

West Newton Community Liaison Committee

7pm on 15 January 2019

Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield

Notes of Meeting

Attendees: David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - DM-S
Tom Selkirk (Project Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - TS
Caroline Foster (Operations Engineer, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - CF
Andy Sloan (Drilling Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - AS
Ron Jagger (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - RJ
Geoff North (Representing Aldborough Parish Council) - GN
Don Fields (Resident Representative, Sproatley) - DF
Charlie Sharp (Representing Withernwick Parish Council) - CS
Annette Ford (Resident Representative, Sproatley) - AF
Anita Howell (Representing Ellerby Parish Council) - AH
Harry Clark (Resident Representative, Ellerby) - HC
Mark Hood (Resident Representative, West Newton) - MH
Vanessa Nolan (Resident Representative, Humbleton) - VN
PS14444 Neil Taylor (Humberside Police) - NT
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited Communications) - ST

Apologies: Steve Croft (Local Representative, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - SC
Darren Chamberlain (Representing Sproatley Parish Council) - DC
Liza Brazier (Representing Humbleton Parish Council) - LB
Matthew Groves (Resident Representative, Withernwick) - MG
Deborah Stabler (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - DS

1. Welcome

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. As there were a few new people at the meeting, everyone briefly introduced themselves.

Before the liaison group progressed to the main agenda items, DM-S explained that the notes from these meetings served as a summary of the discussions held and that both parish and resident representatives had an opportunity to comment on them at the time of circulation and at the beginning of each meeting. He said that that there had been a suggestion made that they were merely a propaganda tool to communicate what Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited wants people to hear as opposed to them being an accurate summary of what was discussed at the meetings. He said that he would urge resident and parish council representatives to speak up if they felt that the notes were not a true reflection of the discussions held. He said that this had never been an issue before.

DM-S then asked if anyone had any feedback on the notes from the meeting on 21 November 2018. As nobody had any comments to make, they were acknowledged as a correct record of the discussions at that meeting.

2. Operations Update

TS explained that the purpose of the meeting was to give community liaison group members an update on the programme of work and progress made at the second well at West Newton A (A-2) following the meeting in November 2018.

CF began by explaining that the cellar construction work, which started in December, was completed prior to Christmas, on schedule. She said that the cellar had been constructed to a depth of three to four metres and that the surrounding concrete pad was now also in place.

CF said that work on the conductor setting, that had been explained at the last meeting, was now well underway. She said that the rig, which is very similar to the type of rig that a farmer might use to drill a water borehole (approximately 15m in height), had currently reached a depth of around 28 metres. CF reminded the liaison committee members that this part of the process would involve the drilling, insertion and cementing of 80m of steel casing.

CF then went on to explain that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited had submitted a revised traffic management plan with a few very minor changes and that East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Highways team was currently being consulted. She said that the alterations reflected changes associated with the passing of time as the original plan was created nearly six years ago in 2013 - when the operating environment was, in some ways, slightly different. CF explained that a decision on the updated plan from the local authority was imminent. CF stated that the same route and advised speed limits were still part of the plan but the necessity to display Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited signage had been removed.

HC said that he had concerns about changes to the classification of vehicles as well as the removal of vehicle identification signs. CF restated that the general changes to the traffic management plan were very minor. CF confirmed that the recommendation to remove the vehicles' identification signs was unfortunate but that it was necessary due to a series of protestor/operational incidents affecting drivers/vehicles heading towards/departing from Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's site. She explained that inappropriate behaviour towards those responsible for delivering and taking items to and from the site was becoming more commonplace and that the signage, which was originally implemented for the benefit of local people, was now presenting a risk to the company's contractors. CF said that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited has a duty of care for its people and supply chain partners and that this decision had been taken in their best interests.

CF reinforced that all drivers would continue to be briefed in detail about the route to site, speed restrictions, delivery times, etc. and that vehicles would only enter and exit the site at controlled/timed intervals. CF said that the company had every intention of following the traffic plan and that it would only digress from it when instructed to do so by Humberside Police.

HC said that vehicle signage initiative had been a welcome move when it was implemented by the company in 2013-14 and that its removal would make it difficult to identify a vehicle if, for example, it was speeding. TS said that all vehicles have a licence plate number. He said that if anyone sees any vehicle driving irresponsibly they should take the licence plate number down and report the matter as they would do under normal circumstances - this also applies to any vehicle that they believe to be involved in Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's business.

TS confirmed that any reports he and his team received would be investigated and that they would be able to identify site-related vehicles from the licence plate number. CS asked NT whether there had been reported incidents regarding Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited vehicles being targeted and he confirmed this to be the case. Following a discussion about this which lasted around 15 minutes, including the Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited management reporting structure, CS suggested that the matter should now be left to East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Highways team for them to make a final decision on the revised plan. It was agreed that the telephone number at the end of these notes (0207 2689860) be used so that people can report any concerns they might have directly to the team at Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited.

TS indicated that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited had recently made an application for a permit variation to the Environment Agency to specify the best available technology for flare units that were recommended for testing and incinerating gas at West Newton A-2. TS said that the Environment Agency would start with a period of public consultation before a final decision is made.

AF said that she had heard that an event had been arranged by the Environment Agency on 24 January 2019. She asked if Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited was involved in this meeting. TS said that the company was not involved and did not have any details about the time or location of the event, but that ST would try to find out more and that he would let all liaison group members know what this was about the very next day (16 January 2019).

AS then led a very interesting discussion, explaining the process for drilling and casing the entire well. Using a diagram, he explained that the process of drilling the well and the objectives of this operation are to drill a well to a depth of approximately 2,000m (1,000m above the Bowland Shale), and to complete the operation safely and with minimal environmental impact, preventing damage to the aquifer. He stressed again that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited was only undertaking conventional oil and gas exploration.

AS said that, at the conductor setting stage (at the top of the well), Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited would install 20" casing to a depth of 80m – his drawing showed how the casing and cementing would provide a barrier between the wellbore and aquifer. He explained that once the well had been drilled to 80m the conductor setting equipment would be removed in readiness for the larger rig's arrival. TS said that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited had not yet secured the larger drill rig but was in the process of doing so.

AS then took resident representatives through a step-by-step guide of how the well would be constructed showing that there would be a total of four casing strings cemented in place from the top of the well to the bottom. AS showed how the well would be constructed, the interfaces between the wellbore and the surrounding rock and how everything worked together to make sure that the water aquifers remain protected. AS also showed some of the drilling bits and other equipment that would be used and explained the process in detail.

TS then showed resident and parish representative a geological section of the West Newton A-1 well that was drilled in 2014. He showed:

- Chalk aquifer
- Sherwood sandstone
- Permian carbonate targets (Kirkham Abbey and Cadeby)
- Westphalian coal measures

TS indicated that gas had been found in the Kirkham Abbey formation and evidence of oil in the Cadeby section. On the diagram he showed where these formations had been encountered and explained the different time periods for each section.

TS then went on to discuss the data gathering and evaluation work that had been done and showed some of the core samples that were cut and recovered from the West Newton A1 well, which were handed around. These were from the Permian section which is about 260 million years old.

Returning to the West Newton A2 project, TS said that as soon as a large drilling rig becomes available, work will start work on drilling the rest of the well. He said that would be a 24/7 continuous operation and will take between six and eight weeks to complete. Once completed, the rig will be demobilised and the team will spend time analysing the data including wireline log data and core samples. He said there would then be a hiatus between the drilling and testing phase. TS said that the testing programme would be discussed at a future meeting.

3. Any Other Business

CS asked about noise mitigation and monitoring. CF said that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited would comply with the planning condition requirements. CS said that the clanging of pipes was a problem last time around. CF said that mitigation measures were being explored to try and reduce noise of that nature.

RJ mentioned lighting. CF said that the drilling operations will take place over 24-hour periods and that site lighting was needed for safety reasons. She said that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited had considered this following feedback during the first operations and that mitigation measures for lighting towers and vehicles would be put in place.

RJ said that he would like assurances that the lighting would be controlled so that no lights from the towers would be pointing out from the site. CF said that all possible would be done to prevent this from happening and that it would be continually monitored. She said that anyone with any concerns should contact the emergency helpline (details below) immediately to enable the site team to respond quickly.

DM-S asked if there was anything else that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited could address. Liaison group members said that there was nothing specific at that stage. DM-S asked liaison group members and the local community to let the company know if there were any concerns whatsoever. He said that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited wanted to be in a position to respond quickly if there were any issues at all.

4. Date and time of the next meeting:

DMS suggested that the next meeting be held once the main well is being drilled and before the testing phase. Resident representatives agreed.

Further updates will be available via Rathlin's website: www.rathlin-energy.co.uk

Non-emergency calls should be directed to: 0207 2689860 during office hours.
24-hour emergency number: 0800 1959154.