

West Newton Liaison Committee

7pm on 20 March 2013

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
Mat Martin (Construction Manager, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) – MM
Tony Fildes (HSE Manager, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) - TF
Don Fields (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - DF
Steve Croft (Representing Withernwick Parish Council) - SC
Geoff North (Representing Aldbrough Parish Council) - GN
Karen Parker (Representing Ellerby Parish Council) - KP
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST

Apologies: Ron Jagger (Resident of Burton Constable) - RJ

1. Welcome

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He said that, subject to everyone's agreement, he would chair future meetings. Everyone agreed to this proposal.

2. Introductions

DM-S asked attendees to introduce themselves and the organisations they represent.

TS said that it would be helpful to know beforehand who will be attending the meetings as there may be occasions when consultants are asked to come along to explain their work. Rathlin is keen to know exact numbers so that a decision can be made in advance as to whether to bring the consultants in or to defer to a later date when more people are in attendance. Resident representatives said that there are a lot of community liaison meetings locally because of the number of developments and this can occasionally affect attendance figures. TS said that Rathlin is very keen to consult with community representatives so that they in turn can keep the wider community up-to-speed with progress at the site and associated activity.

3. **Draft Constitution**

Following the discussion and circulation of Rathlin's draft constitution for the community liaison meetings at and after the last meeting, DM-S asked if anyone had any comments about them. As no-one did, it was agreed that the constitution would be incorporated and implemented from this meeting forward.

4. **Operations Update**

PS was asked to lead on this agenda item.

All of the information discussed at the last liaison meeting has now been submitted to the relevant organisations. This includes:

- Traffic management plan and the use of holding areas (awaiting approval)
- Dilapidation survey (underway)
- Foul discharge and disposal approved by the Environment Agency
- Noise management plan submitted (awaiting approval)
- Dust management plan submitted (awaiting approval)
- Restoration scheme – approved by the council

PS said that he anticipated having all of the planning conditions discharged by the end of the week.

He also said that the Section 62, relating to the passing places along Piper's Lane, was now complete and that he was waiting for feedback from East Riding of Yorkshire Council so that work could start in earnest at the site. Rathlin is keen to expedite the process and working with the local authority.

MM said that he had been in discussions with Yorkshire Water and liaising with them due to their works which were currently on-going, along part of the access route. It has been confirmed by Yorkshire Water that they were likely to have finished their works before Rathlin would be commencing its construction works. MM confirmed that he would continue to liaise with Yorkshire Water throughout.

PS said that the WR11 details had been submitted to the Environment Agency, which included full details about the drilling programme and casing. He said that the document had now been approved and signed off. He said that comments had been received that the Environment Agency was happy with the protection afforded on the aquifer and more generally.

PS said that this was all he had to update members about at this stage. However, he did say that the wet weather was a potential problem at the site due to very heavy ground conditions – not the case at Crawberry Hill because of chalk. Whilst not an insurmountable issue, he said that a few weeks of wind and sunshine would be helpful.

MM said that everything is now in place and that his team was ready to start work on getting the site ready ahead of the conductor rig installation. He said that the geotechnical survey results had been received back and this had enabled the team to develop the well site design.

He said the first jobs would be to strip soil and divert existing land drainage to enable his team to start the cut to fill process.

MM confirmed that he had met with Northern Power Grid regarding the overhead cables on the southern edge of the site and that there were no issues arising from this. He then took the liaison group through the plans so that they could see what would be happening, where and when.

He said that in the next few days, plant and welfare facilities will be delivered to the site. He also explained that excavators will be down on the Southern edge of the site. He said that he was all set to start as soon as he received final approval to proceed.

In terms of other things that residents may notice over the forthcoming weeks, he said there would be some road widening works for the construction of the passing places, which would include a set of temporary traffic lights. He also said that there would be 15-20 lorry loads of stone – delivered to the Caley farm.

MM said, all being well, his team may be in a position to start work at the site as early as the following week. Resident representatives asked how long the work would last. MM said he anticipated it would take around six weeks to install the passing bays and for site construction.

Resident representatives asked how many lorry loads of stone there would be. MM reconfirmed that there would be around 200 lorry loads of stone, with the bulk of the material being delivered towards the end of the site construction period.

Resident representatives asked about the size of the site. MM said it is a 2.4 acre site (just under one hectare).

Resident representatives asked if there was any requirement for an archaeological dig at the site. MM said there was no requirement.

JF said that following this six week phase of the operation the surface conductor will be installed. He said that it would be on site for 14 days drilling down around 75m. He said that more information about this will be available at the next meeting.

He explained that as soon as the conductor rig work was complete the main (50m) rig would be mobilised from Crawberry Hill (“one off, one on”). He said that timing was important so that main rig remains operational throughout with as little downtime as possible.

Resident representatives asked what the extraction arrangements would be in the event of Rathlin making a commercial find. JF said that oil would be stored in tanks and removed by trucks; gas would be piped away. He reminded resident representatives that Rathlin would need a separate application for any future production from the well site.

Resident representatives asked about fracking. TS reconfirmed that, as with Crawberry Hill, the primary target at West Newton is a conventional formation that will be drilled using conventional methods.

Resident representatives asked if fracking is used in the future would the process affect the gas storage wells near the village. TS said that it wouldn't because of the distance from the well bore.

Resident representatives asked if permanent facilities can be painted green so as to blend in with the local environment. TS said this would be considered and that somewhat ironically...Rathlin Energy's corporate colours are green.

5. **Any Other Business**

DM-S asked if there had been any interest from people in the surrounding areas about Rathlin's work.

Resident representatives said that there had been very little comment and that this was probably because there are so many other bigger developments in the area – including a wind farm. They said that the local community will be interested in jobs for local people. JF said that if the site proves to be commercial then Rathlin will be looking to recruit more local people.

Resident representatives asked if Rathlin would advertise jobs through its website. JF said that when the time is right the company may go down that route. TS said that a lot of the people on the project already are local people.

DM-S thanked everyone again for their attendance and asked them to try and encourage others who had expressed an interest in attending the meetings to come along in the future. He said that Rathlin is very keen to receive feedback – good, bad or indifferent. He said that if anyone sees or hears of anything untoward in connection with the company's operations then they should let Rathlin's representatives know immediately so that they can act quickly and efficiently (poor driving, lighting and noise for example).

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

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 April 2013 at 7pm at Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield.

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