

West Newton Community Liaison Committee
7pm on 21 June 2016
Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield
Notes of Meeting

Attendees:

David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - DM-S
Tom Selkirk (Country Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - TS
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - CF
Jonathan Foster (HSE and Planning Manager, Zetland Group Limited) - JF
Ron Jagger (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - RJ
Mat Martin (Site Construction Manager, Zetland Group Limited) - MM
Sean Smart (HSE and Permit Advisor, Zetland Group Limited) - SS
Mark Coulthard, Community Police Officer (Humberside Police) - MC
Geoff North (Representing Aldbrough Parish Council) - GN
Malcolm Acaster (Representing Sproatley Parish) - MA
Vanessa Nolan (Representing Humbleton and Flinton Parish Council) - VN
Norman Wilkie (Chairman of Withernwick Parish Council) - NW
Don Fields (Resident Representative) - DF
Lisa Brazier (Resident Representative Humbleton and Flinton Parish) - LB
Annette Ford (Resident Representative Sproatley) - AF
Deborah Stabler (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - DS
Anita Howell (Resident Representative Ellerby - in place of JN) - AH
Simon Taylor (Communications, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - ST

Apologies:

Jan Naylor (Resident Representative Ellerby Parish) - JN
Karen Parker (Representing Ellerby Parish Council) - KP
Steve Croft (Local Representative, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - SC
Tony Fildes (HSE Manager, Zetland Group Limited) - TF

Members TBC:

Resident Representative for Aldbrough Parish and Withernwick Parish

1. Welcome and Previous Minutes

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

DM-S confirmed that notes of the previous meeting on 03 February 2016 had been produced, circulated and posted on Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's (Rathlin's) website. He asked if anyone had any comments about them. None were received and they were confirmed as an accurate reflection of what was discussed.

In response to a question raised, DM-S restated Rathlin's position on Shale gas exploration, making it clear that this does not form part of the company's plans. He also explained that the mini-fall off test had not been undertaken at West Newton A [and Crawberry Hill] and that the West Newton B well would not be designed to be capable of being drilled into the Bowland Shale. He asked all resident representatives if there was any uncertainty about these matters. Everyone was clear that this was a statement of fact. DM-S reminded resident representatives that they could contact the Environment Agency, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Department of Energy and Climate Change/OGA (Oil and Gas Authority) and the Health and Safety Executive for independent verification of any matters discussed at the meeting.

DM-S then thanked community representatives for the lengths they are going to to make sure that the details of the liaison meetings are communicated to parish councils and residents in their constituencies.

2. West Newton B Update

Planning Update

JF reminded resident representatives that Rathlin's planning application had been approved at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Planning Committee meeting on 04 June 2015. He explained that the approval provided for the development to commence within five years from 16 June 2015 and that it had to be completed within two years of the commencement date.

JF said that 15 conditions had been attached to the decision, some of which required to be formally discharged by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and were being processed at varying stages. He stressed that the development will not commence until all the relevant conditions have been formally discharged.

Environmental Permits Update

JF reminded representatives that the bespoke permit application was submitted on 14 September 2015 and duly made on 15 September 2015 for the:

- Bespoke Mining Waste Operation (extractive waste) to drill up to two wells
- Bespoke Installation (flaring) to test up to two wells
- Bespoke Water Discharge Activity (clean surface run-off water)

He said that further permit applications were submitted on 23 May 2016 and duly made on 01 June 2016 for:

- Standard Rules Radioactive Substances Activity (produced formation water)
- Standard Rules Installation (Oil Storage). JF explained that this was a new procedure that had only recently been included as a permit requirement.
- Public consultation on Oil Storage permit was open from 8 June to 6 July 2016

JF said that there were no conditions for Standard Rules permits, other than the limitation of the permits themselves.

Resident representatives asked what happens to the waste water that is removed from the site. SS said that the waste water goes to a treatment facility where it is neutralised. He explained that the water is filtered with a lime slurry before being sent to a waste water facility for further treatment prior to re-entry into the normal water system.

Resident representatives asked about the process for monitoring air pollution. SS said that there is a requirement to submit an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan and that this has to be approved with the Environment Agency before work begins – as had been the case at West Newton A and Crawberry Hill. He also confirmed that an odour management plan will be created at West Newton B.

JF said that regular water monitoring would take place, monitoring for unexpected changes to the groundwater. He explained that a baseline groundwater quality would be established at the outset. He said that an independent external company used to analyse the water samples and that they will be responsible for documenting the process

Resident representatives asked if the project would include a dust management plan. MM said that this would be covered in the traffic management plan.

JF then gave an update on the bespoke permit application since last meeting, stating that the:

- Schedule 5 information (request for additional information) has been submitted
- Draft environmental permits have been issued to Rathlin for review

In relation to the bespoke permit conditions, JF explained that Rathlin is required to:

- Submit to the Environment Agency an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan
- Provide the Environment Agency, for written approval, the methodology for calculating air emissions
- Provide a report to the Environment Agency detailing the as built water monitoring boreholes and water quality baseline data

Archaeology

CF said that the preliminary works, including trial trenching, was underway at the site and that this will inform the written report of investigation which will be sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council's independent archaeological team (Humberside Archaeological Partnership). She said that four shallow ditches have been created and that there has been a small number of interesting finds including some Roman pottery and possible cremation remains. She explained that the find would be carefully removed and sent away for analysis and recording.

CF said that the preliminary work indicates that the scheme of archaeological investigation will include a strip, map and record process across the wellsite area and a possible watching brief during access track construction. AH asked if it was possible for people to observe the work. CF said that the site was open to professional observers (archaeologists) but not members of the public.

CF said that a full archaeological report will be prepared and will inform the scheme of archaeological investigation before being sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council in accordance with Rathlin's planning conditions and that this would be available to members of the public if requested.

Resident representatives asked if the archaeological work signified the beginning of the project from a planning perspective. CF said that this was classified as preliminary work, designed to provide information required to inform a scheme of archaeological investigation and part of the condition discharge process. She said it was not considered by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to be the formal commencement of work. CF reiterated that all planning conditions need to be discharged before work can begin – one of which is giving East Riding of Yorkshire Council two weeks' formal notice of commencement.

Construction

MM explained that construction of the site would be in two stages, involving the access track construction and the wellsite itself. He explained that once all of the conditions have been discharged and the two week notice period has been given, the access track construction phase is estimated at approximately 4-5 weeks and the wellsite construction stage will take around 6-7 weeks (10-12 weeks in total). MM said that the preliminary archaeological work indicates that an archaeological strip, map and record across the wellsite would be needed as well as a requirement for an archaeological 'watching brief' on the access track. He said that if this is the case the timescales might vary slightly.

MM said that the access track and wellsite construction phases would be the busiest in terms of vehicles. Overall, it was acknowledged, that the temporary and short-term nature of the access track and wellsite construction process would not have a major impact on the number of vehicles in the area even at their peak.

MM reminded resident representatives that highway access locations to the site would be via Pasture Lane (Aldbrough end) and Crook Lane. He showed a map of the access and egress points.

MM said, that in accordance with the traffic management plan, vehicles movements would be restricted to between 7am and 6pm each day and that school pick up and drop off times would be avoided. Resident representatives asked what attempts had been made to engage with the school. ST said that he would contact the school's head teacher again in the hope that a meeting could take place before work begins.

Resident representatives asked if the vehicles would be brought in via a convoy. MM said that this was not the intention, but that the company would work under the instructions of Humberside Police whose representatives would respond to any external factors at that time. Resident representatives said that they would be very keen to see the traffic management plan followed without exception. It was generally acknowledged that any significant changes to the traffic management plan would, in all probability, be outside the company's and Humberside Police's control.

MM then took resident representatives through a detailed presentation that showed the site construction phases, broken down as follows:

- Mobilisation and the establishment of a site compound
- Highway access construction
- Track access construction
- Wellsite construction
 - top soil and bunding works
 - cut to fill and perimeter ditch excavation
 - drilling cellar construction
 - geo-fabric and impermeable membrane installation
 - geo-grid and stone working platform

3. West Newton A Update

JF informed resident representatives that the West Newton well is still currently in a suspended condition having been successfully tested, with encouraging results, in 2014. He reminded attendees that the planning application, which was approved by East Riding of Yorkshire Council's planning committee on 26 November 2015, provides for the development to be completed within three years - from 21 December 2015 and expiring on 21 December 2018.

JF said that there were 17 planning conditions attached to the decision - the majority of which had already been discharged in advance of site construction (which took place back in 2014). Those relevant to the drilling of a second well (if required) are:

- 14 day notification to East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- The development of a traffic management plan and photographic evidence of the highway condition
- To inform Garton Airfield
- To install a rig navigation warning light
- The rig must not exceed 49m and the layout to be approved
- No hydraulic fracturing is permitted (Rathlin has always made its intentions clear on this point)

JF said, that in the meantime, the following activities would continue at the site:

- Daily site security and environmental checks
- Weekly site inspections
- Surface water management (as per the approved permit) and groundwater monitoring (quarterly)

4. Any Other Business

Resident representatives asked that consideration be given to the timing of the work at West Newton B alongside that of the local bio-mass development now underway. MM said that he and CF would look into this further and would talk to the Biomass developer so that the cumulative traffic doesn't become a problem. Resident representatives noted that both projects had been considered, from a traffic movement perspective, at the Biomass planning application stage as this had been raised by local residents.

Resident representatives asked what they should do to report any vehicles that do not follow the traffic management plan. MM said that he did not anticipate this being an issue – it hadn't been during the construction of the wellsites at Crawberry Hill or West Newton A. He said that detailed briefings and instructions would be given to all supply chain partners and their employees. He also mentioned that all vehicles will be clearly marked with Rathlin reference numbers and that tracking devices are installed for ease of monitoring. He said that, in the unlikely event of someone not following the traffic management plan, residents should ring the Rathlin 0800 emergency helpline published on the company website and always noted in the committee notes below (0800 1959154).

Resident representatives asked if anti-fracking protestors were likely to return to the site again when work starts. DM-S said that as Rathlin isn't undertaking high volume hydraulic fracturing within the Bowland Shale there was no reason for them to protest at the company's sites. Resident representatives raised concerns about the impact the protestors have on people's daily lives when operations start. AH said that having environmental monitors at the site could only be a good thing. DM-S said there was a clear and distinct difference between professional people and the statutory authorities whose day job it is to regulate and monitor oil and gas exploration activities and protestors who cause unwarranted disruption whilst claiming to be monitoring activities that they know very little about.

5. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

DM-S said that ST would contact resident representatives in due course to make any arrangements for the next meeting - when there is more to report. However, in the meantime, anyone with any questions should contact ST straight away and if needed a meeting will be called.

DM-S thanked resident representatives for their proactive input and reminded them that Rathlin 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's website: www.rathlin-energy.co.uk and reminded resident representatives about the 24-hour emergency number: 0800 1959154. DM-S thanked everyone for attending. The meeting ended at 21.15.