

Bishop Burton and Walkington Liaison Committee (Crawberry Hill)
20 November 2012
Bishop Burton Village Hall
Notes of Meeting

Attendees: David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - DM-S
David Oxtoby (Chair, Bishop Burton Parish Council) - DO
Margaret Hebb (Bishop Burton Resident) - MH
Jason Chester (Bishop Burton Resident) - JC
Peter Rolinson (Walkington Resident) - PR
Tom Selkirk (Project Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - TS
Philip Silk (Planning Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - PS
Mat Martin (Construction Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - MM
Jonathan Foster (HSE Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) – JF
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - CF
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) – ST

Apologies: Apologies were received from: John Castle (Walkington Resident), Cllr Phyllis Pollard (ERYC Ward Councillor and Chair of Planning, ERYC)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. As everyone knew each other at the meeting DM-S said that introductions would not be necessary and that the meeting would begin. He went on to explain that Councillor Phyllis Pollard had been invited to the meeting but unfortunately she could not attend this evening and that she had passed on her apologies.

DM-S also informed the liaison committee that a planning application had been submitted for a second exploration wellsite at West Newton - close to the parishes of Aldbrough, Burton Constable, East Garton and Withernwick in the Holderness area. He explained that this site had been identified, much in the same way as Crawberry Hill, using seismic testing. He said that the planning application was likely to be heard in January and that Rathlin would keep liaison group members informed of progress at future meetings.

2. Notes from the Previous Meeting (30 October 2012):

The notes from the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record of what was discussed and agreed at the last meeting. JF asked for one minor amendment to be made. He said that the final paragraph in the archaeological section, which read:

'MA explained that all of the above will allow **Rathlin** to build up a detailed picture of prehistoric activity on the site, and the environment in which it occurred. It will also aid the company's understanding of the wider regional landscape during prehistory.'

...should have read:

'MA explained that all of the above will allow **Humber Archaeology and East Riding of Yorkshire Council** to build up a detailed picture of prehistoric activity on the site, and the environment in which it occurred. It will also aid the company's understanding of the wider regional landscape during prehistory.'

ST said that he would amend make this change on the Rathlin Energy website.

3. Planning Update

PS said that the traffic management plan had now been approved.

PS also confirmed that the Environment Agency was happy for Rathlin to start its groundwater monitoring now and that he was just waiting for his contact there to confirm when it could begin. The plan is to tie Rathlin's monitoring in with the Environment Agency's own scheduled programme. He said that the water would be sampled every four weeks during the operations.

PS said that Rathlin and the Environment Agency were looking at another couple of boreholes and have identified some downstream of the wellsite (private boreholes) – early indications that these could be used for additional monitoring are positive.

Resident representatives asked if there is a full public record of boreholes. PS said that it is quite possible that there are boreholes that Rathlin and the Environment Agency don't know about. He said that the British Geological Survey (BGS) is always keen to update its records and that is where any documentation relating to borehole locations is kept. He confirmed that the BGS has a record of boreholes, shafts and wells from all forms of drilling and site investigation work. He said that these boreholes can range from one metre to several thousand metres deep.

He said that borehole records are produced from a geologist's or surveyor's observations of the rock core extracted from the ground. It typically includes locality, lithological descriptions with depth and thickness.

PS said that there were examples or times when landowners don't know they exist on their land. Elsewhere in the country, PS said that the team had become aware of unregistered boreholes that were known about locally although he stressed that this did not relate to any borehole findings in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Resident representatives asked about the location of water springs in and around the area. PS confirmed that there is one in Walkington.

4. Construction Update

MM gave a very comprehensive update on recent and proposed construction activities as follows:

Signage

- Following on from the completion of the archaeological works, Fox (Owmbly) returned to the site and erected the approved speed reduction signage. When travelling along Walkington Heads or approach roads, these are the signs people will see
- To date most people/vehicles slow down when nearing the site, mainly to see what is going on but then tend to speed up and even overtake at +60mph. Resident representatives were asked to work with the site team to remind local residents of the need to drive responsibly
- MM drives the approved traffic route upon each site visit to ensure the signage remains visible and clean

Security

- Since returning to the site, following the short period of archaeological works, 24/7 security has been in place ensuring the site is 'manned' 24-hours a day, seven day a week

General Public

- To date, MM has received no comments or concerns from any members of the public
- MM asked the committee members if they had received any comments. None had been received

Well-site Design Process

MM gave all present a brief insight as to how the site design has been formed and his presentation included relevant pictures. He explained:

- Upon completion of the topsoil strip, the area has been re-surveyed to determine the total amount of soil removed which has varied from 250mm to 450mm in areas (he gave a photographic presentation to show exactly how the site now looks and a step-by-step guide throughout the process)
- The survey has been reviewed by the consulting engineers and the volumes associated with the cut to fill have been confirmed taking into account the material to be excavated from the perimeter ditches
- By overlaying the proposed drilling rig layouts onto the completed well-site design, we are able to determine the exact location for the drilling cellar (drawings of the well-site design were shared with resident representatives)
- Due to the varying thicknesses and grades of underlying chalk he explained that the contractors had to adopt a different method of cutting and filling the site, excavating the upper layers of corn brash material first ensuring that various layers are not mixed (he then shared the week four progress photographs)
- The lower layers of chalk are larger in size and we are (in accordance with the specification for highway works) using a grid roller which breaks down and compacts the chalk. The grid roller weighs approximately 12.5tonnes and using the spec for highway works MM and his team can determine what thickness the chalk is to spread and levelled and number of passes with the grid roller is required to achieve compaction. He explained that it is important to not drive or run construction plant and equipment over the chalk when it is wet (week five progress photos were shown and discussed)

Progress Update

- During week five: Fox has taken delivery of the drilling cellar pre-cast concrete rings and drilling conductor pipe
- Fox has continued with the cut to fill element of the works and commenced the perimeter ditch excavation work
- During week six: (weather permitting) the aim is to complete the cut to fill element and ditch excavation (photographs of lined ditch and revised programme were shown and discussed)
- Commence construction of the drilling cellar and the setting in of the surface conductor pipe (photographs of previous conductor setting shown and discussed)
- Two way temporary traffic lights will be erected Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd and possibly Friday 23rd November in order to safely excavate the existing verge and commence the well-site main entrance. Approximately 12-13 loads of stone will be transported to the site using two Fox trucks which will be on turn around throughout the days until complete
- During week seven: (weather permitting) Fox will take delivery of the geo-fabrics, geo-grid and HDPE liner as well as the perimeter ditch pipe-work (one load of pipes, one load of geo-fabric, one load of geo-grid, two loads of HDPE liner and one load of twin wall plastic pipes)

- Fox will lay the entrance kerbs and towards the latter part of week seven (29th/30th November) two way lights will again be placed on the carriageway in order for the tarmac surfacing work to be completed safely within the well-site entrance. Around six-eight tarmac deliveries are likely to be required. Lorries have been instructed to wait in the nearby A1079 lay-by and be called to site when required
- The drilling cellar will be completed. Two to three lorry loads of concrete will be required
- Upon completion of the cut to fill and perimeter ditch excavation the geo-fabric and liner will be laid using the excavator and cradle. Once the liner has been placed within the perimeter ditch, some areas of the ditch will have a twin wall pipe placed and be backfilled with clean stone to the level of the site
- During week 8, (weather permitting) the drainage will be installed at the base of the entrance ramp. The geo-grids will be laid and the site will be covered with 300mm of stone to form the level drilling footprint (approximately 125 vehicle movements)
- During week 9, (weather permitting) the stone footprint will be completed and the drilling cellar concrete surround will be formed. Fencing will be erected around the perimeter of the newly formed well-site and a stone access ramp formed for the land owner to access his fields. The site will be tidied accordingly and all plant and equipment will be off hired. The site will then be handed over for drilling operations to commence

5. **AOB.**

Rig availability – JF said that Rathlin is currently reviewing three tenders for the conductor rig. He said that all three bids were very strong and that they are from well-known and trusted drilling contractors. He said that he would be making his recommendations based on the strengths and weaknesses of each application directly to Rathlin in the next few weeks.

He said that there had been some strong interest in the main drilling contract - one from Europe and others from the UK. He confirmed that the key criterion, from a decision-making perspective, are contractor capability and safety.

DM-S asked if anyone else had any comments or questions. Resident representatives said that they hadn't heard anything negative at all. Indeed, they said that things were all very quiet – almost as though the work wasn't happening, which was what they had hoped. MM reinforced that whilst this was pleasing, resident representatives should not hesitate to contact him if they received any concerning comments from members of the public.

JC asked if an RSS feed could be added to the Rathlin website. ST said he would sort this out (post meeting note: this has now been added).

DM-S informed the committee that he had received a letter from John Dunning from Cold Harbour Farm asking if he could become a member of the group. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that, whilst the committee was grateful for his interest, the group was working well with the relevant level of representation from each community. DM-S was asked to respond to Mr Dunning asking him if he would like to attend the meetings in an observer role.

6. **Date and time of the next meeting:**

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 08 January 2013 at Bishop Burton Village Hall.

DO is kindly asked to check and confirm the Hall's availability.