

Bishop Burton and Walkington Liaison Committee (Crawberry Hill)

12 February 2013

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
Cllr Phyllis Pollard (ERYC Ward Councillor and Chair of Planning, ERYC) - PP
Margaret Hebb (Bishop Burton Resident) - MH
Jason Chester (Bishop Burton Resident) - JC
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
Richard Sands (Drilling Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - RS
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - CF
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST

Apologies: John Castle (Walkington Resident) and Peter Rollinson (Walkington Resident)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He introduced RS. RS is the Managing Director of Moorhouse Drilling and Completions and he was invited to the meeting to discuss drilling progress since the last meeting on 08 January 2013.

2. Notes from the Previous Meeting (08 January 2013):

The notes from the meeting on 08 January 2013 were approved as an accurate record of what was discussed.

3. Operations Update

RS gave an update on recent drilling activity. He explained that the BDF 18 conductor drilling rig was now in full operation. He said that for the first week or so, the drill had been in operation for 12-hours a day but this had been increased to a 24-hour a day operation on 31 January because progress had been slower than originally anticipated due to the density of the chalk and the length of time it was taking to drill through it.

RS explained that when drilling first started, a 36 inch drill bit was used for the first section of the borehole which drilled to approximately 100m. A steel casing was then run and cemented. Currently they are drilling with a 26 inch drill bit. Each section of the wellbore has steel casing run and then cemented, creating multiple layers which protect the water aquifer.

RS used a well schematic to illustrate the point showing the lengths that the company is going to, to make sure there can be no problems associated with its operations. He also showed pictures of the steel casing that would line the wellbore. He explained that the rig, which is around 15 metres in height, will be on site for a further 12 days.

RS said the objective of this phase of the operation is to drill down to a level of approximately 200m - safely through the water aquifer. He explained that the operations had reached a level of 120 metres at that point in time.

PP asked resident representatives if anyone had heard or complained about noise associated with the activity so far. Resident representatives said that they had not and JF confirmed that no-one had been in touch with Rathlin directly or via the site to make any representations whatsoever.

RS then explained that the larger drilling rig would be arriving in mid-March. He said it would be around three times the size of the conductor rig – approximately 49m in height (not dissimilar in size to the nearby electricity pylons). RS explained that a conventional triples drilling unit will be used to drill the Crawberry Hill well. A typical rig was shown to the committee, similar to the one detailed in the planning application.

RS said this, along with all of the necessary site equipment, would consist of around 75 lorry movements to the site and that access and egress to Crawberry Hill would be controlled by holding the lorries in laybys en-route and calling them in one by one throughout the day. He explained that there would be much fewer movements than when the stone was brought in during December. He stressed that all lorry drivers will be told about the importance of not going through the villages of Walkington and Bishop Burton and that the same zero tolerance policy to any breaches would apply. He said that it would take 4-5 days to install the new rig as 17 lorry movements will be the maximum number that can be handled at the site each day.

PP asked how many people would be on site during the operations. JF said that there would be around 12 people from the drilling contractor and a similar number from Moorhouse and Rathlin – around 24 in total. He said that they would be staying in local accommodation and that they would be actively encouraged to use local facilities.

RS explained that from the rigging up stage to completion of the initial testing phase would be around 49 days in total and that, once underway, this drilling operation would also be for 24-hours a day (as now with the drilling conductor). He explained that the noise levels would be very similar (indeed the same) as the recent operation and that this particular rig comes with its own acoustically housed equipment. He said that the team would be drilling to a depth of 2,700 metres.

RS said that so far everything was going to plan and that there had been no negative feedback – which in itself was a positive thing.

RS explained that 42dB is the permissible noise level during the night and that much lower levels would be experienced at nearby properties (the nearest being some 600m away). He said that PS would talk about this in more detail later.

Resident representatives asked if the lighting on the new rig will be different to what is there now on the smaller rig. RS explained that the lighting will not be too dissimilar. He said that whilst the lights would obviously be higher, but that they would be angled to illuminate downwards towards the site – not outwards (which would serve no purpose at all).

PP asked if there had been any security problems at the site. JF said that there hadn't been any cause for concern – apart from a break-in at the very beginning when someone damaged some equipment trying to steal diesel. Other than this, there hadn't been any security problems at all. He said that security staff will remain on site 24-hours a day until this next phase of work is complete.

4. Ground Water Monitoring Update

PS updated members on the second round of groundwater sampling which was collected on 09 January 2013. A spread-sheet had been produced by URS providing a record of the results along with a comparison against relevant screening criteria. This was circulated amongst resident representatives. He reminded the liaison committee that now drilling had commenced, the testing will take place every four weeks at this stage of the development.

He explained that the results from this survey were very similar to those discussed at the last liaison committee meeting. PS explained that these first two sample rounds provide the baseline for future sampling.

The results identified high turbidity in the Walkington Wolds borehole, along with higher levels of Chloride, Nitrate and Sulphate. It was explained that this may be due to pulses of recharge water through the unsaturated zone. PS said that the chloride in particular may represent the effects of salt spreading on the adjacent B1230.

Resident representatives asked if Rathlin has passed the information on to Yorkshire Water. PS said that they are in contact with the Environment Agency and that he would be passing the information on. He also stressed that this was not the direct drinking water source for either Bishop Burton and/or Walkington villages so that residents should not be too concerned. This comes from a borehole closer to Hull.

PS said that Rathlin now has a much clearer view on the baseline following the two assessments and that this will be very helpful going forward.

5. Noise Monitoring Update

PS said that noise monitoring has been taking place at a property close to the site since 19 January 2013 – when work first started (including 31 January – when 24-hour drilling started).

He said that readings had been taken from a property near Walkington – 800-900m away from the site. A graph was shown displaying the readings that have been taken up to the 4th February. PS went on to explain that the noise data is presented in terms of two measurement parameters: LAeq and LA90, with measurements shown in terms of 5-minute samples. With such a short sample time, the noise data will reflect any short term changes. The LAeq measurement is essentially the average level over each 5-minute period. Consequently, the LAeq data is more 'peaky', as it reflects any short term higher noise event during the period, for example local farm activity (dog bark), overhead aircraft etc. The LA90 data represents the level exceeded for 90% of the time and this filters out any higher short term intermittent noise event during the 5-minute period. The LA90 value is therefore more representative of the 'steady' noise level.

Consequently the LAeq levels are generally higher than the LA90 values during the daytime when there is more likely to be intermittent local noise. Some of the spikes are 20dB(A) higher than the LA90 value indicating short term noise events. During the night time the absence of intermittent noise means the LAeq and LA90 levels are usually much closer.

Up until 26th January, the levels barely rose above 40dB(A) even during the daytime, reflecting a very quiet period and therefore compliant with the night time limit of 42dB(A). High readings were associated with weather conditions due to the recent high winds.

TS described the 40-50dB noise range as being similar to that of a fridge running constantly in someone's kitchen. PS said that the team had undertaken surveys at the site that very day to compare against the readings taken from the nearby properties.

When collected, the noise readings are then compared with the operator log on site to understand if any higher readings are associated with the drilling activity. So far the site is operating within the agreed limits and no complaints had been received via community representatives or directly from residents about any aspect of the operations at the site.

DO said that he had spoken to the person whose property is nearest the site and that they had said that they hadn't heard any noise at all. DO said he thought this was a positive thing and demonstrated that, so far, Rathlin was delivering on its promises.

6. Any Other Business

Resident representatives stressed again how important it is that no traffic goes through Bishop Burton or Walkington villages. JF said this would be communicated thoroughly once again and that Rathlin understands how important this is. Resident representatives said that they had received feedback from horse riders who had commented on politeness of the drivers during the first phase of work.

D-MS said that the BBC had been on site today at their request. He said that they wanted to do an update piece on the work at Crawberry Hill and to learn more about what is involved at West Newton. The story was scheduled to be broadcast on Friday 15 November in the 18.30 bulletin.

D-MS informed the committee that the preliminary meeting of the West Newton community liaison group was to take place the next evening (13 February 2013) at a location near to the site.

DM-S said that the team is keen to arrange site visits as soon as possible for planning committee members, officers and the liaison committee. He said that as soon as a date is arranged, he would let liaison committee members know so that they can decide who wants to attend.

7. Date and time of the next meeting:

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 21 March 2013 at Bishop Burton Village Hall. The meeting is to take place at around the time the main drilling rig is in place.

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

Further updates will be available via Rathlin's website: www.rathlin-energy.co.uk