

## **Bishop Burton and Walkington Liaison Committee (West Newton)**

**7pm on 13 February 2013**

**Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield**

### **Notes of Meeting**

**Attendees:** 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  
Mat Martin (Construction Manager, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) - MM  
Don Fields (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - DF  
Steve Croft (Representing Withernwick Parish Council) - SC  
Ron Jagger (Resident of Burton Constable) - RJ  
Karen Parker (Representing Ellerby Parish Council) - KP  
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST

**Apologies:** David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy UK) – DM-S  
John Fox (Representing Aldbrough Parish Council) - JFX

#### **1. Welcome**

TS opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending on what was a very cold and wintery night. He said that, subject to everyone's agreement, future meetings will be chaired by D-MS - who unfortunately could not attend this meeting due to a prior engagement. In view of this, the liaison committee agreed that TS should lead the meeting on this occasion. Resident representatives said that they were happy with this arrangement.

#### **2. Introductions**

TS asked attendees to introduce themselves and the organisations they represent. He then explained that the purpose of the meeting was to keep residents informed about progress with the work at the West Newton site. He went on to explain that Rathlin Energy (UK) ("Rathlin") is totally committed to engaging with residents across nearby 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.

#### **3. Draft Constitution**

TS then went on to talk about Rathlin's draft constitution for the community liaison meetings. He handed all attendees a copy (copy also attached) and he asked resident representatives to read it ahead of the next meeting so it that it can be amended and then incorporated as a formal process for delivering and administering future agendas.

TS then talked through how things are working at Crawberry Hill and how the community liaison group has helped from an engagement and feedback perspective.

TS confirmed that local representatives had been invited from each of the nearby parishes and that Ward councillors (Skow and Turner) had been contacted.

DF said that, on behalf of his parish, he wants to make the best of the meetings by working together – whether people wanted the project or not.

TS said that it may very well be that nothing is found, but if it is Rathlin aims to be a very good community partner and neighbour. He confirmed that there is a one in 10 chance of success at the site.

A general conversation then took place about the history of gas and oil exploration/drilling in the area.

#### 4. **Agenda**

Having introduced 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

#### 5. **Distribution of Information**

It was agreed that the meeting notes would be produced by ST and sent to the Chair for approval before being distributed to other meeting attendees for wider circulation and posting. It was also determined that project updates could be used within parish newsletters and on parish websites. In view of this the notes would be sent to all parish clerks so that they can, if they choose, incorporate articles in their own resident communications.

#### 6. **Operations Update**

PS was asked to lead on this agenda item.

He explained that:

- Planning permission was approved a week after the planning committee on 03 January 2013 (due to a technicality time-wise by East Riding of Yorkshire Council)
- The planning permission is subject to 17 planning conditions  
He said that Rathlin and Moorhouse will be working on each planning condition to ensure they are all dealt with and "discharged" appropriately.
- Information has been submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council to comply with the planning conditions to allow them to be discharged.
- Condition 2 requires Rathlin to notify East Riding of Yorkshire Council of commencement of operations

- Condition 14 requires Rathlin to inform Garton Airfield of commencement of operations (re: rig installation)
- Condition 7 requires the submission of a traffic management plan and dilapidation survey.
- That the traffic management plan and dilapidation survey must include details of:

He explained that a specified access route has been proposed. The access route starts from the A165, along on to Mulberry Lane, continuing onto Langthorpe Road, into New Ellerby. Vehicles would then turn right onto Lambwath Lane before turning left onto the road through Marton, vehicles will then turn left at Pipers Lane, continue onto Fosham Road before turning right into the site. Special measures have been proposed for when there is a larger number of vehicle movements which will include the delivery of stone and the drilling rig. Large laybys will hold HGVs on the A165, north of Coniston, which will be called in to the site via the access routes at pre-determined times where needed. There is a layby at New Ellerby that might also be used to hold single vehicles.

PS said that the access routes will be subject to a dilapidation survey so that everyone knows what the road conditions are before, during and after the work. He said that the council will assess any remedial work that might need doing – in the unlikely event of Rathlin’s work adversely affecting the roads.

- As part of the traffic management plan information was also included on:
  - signage
  - holding areas
  - site security
  - parking arrangements
  - mud and debris management
  - the planned dilapidation survey
  - monitoring and compliance

PS explained measures taken against anyone who doesn’t follow the company’s driving rules. Rathlin takes a hard line on anyone failing to follow the agreed access routes to and from its sites – adopting a zero tolerance policy. He explained that site security lets people into and out of the site so that everything is always controlled and security is maintained. He said that all parking is on site and that jet washing will be provided and contact with a road sweeping company will be maintained incase there is a requirement to clean the roads if needed. He explained that the site entrance is tarmaced which then leads onto a stoned site. This helps to reduce the chances of any mud being transferred from the site. He restated that Rathlin would continuously monitor activities to ensure complete compliance in every way.

Resident representatives asked what would happen when a big lorry came head to head with a tractor on the narrow roads (“with them being bigger nowadays there is a risk of damage to verges, etc.”). Resident representatives said that they worry that there will be damage to the verges due to the intensity of works. PS explained that this will be picked up in the dilapidation surveys before, during and after Rathlin’s works – he said that the project team will be carrying out regular surveys.

He explained that if Rathlin does any damage at all, which isn't anticipated, the company will work with the local authority to reinstate the verges – restoring them back to their pre-works standard. He reassured residents that the project team will be on top of the situation.

- Condition 10 requires Rathlin to enter into a Section 62 Agreement with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and improve the existing highway on Pipers Lane/Fosham Lane. Rathlin has agreed to install three new lay-bys (20m long and 6m wide) and protect the verges at two locations along the lane. PS then showed a drawing of the proposed highway improvements and talked the liaison group through what is planned.

Resident representatives asked if signs were to be erected telling people that the new "lay-bys" are passing places to avoid 'rogue' parking there. PS confirmed that signs will be installed and the site team will advise people not to park in passing places wherever possible.

Resident representatives said that ditches should not be filled in. PS confirmed that this would not happen.

JF said that this is the only 'permanent' part of the operations and that after a year they would be handed over to the local authority – they will become a part of the council's highway infrastructure in the future. He confirmed that Rathlin is required to create them to an exact specification agreed with the council.

- Condition 9 requires Rathlin to submit details to East Riding of Yorkshire Council in relation to foul drainage arrangements. PS explained that:
  - The site is considered a temporary development therefore the facilities are temporary.
  - Steel tanks will be sited adjacent or under welfare facilities to collect any foul drainage.
  - All tanks will be subject to regular monitoring and emptying.
  - Any waste removal will be undertaken by a licenced waste carrier.
- Condition 12 required Rathlin to submit a noise management plan. PS explained that:
  - A noise assessment was submitted with the planning application which was completed by Spectrum acoustics.
  - Noise limits of 55dB (A) daytime and 42dB (A) night time have been proposed which will accord with the National Planning Policy Framework guidance.

PS explained that as part of the original noise assessment which was submitted with the planning application, noise measurements were taken from two locations (position 1 – Caley Cottage and position 2 – Old School House) which provided Rathlin with an indication of the baseline noise levels. He said that noise meters had been installed for approximately 48 hours at these locations.

PS said that Spectrum Acoustics will undertake on-going monitoring on behalf of Rathlin – they have worked with JF for 15 years (and are very trustworthy).

As part of the information submitted to comply with Condition 12, Rathlin proposes to undertake noise monitoring during the drilling process. This will allow the company to monitor if noise levels exceed the guidance levels set in the National Planning Policy Framework. PS explained that a range of mitigation had been incorporated into the proposals from the very beginning, this included:

- Site location (distance from properties)
- Acoustically clad equipment
- Positioning of equipment on site
  
- Should additional mitigation be required then there are a number of options available, which includes:
  - Boundary screening
  - Screening equipment

However, PS that the exact mitigation requirements could not be determined until it was determined what the source of the noise was.

- Condition 13 requires Rathlin to submit a dust management plan. PS explained that:

- the main impacts of dust are during construction and primarily:
  - dry weather
  - unloading stone
  
- the main mitigation measures used are:
  - spraying affected areas
  - wheel washing

PS highlighted that this will be continually monitored during the operations to confirm that it was effective.

- Condition 16 requires Rathlin to submit a drilling rig specification

JF explained that the current plan is to drill at Crawberry Hill and then move the conventional triples drilling unit to West Newton. A typical rig was shown to the committee and JF said that this is very similar to the one that was in the approved planning application.

Resident representatives asked how many truck loads would be brought in to get the main rig in and erected. JF said that it would be around 17 a day over five days. He said that resident representatives are very welcome to visit Crawberry Hill with the project team to see the drill 'in operation' once it is installed. Resident representatives said that they would welcome the opportunity.

- Condition 17 requires Rathlin to submit a restoration scheme – PS showed an example of how the land would look before, during and after the work. He explained that Rathlin has to submit details of the restoration plan to East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

PS explained that should commercial quantities of oil/gas be found then Rathlin will be required to apply for planning permission to produce. However, should planning permission be granted for production there will still be a requirement for the site to be restored on cessation of operations.

TS explained that should the site be found to have commercial potential, gas would be piped away; oil would be tankered away. He said that 'nodding donkeys' 3-4m in height would might be required to artificially lift any oil. JF then showed resident representatives pictures of both types of operation currently underway here in the UK. Some resident representatives commented on how tidy and unobtrusive the operational sites are.

- Water Resources Act 1991

PS explained that Rathlin is required to submit details of the drilling programme to the Environment Agency for review and approval. PS showed a diagram of the proposed well design and the steel casing that Rathlin is proposing to use. The submission of the WR11 ensures that any water bodies are sufficiently protected before drilling commences.

- Programme

PS then took resident representatives through the proposed programme of work.

Resident representatives expressed concerns about clashes with planned works being undertaken by Yorkshire Water to update the water main. JF said that Rathlin would look to work with Yorkshire Water's contractors (Morrison) (having access to restricted areas – working together to minimise disruption). Yorkshire Water currently plans to be on site from 4 March for six weeks (Marton Lane corner to Pipers Lane corner). JF said he would keep Resident representatives up-to-date.

MM gave resident representatives an insight to how the well site will be constructed. He gave a very detailed and informative presentation that showed the lengths Rathlin will go to, to make sure the site is safe and secure at all times.

MM explained that he and his team would be carrying out a range of detailed investigative works over the coming days and weeks, including:

- Utility searches - utility companies will be contacted to check what is running underground
- Meeting Northern Power Grid next week to discuss working under power lines
- Topographical survey (a diagram showed the current lay of the land – taken in December 2012)
- Geotechnical evaluation (a picture of the rig used to undertake the survey was shown and discussed)
- Well-site design (a diagram showed where the wellsite is likely to be located on the site)

MM then ran through the work that was undertaken at Crawberry Hill to give a visual representation of what can be expected at West Newton (although he stressed that the works would not involve so much cut to fill as the topography is very different at this site).

## **7. Any Other Business**

Resident representatives asked how many operatives would be on site during the drilling phase. JF said that there could be up to 16 at any one time.

Resident representatives asked how many vehicle movements there will be in each of the main phases. MM said there would be 200 lorry loads of stone during site construction and between 75-80 when the main rig is brought in – these will be the heaviest periods of activity, but of course the movements will be widespread over a large number of days.

Resident representatives asked what depth Rathlin will be 'drilling down to'. TS said that it would be between 3,000 and 3,200m (3km).

TS said that the BBC had been on Site at Crawberry Hill the day before - 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 is scheduled to be broadcast on Friday 15 November in the 18.30 bulletin.

## **8. Date and time of the next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 March 2013 at 7pm at Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield

Further updates will be available via Rathlin's website: [www.rathlin-energy.co.uk](http://www.rathlin-energy.co.uk)