

## **West Newton Liaison Committee**

### **Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield**

**10 September 2013**

#### **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, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - 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  
Geoff North (Representing Aldbrough Parish Council) - GN  
John Mann (Representing Withernwick Parish Council) - JM  
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST

**Apologies:** Karen Parker (Representing Ellerby Parish Council) - KP

1. **Welcome and Introductions:**

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He apologised for the fact that he wasn't at the last meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

DM-S explained that the meeting would follow the usual format, however, he said that details of the sub surface findings cannot be shared with members of the liaison committee (or anyone else) because the information is commercially sensitive. Resident representatives said that they appreciated that this is the case.

2. **Notes from the Previous Meeting (06 August 2013):**

The notes from the meeting on 06 August 2013 were approved by the liaison committee as an accurate record of what was discussed. Attendees were reminded that the notes are always posted on Rathlin Energy's website ([www.rathlin-energy.co.uk](http://www.rathlin-energy.co.uk)) after the meeting. The site is updated regularly with the latest news about Rathlin Energy's projects and liaison group members and the public were asked to check the site regularly for up-to-date information.

3. **Operations Update:**

PS explained that, as of the time of the meeting, that drilling operations were now complete and that the rig was being removed from site, in sections, with the work expected to be completed within the next five-seven days.

PS said that the drill had reached 3,150m (500m deeper than Crawberry Hill). He explained that well logs combined with the actual drill cuttings and core samples will all be analysed and in around 30-60 days' time there would be a clearer picture about what is below the surface. He said that once this analysis had been done, the data sets from West Newton and Crawberry Hill will be reviewed at the same time so as to get a more complete and detailed picture of the geology across the area.

PS explained that noise monitoring equipment had been in place at two separate locations, one to the West and one to the North East of the site. He said that, as with the conductor drilling operations, the monitoring was conducted over five minute intervals. He explained that the readings showed that daytime and night time noise levels were well within the agreed limits (well below the 42dB night time limit specified under the planning permission).

PS said that the KCA rig was quieter than most other rigs in the UK (100dB compared to the average 106dB sound power level, which was used in the noise assessment (27dB at the nearest property – 1,000m; 200m same as the background noise level)).

On air emissions, PS confirmed that Environmental Scientific Group is monitoring during the three stages – prior to operations (baseline), mobilisation and rig set up and during drilling operations and that he was pleased with their performance and the results received to date.

He explained that no methane had been detected on all four sides of the site. H2S monitoring shows that there are very low background levels, which have been consistent throughout the monitoring period. ESG have stated that these levels of H2S are likely to be associated with agricultural activity as they have been present throughout the monitoring period.

ESG have also monitored for BTEX and VOCs, which have nearly all been below the the UK Air Quality Objective. PS said that there had been a slight increase in Benzene from the baseline – which is likely to be associated with vehicle movements during the mobilisation phase and the prevailing wind direction.

Otherwise all seems fine. Once more data has been received and the well data and climatic conditions have been reviewed in relation to the results then a better picture can be established.

4. **Any other business:**

TS took resident representatives through the next steps. He explained that the current planning approval gives Rathlin Energy the ability to drill up to two wells. He said that core samples and well logs will now be evaluated alongside information associated with previous assessments at Broomfleet, Spaldington and more recently, Crawberry Hill. He said that future activity, if any, would become clearer once a full analysis from the exploratory work to date had been undertaken.

He said that if hydrocarbons are thought to be at a specific reservoir interval then that will be explored further. He said that the current application allows for further works including additional testing - a process involving a small service rig, production tanks, separator and a flare stack. TS said that if something is of interest and thought to be commercial, a further location from a testing perspective may be sought. However, this would be the subject of a new planning application.

TS reminded resident representatives that Rathlin Energy's planning application covered four phases:

- Site construction
- Drilling
- An extended well test
- Restoration (or submission of new planning application)

He said that having completed the first two phases, Rathlin Energy is likely to return in the near future to undertake additional works including an extended well test phase.

PS explained that Rathlin Energy has planning permission to complete these testing operations. He said that this would enable Rathlin Energy to better understand whether there is anything of interest, building on the information gathered during the drilling and if there is, whether it has commercial potential. He said that this may consist of a number of different tests.

He also said that a traffic management plan would be developed for this phase of works. From a noise, air and lighting perspective, PS said that this phase of operations would be similar to the conductor operations. However, as a matter of course, activities would be monitored as before and he would, as usual, advise the liaison committee on timings of this activity at a pre-arranged community liaison meeting.

Resident representatives were reassured that the process afforded all of the health, safety and environmental measures.

Resident representatives asked if the site would be screened should the site become productive. JF confirmed that it would. ST mentioned that there is a very good video clip on the Rathlin Energy website that shows both gas and oils sites that are operational here today in the UK.

JF reconfirmed that the main rig is likely to be completely demobilised and moved in the next week or so. He said that it will be transported back to Germany. As a consequence there will be further traffic movements in the area. He said that the lorries will all take the same route out of the site as they did during the mobilisation – he restated that no vehicles would deviate from the agreed route. He explained that additional security would be used to control the vehicles including an escort car. PS confirmed that a dilapidation survey would be undertaken and that the temporary road signs will be removed.

Resident representatives asked what will be left at the site. JF said that the cellar will be covered with a grating and left secure. He said that the entrance/exit will be blocked and that regular security checks would be made.

Resident representatives asked if Rathlin Energy had encountered thick levels of salt during the exploratory phase of works. JF said that there had been some but certainly nowhere near as thick as had been the case near Aldbrough.

Resident representative asked how long the current applications are in place for. PS confirmed that East Riding of Yorkshire Council had granted the planning application at West Newton for three years, whilst at Crawberry Hill the company had been given two years to complete the exploratory works there.

Resident representatives asked how long, after the 90 day extended well test, it would be before Rathlin Energy would be applying for a further application to extract if the site is found to be commercial. TS said that if the prospect looks promising, in all likelihood the company would need to drill more appraisal wells, but at this stage the locations and next steps are unclear. He said that further examination of the geological levels would help Rathlin Energy to establish best locations.

DM-S asked if there have been any noticeable problems or reports of issues with drivers/lorries since the last meeting. Resident representatives said that no problems had been reported. RJ said that, in the main, the lorry drivers had behaved responsibly.

DM-S said that the team is close to the end of work associated with this phase of operations but it is important that resident representatives continue to feedback during the demobilisation process.

Resident representatives thanked Rathlin Energy, on behalf of the community for the company's 'refreshingly open and honest approach to community consultation' during the operations.

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

DM-S said that a further meeting would be called when there is more to report. He said that CF would send an email out at the appropriate time.

DM-S said that Rathlin Energy believes it is vitally important to be a good neighbour and he thanked resident representatives for their enthusiastic and informative participation at the liaison meetings so far.

DM-S concluded by reminding resident representatives that further updates about the project will be available via Rathlin Energy's website: [www.rathlin-energy.co.uk](http://www.rathlin-energy.co.uk). He asked that lines of communication remain open should anyone want or need anything in connection with the company's work.