

**West Newton Community Liaison Committee**  
**7pm on 06 December 2017**  
**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  
Steve Croft (Local Representative, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - SC  
Ron Jagger (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - RJ  
PS759 Andy Beadman, Community Police Officer (Humberside Police) - AB  
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  
Simon Taylor (Communications, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - ST

**Apologies:**

Jan Naylor (Resident Representative Ellerby Parish) - JN  
Malcolm Acaster (Representing Sproatley Parish) - MA  
Darren Chamberlain (Representing Sproatley Parish) - DC

**1. Welcome and Previous Minutes**

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He explained that there had been a hiatus in Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's work programme due, in a large part, to uncertainty in the current oil and gas markets. He said, however, that the company was now ready to start work.

DM-S confirmed that notes of the previous meeting on 21 June 2016 had been produced, circulated and posted on Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's website. He asked if anyone had any comments about them. None were received and the notes were confirmed as an accurate reflection of what was discussed at that time.

In response to a question raised, DM-S restated Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited'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 was not designed to drill into the Bowland Shale. He said the well would only be drilled to a depth of around 2,000m approximately 1,000m above the depth of the Bowland Shale. TS said that the target area is the Kirkham Abbey, which is at a depth of approximately 1,800m.

DM-S also reminded resident representatives that the Crawberry Hill well was a conventional oil and gas exploration site that was drilled but never tested. He said that the site has now been restored and, having relinquished its environmental permits, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited has instigated a five-year aftercare programme.

Additionally, DM-S explained that the West Newton A well had been abandoned below the 2,100m depth, again reinforcing the fact that the company has no intention of undertaking high volume hydraulic fracturing within the Bowland Shale when returning to that site.

TS reminded resident representatives that East Riding of Yorkshire Council had applied 'no fracking' conditions on both the West Newton A and West Newton B sites and that the Environment Agency has not issued the company with environmental permits to undertake hydraulic fracturing activities at either West Newton A or West Newton B.

DM-S asked all resident representatives if there was any uncertainty about these matters. Everyone was clear that these were statements 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. He said that it was inconceivable that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited would start work until the company has all of the necessary permits to operate.

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

It was suggested that a diagram showing the well depths should be posted on the Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited website. TS said that he would work with ST on this.

## **2. ERYC Planning Permission Conditions (TS)**

- A map showing the West Newton B site was displayed. (This was discussed at length at the meeting on 21 June 2016). The map was used to remind resident representatives about the forthcoming plans and activities
- The group was taken through which planning conditions had been met, what was outstanding and what would be completed when work gets underway
- Resident representatives were reminded about the company's initial archaeological work and it was confirmed that it had been undertaken to inform the Humberside Archaeological Partnership by providing a written archaeological scheme of investigation. The proposed scheme had now been agreed by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the Humberside Archaeological Partnership
- It was confirmed that a full strip of the top soil and archaeological survey of the site would take place next and that this will need to be done before work on the site begins – although resident representatives were informed that it can be undertaken while the access road is being built

## **3. EA Permit Pre-Occupational Conditions (TS)**

- There are three pre-permit EA conditions, which will be undertaken before work begins:
  1. Baseline air quality survey at the site
  2. Flaring information
  3. Baseline ground water monitoring

#### 4. Proposed Road Closures (CF)

- Temporary road closures have been applied for around the site for an 18-month period - although it is likely that this will only be put in place during the operations - air and water monitoring, access road and wellsite build, drilling and testing (up to nine months in total)
- The roads should be re-opened no operations are taking place
- The application has been submitted but not yet determined - discussions between Humberside Police and East Riding of Yorkshire Council Highways are ongoing
- The application has been applied for on safety grounds
- The closures will add about a minute and a half to local people's journeys
- They have been applied for from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018
- Access for residents and emergency services in the local area will remain in place

#### 5. Phase 1 Activities (Pre-Drilling) - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018

##### a. Baseline Air Quality Monitoring (TS)

A map was shown with location of monitoring equipment in place (at the centre of the proposed site)

There will be three sample surveys each over two-week periods

The Environment Agency is currently considering Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's proposals

##### b. Water Monitoring Borehole (TS)

Two boreholes will be drilled at opposite ends/corners of the site (picture shown)

They will be drilled to a depth of 60-70m down (same interval as West Newton A)

A picture of the type of rig was shown

A low-loader will be used to transport the small rig to the site

This will be undertaken as permitted development and does not form part of Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's planning permission.

This work can be undertaken pre-archaeology

A picture of the borehole construction was shown including how it will be cased

There will be three sample rounds prior to permitted operations being undertaken

This is the same process that was undertaken at West Newton A

##### c. Archaeology (TS)

A process of stripping the top soil, mapping and recording any archaeological finds will be undertaken on the proposed site

No construction work (with the exception of the air and water monitoring and construction of the access track) will begin until this has been completed

##### d. Access Road Construction (TS)

The next stage is to build the access road

The process of constructing the access road was outlined (having been covered in detail at the last meeting on 21 June 2016)

The access road will take approximately six weeks to build

Once the access road is open for traffic, construction can begin on the West Newton B site

There will be approximately 730 vehicle movements during this phase – an average of 36 vehicle movements per day (18 lorries each way) with a peak of 64 vehicle movements (32 each way) on one day

Drainage work will take place before the access road construction work begins  
This work is likely to be completed towards the end of the first quarter 2018

e. **Wellsite Construction (TS)**

The process of constructing the wellsite was outlined (having been covered in detail at the last meeting on 21 June 2016)

This work is expected to start at the end of the first quarter 2018

The wellsite will also take around six weeks to construct

On average there will be 22 vehicle movements per day (11 vehicles in and 11 out) – approximately 710 vehicle movements in total

Bus companies and East Riding of Yorkshire Council's school bus service will be consulted as will Sproatley Primary School

6. **Phase 2 activities - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2018 (TS)**

a. **Conductor drilling (TS)**

A small rig will be used to drill the wellbore 'entry point'

A picture of the type of drill to be used was shown

This work will take around two weeks to complete

b. **Main Borehole (TS)**

A picture of the KCA Deutag drill that was used at Crawberry Hill and West Newton A was shown

Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited is currently out to the market to assess and determine rig availability

There is a 50m height restriction on the rig

The process for drilling the main borehole was discussed (having been covered in detail at the last meeting on 21 June 2016)

7. **Any Other Business**

- ST confirmed that road safety work had been undertaken before in the summer with Sproatley Primary School, supported by East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Humberside Police. This included: Trucksafe, cycling proficiency, pedestrian skills and scootability. All pupils at that time had been through the agreed programme which was arranged with the head teacher and the chair of governors. The work had been very well received and the pupils/parents were handed useful information leaflets which gives guidance and advice about how to keep safe when on or near a road.
- Resident representatives asked if the anti-fracking protestors will return to the area. This was thought to be likely, but the extent of which could only be guessed. Resident representatives suggested that due to non-conventional oil and gas exploration activities taking place elsewhere, and the fact that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's work does not involve high volume hydraulic fracturing in the Bowland Shale, that perhaps they would 'finally see the light' and stay away. AB said that all possible would be done to facilitate safe, legal and peaceful protests.

#### **8. 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 – likely to be just before the access road and site construction works begin. 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 Energy (UK) Limited 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. DM-S thanked everyone for attending and he wished all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. The meeting ended at 21.00.