

## **West Newton Liaison Committee**

**7pm on 06 August 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  
Ron Jagger (Resident of Burton Constable) - RJ  
Don Fields (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - DF  
Steve Croft (Representing Withernwick Parish Council) - SC  
Karen Parker (Representing Ellerby Parish Council) - KP  
John Mann (Representing Withernwick Parish Council) - JM  
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) – ST

**Apologies:** David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - DM-S

#### **1. Welcome**

TS opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He explained that DM-S was away on business and that he would assume the role of Chair if everyone was agreeable. This was agreed.

#### **2. Operations Update**

PS said, that since the last meeting that the main rig had been installed in mid-June. He showed some pictures of the rig being erected (in what was described as a Meccano style approach where sections were brought in and installed in a sequential way).

TS then went on to talk through the robust well design before taking resident representatives through exactly where the drilling was at this stage and how the casing is cemented in place. He also explained the geology through the various depths.

PS said that the overall operations had gone well so far and that there had been no incidents or issues on site.

**Air monitoring:**

PS explained that the air emissions monitoring had been undertaken by ESG (who had worked with Rathlin Energy at the Crawberry Hill site).

He said that the necessary equipment had been installed and that the team was monitoring for:

- Hydrogen Sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S)
- Methane
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene (BTEX)

Pictures of diffusion tubes were then shown across the four corners of the site. PS said that there were no specific results to share with resident representatives at this stage as the monitoring is still on-going. PS confirmed that more information would be available at the next community liaison meeting. He also explained that, at Crawberry Hill, the operations only showed slight increases in BTEX which was thought to be associated with the generators and vehicle movements on the site. He said that the results take about 20 days to collate, examine and report back.

**Noise monitoring**

Equipment was installed at a nearby property when the rig was mobilised. Spectrum Acoustics Consultants had been commissioned to do the work. Monitoring had taken place between 25 June 2013 and 30 July 2013. PS showed pictures of the noise monitoring equipment.

RJ said, that the warmer weather meant that people were sleeping with their windows open and if the wind is coming off the sea, the noise from the rig is noticeable. JF said that Rathlin was very conscious of this potential issue and as a consequence the team on site were managing the operations very closely. He said that operatives on site had been reminded of the importance of keeping voices down and to try and keep the clanging of pipes, etc. to a minimum.

PS then showed several graphs for measured noise levels from the Old School House and Strait Farm between 25 June and 30 July 2013. He confirmed that noise levels were within the limits outlined in the approved planning application (56dB by day and 42dB at night) on the whole, although there had been one short period of exceedance during the monitoring.

He explained how the noise is averaged out and that any blips are generally associated with other background noise (aeroplanes flying over, wind, dogs barking, etc.). Again he stressed that noise levels were generally within the permitted levels with the exception of one day which was slightly over – he said that he was unclear as to what this might have been as nothing operationally changed during that period of work.

PS said that a horn was sometimes used as an audible warning/safety system on site and if it has been heard by residents that it is nothing to worry about. He explained to resident representatives that in all likelihood, if it had been heard, it will have been used for safety testing purposes only.

Resident representatives asked what the remaining timescales were surrounding the current operations. CF said that it was planned for the rig to remain on site and operational until the end of August and that the demobilisation process will take approximately 10 days after that. TS said that there may be the need for further testing within the current planning application, but any further works will involve much lower key activity.

Resident representatives asked how the current operations were progressing. TS confirmed that a drilling depth of 1,900 metres had been reached to this point and that the operation was around two-thirds of the way towards its intended target.

Traffic and transport issues were then discussed. PS said that the traffic management plan was now in operation. He confirmed that all of the signage identifying approved access routes was in place. He said that additional security guards were in place during any busier periods of work. He reinforced that the site team were working closely with all contractors to remind them of Rathlin Energy's requirements regarding professionalism and responsible behaviours and the importance of following the stipulated rules.

TS said that Rathlin had received feedback from a resident about a contractor's driving performance. Following an investigation, the driver concerned was removed from the project. He said that non-compliance of any kind is unacceptable to Rathlin Energy and said that all contractors had been told about their responsibilities to the local community.

Resident representatives said that there had been further feedback at 2pm that day. Two local residents claimed that an orange truck making its way from Ellerby to the site was travelling at more than 40 miles an hour. Resident representatives said that they thought that Fox (a company who had carried out work in an earlier phase of work) were "brilliant", but they found the orange lorry drivers to be less considerate. RJ said that they always, "look as though they need to be somewhere in a hurry". RJ then explained how he had had a near miss of his own.

JF apologised and said that the matters would be investigated. He said that the tachograph of the lorry concerned that day will be checked. PS said that drivers who have not been to the site before are being escorted to and from it by people who know the route well and the associated rules of the route. Only one lorry is allowed into and out of the site at a time and again this has been reinforced amongst all contractor organisations.

TS said that Rathlin has a no tolerance policy with anyone or any organisation that breaks the rules. He said that measures have been taken and will continue to be taken to address all issues brought to the team's attention.

## **Next steps**

PS confirmed that, following demobilisation:

- The well will be suspended
- A wellhead will be installed
- All drilling equipment will be removed from the site
- The site will be secured

He said that a camera will be installed and that patrol vehicles will be deployed. He confirmed that concrete blocks will be installed at the entrance. He then showed a picture of the suspended site at Crawberry Hill.

Resident representatives then asked what would happen if Rathlin Energy decided to abandon the well. TS said that the well would be filled with concrete, cut and capped and that the site would be restored to its former state following relevant industry guidance.

Resident representatives asked what happens between demobilisation and a decision about whether the well will be progressed.

TS said that data collection is now underway for Crawberry Hill (examination of core cuttings). Analysis of West Newton findings will follow and then a view will be taken of both sites to give a clearer picture. Then the findings will be sent to laboratories for further analysis. He said the findings from this work should be ready in October. Further tests may then follow as outlined earlier in the meeting.

TS said that there would be a potential hiatus of 5-6 months at West Newton. Then a smaller rig may be mobilised to site which is roughly the size of a water rig. There is then an ordered sequence of events to understand what is down there. TS said he wasn't sure if this operation will be confined to day time or overnight too at this stage. He said that this would be confirmed in due course.

JF said that the rig would be much smaller – around six pieces – and nowhere near as noticeable as the current rig that is onsite. JF confirmed that, on demobilisation, the current rig will be transported to Germany on the ferry from one of the Humber ports.

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

TS asked if there was anything else that Rathlin Energy could address. Resident representatives said that there was nothing specific at that stage. TS asked again for feedback and urged resident representatives and the local community to let the company know if there were any concerns whatsoever (e.g. traffic, lighting or noise). He said that Rathlin Energy wanted to be in a position to respond quickly and efficiently if there were any issues at all.

DF asked about other vehicles that are going to and from the site. PS said that the only vehicles going to or from the site were operatives that were working there daily, pre-planned visits by independent well personnel and independent health and safety representatives and contractors responsible for bringing/taking away materials – all of whom had been considered as part of the traffic management plan.

DF asked what would happen re: the potential of drilling a second well. TS said that there is not enough information to make a determination at this stage.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting would follow the rig demobilisation so that Rathlin Energy can share air and noise monitoring data and to recap on how things have gone as part of the company's continuous improvement processes.

The date of Tuesday 10 September 2013 was offered as the preferred date at 7pm. This was then confirmed as the date of the next liaison committee meeting.

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

24-hour emergency number: 0800 1959154.