer issue from a community perspective, that Rathlin would share the water testing methodology in more detail at the next community liaison meeting.

Question from DD: Will you be consulting Beverley Racecourse?

Answer from PS: We can consult them if you feel this is necessary but they are not affected by our work programme [it was agreed that this would not be necessary at this time].

Question from DD: What assurances can you give around traffic not coming through the villages? Some local firms currently flout the rules and do pass through the village. What will you do to prevent this from happening?

Answer from PS: Firstly, it's important to stress that the recommended speed restrictions are not designed to create a backlog of traffic. The proposals are intended to encourage responsible driving to and from the site. Secondly, all site contractors and sub-contractors will be instructed before and after arriving at the site that they must drive responsibly and stick to the designated routes – failure to do so will be viewed as a serious breach of contract that could result in any formal agreements being withdrawn. A Traffic Management Plan has been submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council's highways department and this specifies the restrictions that will be operated. A copy of this will be provided to all contractors working on behalf of Rathlin.

JF also added: It can be arranged for all site vehicles to display a sticker to show that they are associated with Rathlin's activities. Additionally, a record will be kept of all vehicles that attend the site including registration numbers, and arrival and departure times.

Question from MH: You have mentioned about how you will monitor water and air quality but there has been no mention of noise. How do you intend to manage this?

Answer from JF: Although there is no planning condition requiring Rathlin to undertake noise monitoring, there is a requirement for noise levels not to exceed 42dB Laeq (1 hour) between the hours of 23:00 and 06:00 at the nearest residential properties. The project team intends to undertake a period of noise monitoring to assess noise in detail, but is confident that noise will not reach the 42dB limit – especially with the nearest property being more than 850m away.

MH asked if the liaison committee could see the full list of planning conditions.

JF said that this would not be a problem and that he would bring them along to the next liaison committee meeting.

Question from DD: When cementing the casing in place, how does the cement circulate around and ensure a sufficient seal between the wellbore and casing?

Answer from JF: A measured amount of cement is pumped through a non-return valve on the bottom of the casing. This then circulates up and around the casing, back to surface. Centralisers will be installed on the outside of the casing, this ensures that the casing is central within the wellbore and that the cement can flow around the casing and is not restricted, thereby ensuring a good even seal between the casing and surrounding strata. Different size casing is set at a number of depths; this ensures the previous sections are isolated before the subsequent section is drilled. The process is very flexible and the kind of equipment used means that the casing can be applied alongside the operation as it moves along thus reducing any risk – even when drilling directionally. He explained that having been involved in this process many times before that the committee can be assured of the integrity of the casing as a very effective barrier. He stressed again that it is a tried and tested way of delivering a safe drilling operation.

6. AOB.

PR mentioned an article in the Observer newspaper about drilling and how East Yorkshire was a potential area for unconventional petroleum reserves. The article also raised concerns about hydraulic fracturing.

TS reiterated the difference between the process for testing at this site and the drilling that had received extensive media coverage in Lancashire during 2011. He also reaffirmed Rathlin's commitment that hydraulic fracturing will not feature as part of the plans at Crawberry Hill.

DM-S also suggested that committee members might benefit from reading the Department of Energy and Climate Change's website Q&A as it is a very good educational tool for anyone wanting to know more about exploration, drilling and hydraulic fracturing. This is the link: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/oil_gas/shale_gas/shale_gas.aspx

No other matters were raised

7. **Date and time of the next meeting:** It was agreed that meetings should really only take place when there is something to report. This will become clearer as and when the drilling plan is agreed.

For the time being, it was suggested that the meetings would take place on a quarterly basis but perhaps more frequently when works get underway – or if there are changes in the programme that need to be briefed.

It was decided that an appropriate time for the next meeting would be mid-April as this would give Rathlin time to further assess the planning conditions and, by which point, it was hoped that they would all be 'discharged'.

The next meeting will, therefore, take place at 7pm on Tuesday 17 April 2012 at Bishop Burton Village Hall.

DO agreed to check and confirm the Hall's availability.

ACTIONS:

1. Provide Committee with water quality monitoring details at next meeting.
2. Provide Committee with air quality monitoring details at next meeting.
3. Circulate a provisional timeline, with estimates when each phase may occur.
4. Circulate decision notice to all liaison committee members.
5. Confirm next meeting and venue to all liaison committee members.