

## West Newton Community Liaison Committee

7pm on 13 May 2014

Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield

### Notes of Meeting

- Attendees:** 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, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) - JF  
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - CF  
Norman Wilkie (Chairman of Withernwick Parish Council) - NW  
Ron Jagger (Resident of Burton Constable) - RJ  
Geoff North (Representing Aldbrough Parish Council) - GN  
Don Fields (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - DF  
Karen Parker (Representing Ellerby Parish Council) - KP  
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST  
PC Julie Turrell (Liaison Officer, Humberside Police) - JT
- Apologies:** Steve Croft (Representing Withernwick Parish Council) - SC  
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - CF

#### 1. Welcome

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. JT was welcomed on behalf of Humberside Police. DM-S explained that JT had asked to attend the meeting to update the liaison group about the recent arrival of 'anti-fracking protestors' at both well sites. He reminded the community liaison committee members that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited **is not** hydraulically fracturing and that the company is only targeting the conventional reservoirs from a production perspective. DM-S said that any suggestion to the contrary is inaccurate. He also reminded resident representatives that neither of the wells at West Newton or Strawberry Hill had been designed/engineered for horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

DM-S asked resident representatives if they had a copy of the notes from the last meeting dated 26 February 2014. Everyone confirmed they had and they were approved as an accurate representation of what was discussed at that meeting.

#### 2. Operations Update

TS gave an update on the forthcoming operations. He explained that the Environment Agency permits had now been approved. He reminded the liaison committee that this work involved a two flow tests in both the carbonate and sandstone sections of the well and a mini fall-off test.

He explained again what the mini fall-off test involved. He said that the well will be pressured up to the point where the rock would become permeable to fluid and then will be shut in to monitor the pressure fall off. No hydrocarbons or other formation fluids be will recovered during this test. Once the test has been completed the zone will be plugged and abandoned.

TS said the Environment Agency determined that there would be the need for two water boreholes for monitoring at both of the sites.

He explained that the Environment Agency had asked Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited to create two dedicated water boreholes at each site. He said that these would be around 70m in depth. TS said the operation would involve a five metre high mast and that it would take around a day to drill and then a day to cast and concrete. He said that both wells would be secured to avoid tampering.

Resident representatives asked why 70m. TS explained that 70m is the thickness of the clay before reaching the chalk aquifer based on the work that we have done so far.

Additionally, he explained that new fencing would be put up for the protection purposes – especially as more people were now taking an interest in what is happening at the site.

JF said that the fence would be erected under the local authority's permitted development rules because planning permission would not be needed for the type of structure that Rathlin Energy (UK) had in mind (likely to be 2m fencing). He said that discussions had taken place with a local fencing contractor and that the barrier would be installed as soon as possible.

TS said that the necessary equipment would be mobilised to the site and that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited was discussing the timings and logistical arrangements with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Humberside Police. He said that in the meantime, it would just be business as usual with ongoing monitoring of the well head, emptying the site perimeter ditches and site safety and security. He said that security would be increased now that protestors are setting up camp nearby.

With regards to the actual testing programme, TS explained that the Environment Agency permits provide for Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited us to undertake its ongoing testing programme. Referring to the previous meeting [26 February 2014], where a detailed breakdown of the intended operations was given, TS went through testing operations again explaining how each test would be carried out and what residents could expect.

TS said that a smaller amount of equipment will be brought to the site than was mobilised during the main drilling operation.

TS reminded resident representatives that a work-over rig, similar to the one that had been initially used to drill down to a depth of around 200m during the drilling operations, would be used.

He said that the work-over rig would be truck mounted, the mast would be approx. 22 metres high and that it would have a mud pump and a blow-out prevention system. He then explained that a wire-line and logging unit would also be used to lower the necessary well logging tools into the wellbore to record a variety of cased hole logs.

TS said that the wire-line and logging unit would have a winch system used to lower the necessary tools into and out of the well. He then explained how, with pin point accuracy, they would be lowered into the well and how the tests would be undertaken by setting off small charges that perforate the casing to communicate with the rock formation behind.

He said that the mini fall-off tests will be conducted first and after the data is gathered the zone would be plugged and abandoned. The testing would then move upwards to undertake the flow tests in each formation separately.

He said that it would take up to six weeks and that the service rig and wire-line logging unit may move between the two sites during the testing phase.

TS then went on to talk about the surface testing equipment. He reminded resident representatives that this would include:

- A choke manifold
- A sand knock out system
- A three phase separator system
- Storage tanks
- A flare

He then talked resident representatives through how:

- Fluid flows from the well
- Pressure is monitored and regulated
- The fluid is separated into three phases – oil, water and gas
- The oil and water flows through the system into storage tanks
- The gas flows to the flare stack where it is incinerated

He reassured resident representatives that the team would closely and continually monitor:

- The pressure at the testing point and at the surface
- The flow rate
- The liquids rate
- The flow times
- The temperature
- All samples

He reminded resident representatives that this would enable Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited to build up a picture of whether the flow rate was commercially viable. He also said that this would help the team to better understand the reservoir properties, i.e. the extent of the reservoir, its permeability and if there is any water contact.

TS reiterated that flaring would probably last for between seven and ten days per flow test. He also said that once again, air monitoring would be continuous throughout and that the Environment Agency would continue to monitor activities at the site.

TS said, that all being well, the operations would last for between six and eight weeks in total. There would then be a demobilisation and further assessment of findings period.

Resident representatives asked when the work will be starting. TS said that he could not be precise on this at the moment as the team were still in the process of sourcing the required equipment and sorting out the logistical arrangements. He said that in all likelihood there would be two phases. The equipment for the water wells and fencing first and then the testing equipment, etc. later.

TS said that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited has every intention of abiding by the rules within its stated traffic management plan in terms of the logistical arrangements of getting equipment to and from the site. However, the arrival of protestors added a slightly different dimension and that things might need to be changed at short notice if advised to do so by Humberside Police and in consultation with the highways team at East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

From a security perspective, TS said that there were currently roving patrols in place, but that when the site is fully established full time security will be installed.

TS said that the team were aware and conscious of the need to keep disruption to an absolute minimum and that everything possible from Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's perspective would be done to keep traffic, noise and light impact to a minimum.

No other matters were raised or discussed re: the operations.

### **3. Any Other Business**

JT, a police officer with some 27 years' experience who in recent years has worked primarily as a 'community beat officer', said that she had been nominated to represent Humberside Police as one of the site liaison officers for Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's operations.

She explained that another dedicated protest liaison officer had also been nominated and that person's role will be to liaise with the protest groups. Julie's role is to speak with villagers and the company and that Humberside Police's main priority is peaceful protest facilitation. She then handed out business cards and invited villagers to contact her if there was anything that concerned them with regards to the protests that were now beginning to gather momentum.

JT said that there would probably be a slight increase in community policing patrols, but reassured residents that Humberside Police's objective is to ensure as little disruption to peoples' lives as possible.

She explained that there would always be a proportional response to any reported issues. She said that anyone with any concerns should contact 101 in the usual way and 999 in the event of an emergency. She said that her and her colleagues' role is the facilitation of a peaceful outcome for everyone.

JT explained that she had a duty of care re: highway safety and that she intended to speak with East Riding of Yorkshire Council highways and further consultation with Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited about this.

Resident representatives expressed concerns that most of the protestors they had seen seemed to be coming from outside the area and that some people had been worried by the protestors' approaches. JT reminded resident representatives that the protestors claimed to be here to peacefully protest, but where there were any concerns or issues/incidents that residents should contact 101 and/or 999 immediately. She then handed out her business cards so that resident representatives, in their capacity of community delegates, could contact her directly if need be.

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

DM-S suggested that the next meeting be held once the next phase of operations are completed. Resident representatives agreed. He thanked resident representatives for their proactive input and reminded them that Rathlin Energy (UK) intended to be a good neighbour at all times. He also said that the company is accessible 24-hours a day, seven days a week and urged anyone with any concerns to get in touch.

He said that further updates are available via Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's website: [www.rathlin-energy.co.uk](http://www.rathlin-energy.co.uk) and reminded resident representatives about the 24-hour emergency number: 0800 1959154.