

## **Crawberry Hill Community Liaison Committee Meeting**

**7.30pm on 17 September 2014**

**Bishop Burton Village Hall**

### **Notes of Meeting**

**Attendees:** David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - DM-S  
Tom Selkirk (Project Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - TS  
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - CF  
Jonathan Foster (HSE Manager, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) - JF  
Tony Fildes (HSE, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) - TF  
Kate Smith (Security, Rathlin Energy) - KS  
David Oxtoby (Chair, Bishop Burton Parish Council) - DO  
Jason Chester (Bishop Burton Resident) - JC  
John Castle (Walkington Resident) - JCstle  
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST  
Julie Turrell (Liaison Officer, Humberside Police) - JT

**Apologies:** Margaret Hebb (Bishop Burton Resident) - MH  
David Drew (Chair, Walkington Parish Council) - DD  
Peter Rolinson (Walkington Resident) - PR

#### **1. Welcome**

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

He reminded the community liaison committee members that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited **is not** hydraulically fracturing and that the company is only targeting the conventional reservoirs from a testing and future production perspective. He also restated to resident representatives that Rathlin had offered a condition not to hydraulically fracture the well at Crawberry Hill. This is still in place and no-one has or is seeking to change the arrangement.

DM-S said that Rathlin is aware of the public feeling about the planning extension. He explained that Rathlin had been invited to public meetings with the protestors, which was politely declined on the basis that Rathlin is not fracking and that the invite came from a representative from the protest groups whose interests lie in that process.

The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed and approved.

## 2. **Operations Update**

JF said that since the last meeting the Environment Agency permits had been approved and that the two water boreholes had now been drilled to 90-95m in depth. He also explained that security fencing has now been installed following the protestor's illegal possession of the site.

JF said that two water tests have now been undertaken, with samples sent to the Environment Agency. He said that the wells have been constructed with a concrete cellar and a lockable lid for safety reasons. He explained that the tests have been taken at two week intervals and the third test is due to be undertaken next week. He said that this information will be used to develop the baseline correlation with tests then taking place every four weeks thereafter. He said that the information would provide additional support to the surveys that Rathlin had undertaken previously from other water boreholes around the area.

He said that offices and welfare facilities have also been mobilised to the site.

## 3. **Ongoing Work and Next Steps**

CF explained that the planning hearing, following Rathlin's request for an extension to its current planning application, will take place on 02 October. She said that if Rathlin's planning extension is approved a rig, cabins and tanks will eventually be mobilised to the Crawberry Hill site.

CF explained that timescale-wise, mobilisation to the site will depend on:

- a) receiving a successful planning extension
- b) when works are completed at West Newton

She explained that the two years planning extension applied for primarily because of the nature of exploratory operations and uncertainty surrounding protestor activity. She said that without disruption, and any other unexpected operational matters, that the tests at Crawberry Hill should only last around 85 days from start to end. CF said that Rathlin's objective was to get in, get the work done and then analyse the information as part of its decision-making for potential future activity. All of which, she explained, Rathlin wanted to do with little or no impact on nearby neighbours.

TS then took resident representatives through the flow testing process once again reminding everyone that once flaring begins, it will last for a period of between 7-10 days in total. He said that the well testing arrangements had been agreed with the Environment Agency and that the associated operational plan have all received the necessary approvals.

CF reminded resident representatives that the approved planning applications and the Environment Agency's permits give Rathlin permitted options to undertake the following activities:

- A Namurian formation flow test:
  - to establish whether gas is present in the reservoir
  - to establish whether there is a commercially significant rate and volume of gas present

- A Bowland Shale formation mini fall-off test:
  - to collect reservoir engineering data
  - to help estimate the hydrocarbon reserve potential in the basin
- A Kirkham Abbey formation flow test:
  - to establish whether gas is present in the reservoir
  - to establish whether there is a commercially significant rate and volume of gas present

CF then explained that Rathlin would anticipate a period of inactivity at the well-site following completion of the well testing operation. She said that this period provides for analysis of the data obtained during the well testing operation and for it to make a decision whether to retain the site for production or abandon the well and restore the well-site. She explained that during this inactive period, minimal equipment will be on the site: most likely gauges on the well and a security cabin. She said that if the protestor presence remains at the site during this time, then a number of lighting towers will be required to light the perimeter of the site for security purposes.

#### **4. Legal Process**

TS gave an update on what has been happening from a legal perspective. He explained that:

- The protestors arrived and set up a camp at Crawberry Hill in May
- Fencing was removed in June and the protestors moved on to the site under something known as Section 6
- Rathlin went to court with the landlord at the end of July to seek a removal order
- Despite objections, Rathlin's/the landowner's case was upheld unequivocally and the company was awarded costs against the named individuals who appeared on the list at the court
- The protestors have now moved back on to the roadside

TS then explained what was happening at West Newton:

- The protestors there occupy a sliver of land alongside the well-site
- Protestors claimed permission to be there so the matter was referred from the High Court to Hull County Court for a hearing in September
- The matter has now been deferred until 05 December 2014

Resident representatives asked if the protestors could break back into the site. It was explained that this could feasibly happen, but that it would be considered criminal trespass.

#### **5. Rathlin Security Update**

KS said that site is manned for 24-hours a day. She said that security fencing, inner fencing and CCTV is now in place at Crawberry Hill. She explained that where people have broken through the outer fencing, the security personnel have persuasively but safely removed them from the property.

## **6. Police Liaison Update**

JT explained that Humberside Police has taken a long-term view to facilitate peaceful protest whilst enabling Rathlin to go about its lawful business.

JT said that there is a core of protestors who remain at the site with day and weekend visitors occasionally joining from other areas. She said that there was a small number of local people who had also joined the protest. She then explained the five step warning process before arrests are made.

JT said that the third 'Community Monday' gathering took place last week. She explained the safety of local attendees is a major concern and asked resident representatives to communicate through their own newsletters the need for vigilance from a safety perspective especially to those who are taking children up to the site. She said that the 30mph speed restriction is no barrier to potential risk of injury. She said that the gatherings are taking place between 6pm and 9pm. JT said that as winter approaches the road will become more hazardous.

Resident representatives recommended that something be placed in the respective parish newsletters and on community websites.

## **7. Any Other Business**

DM-S asked what the general mood is in the local community. Resident representatives said that people are hearing two sides of a story and that the constant barrage of contrary information from the protestors and the 'Chinese Whispers' effect was creating unwanted and unnecessary worry and uncertainty. They said that the newsletter published by the protestors to look like it had come from Rathlin did not help matters and that had only served to frighten some people. The general consensus was that if the protestors' aim was to win over the local community then this was not the right and proper way of communicating with them.

They said that the fact that Rathlin is not fracking and that any future production activity is subject to a new application is being forgotten by some local people amongst all of the protestor 'noise'. They said that they would continue to communicate the reality through their normal channels and urged Rathlin to do the same. Finally they acknowledged that all that Rathlin can do is continue to be open and honest whilst being judged, in time, against what company representatives say they will do and the ongoing actions and operations.

DM-S thanked resident representatives for their candid views and for the community update. He said that at some future point Rathlin intends to hold further public consultation meetings and that in the meantime, he is grateful for the community representation role that attendees play and that further updates will be communicated via newsletters in the usual way.

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

DM-S suggested that the next meeting be held once the next phase of operations gets underway – assuming that permission is granted to proceed on 02 October. If not, then Rathlin would advise resident representatives on what happens next.

Resident representatives agreed. He thanked resident representatives for their proactive input and reminded them that Rathlin Energy (UK) intended to be a good neighbour at all times. He also said that the company is accessible 24-hours a day, seven days a week and urged anyone with any concerns to get in touch.

He said that further updates are available via Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's website: [www.rathlin-energy.co.uk](http://www.rathlin-energy.co.uk) and reminded resident representatives about the 24-hour emergency number: 0800 1959154.