

THREE NOOKS FARM COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

AGENDA for 5th Meeting
to be held at Horton Village Hall at 6pm on Wednesday 22nd May 2013

1. Agree previous minutes
2. Address actions from last meeting
3. Site operation update
4. Any other business
5. Arrangements for next meeting

Minutes of Meeting – 10th April 2013 at 6pm at Horton Village Hall

Attendees

Debbie Holihead (DHol)	Staffordshire County Council Regulation Team
Dave Hawley (DHaw)	Biddulph Town Councillor
John Jones (JJ)	Staffordshire Moorland and Biddulph Town Councillor (Vice Chair)
Howard Baswick (HB)	Horton Parish Councillor
Bill Goldstraw (BG)	Horton Parish Councillor
Carol Handley (CH)	Biddulph Moor Community Association
Irene Harrison (IH)	Local Resident
Chris Scott (CS)	Local Resident
Robert Scott (RS)	Local Resident
Gerry Foskett (GF)	Local Resident
Roger Carter (RC)	Local Resident
Rosie Powell (RP)	Local Resident
Tony Bryan (TB)	Seven Star Natural Gas Limited (SSNG)
Laura Green (LG)	RSK Environment Limited
Jamie Gleave (JG)	RSK Environment Limited

Apologies

Audrey Edge (AE)	Local Resident
Gill Heath (GH)	Staffordshire County Councillor [Chair]

Item	Agenda Item	Action
1	Previous Meeting Minutes	
1.1	<p>The meeting was opened by vice chairman JJ who agreed to take the chair in GH's absence, and commenced with a review of amendments to the previous meeting minutes which were submitted by Hal Wilson.</p> <p>Following discussion between those who were in attendance at the previous meeting, the following minor modifications were agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The wording of item 3.8 was to remain unaltered. ▪ Add the following wording to item 4.1: <i>'In addition discussions took place as to the extent of the field. It was suggested the scale of the field could be determined by the distance of Three Nook to Biddulph Moor, on this basis it was suggested the field extends to the area of Endon.'</i> ▪ Modify the wording of item 4.2 to: <i>'It was the opinion of TG that the committee...'</i> ▪ Add the following wording to item 4.4: <i>'It was also asked that a clear process should be documented to resolve issues from any future event during the life of the operation irrespective of whether the committee exists or not.'</i> 	
	<p>LG agreed to modify the previous minutes and liaise with TB to have these uploaded onto the project website asap. JJ requested an electronic copy be sent to him for printing, laminating and publicising on the local village noticeboard(s).</p>	LG
1.2	<p>In relation to item 4.4 above, a brief discussion was held regarding the liaison committee lifespan and how complaints would be managed and whether/when it should be disbanded.</p> <p>Attendees felt that the meetings could go on as long as was deemed necessary once the development became operational, and agreed that a procedure should be in place to call another meeting if the nature of issue(s) required it. It was agreed to minute that committee reinstatement in relation to operational issues should be via contact with either the chairperson or an elected council member in the first instance. It was also noted by residents that future site issues could potentially arise during any 'decommissioning' activities.</p>	
1.3	<p>RC commented that he felt the previous meeting minutes did not fully record the points he had raised.</p> <p>RC also submitted a number of questions to JJ and DHaw on 21st March 2013 in regards to the planned coil tubing works, requesting his points be added as an agenda item for responding to at this meeting. It was agreed that these matters be appropriately covered under item 4 (AOB) of the meeting, given some of the questions would likely be addressed by way of TB's site operation update.</p>	

2 Addressing actions from the last meeting

- 2.1 Item 3.4: TB confirmed that a representative from Western Power Distribution would be attending the next committee meeting to talk about the underground electricity cable connection, and answer any questions residents may have regarding the route and local disruption.
- 2.2 JJ took the opportunity to discuss a letter he had received from Western Power Distribution (WPD) outlining forthcoming electricity works in the area. JJ stated he has spoken with WPD as it provided information on timescales and locations of highway and footpath works planned to take place, but not what they related to. It was established that they relate to Phase 2 of the Three Nooks Farm development, and would run for circa 26 weeks from 28th May 2013.

TB clarified that WPD will be undertaking unrelated works in the area, and that not all activity relates to Three Nooks Farm. JJ agreed to pass the letter to the press, so local residents are kept informed of the planned works. JJ

A brief discussion was had regarding the cable connection included route specifics and electrical outputs from the development. TB stated such queries will be better addressed to WPD next month.

3 Site Operations Update

- 3.1 TB gave a brief summary of site activities undertaken since the last meeting, and those planned for the forthcoming weeks, with photographs of current operations provided by way of presentation. In summary:
- Snow has delayed works, thus works scheduled from pre-Easter took place in the last week and included the arrival of the Coil Tubing Unit and related equipment.
 - As the coil was able to fit on a smaller than anticipated spool, it travelled to site via the standard agreed transport route.
 - The large yellow vessels currently on site are to separate the cutting fluids, cement arisings and gas generated by the coil works. These will be present only while the coil tubing unit is being used (estimated 4 weeks - i.e. 2 weeks per well), and are oversize specification to avoid the need for collection, emptying and return part way through the process.
 - Safety control valves are in place, and the tower structure and injector head are currently being set up.
 - Drilling is due to start 11th April. Work is taking place through the night of the 10th April to complete the setting up and pressure testing.
 - Lighting towers are angled towards the works to minimise light spill. A site manager occupies the site at all times, and undertakes checks on the lighting every day from surrounding roads.
 - Operations are currently taking place on a 24/7 basis. TB provided phone numbers of people on site to contact if they have an issue.
 - TB explained that the commencement of operations may generate some initial "startup" noise as the coil pushes down into the upper well sections, the level of which will not be known until work begins.

- 3.2 JJ asked residents whether they had observed the coil arrive at site; none appeared to have done so. RS stated he had not heard any noise at their property arising from the current operations.
- 3.3 TB confirmed Schlumberger are specialist contractors for this type of operation, and that the equipment has been obtained from various locations and is manned by a crew of five.
- 3.4 CH asked whether the tower element would be in place for the duration of the coil tubing works only. TB confirmed this to be the case.

4 Any Other Business

- 4.1 The following presents a summary of RC's submitted questions and concerns which were aired and responded to during Any Other Business.

Does the coil tubing equipment come with an operating crew?

An experienced crew is provided with this equipment.

Will the wells be drilled to just 1500ft, even though deeper distances are quoted in the planning documents?

The sequence of drilling was confirmed, and that the wells will be drilled to enable reabandonment as required by the regulations. At Well 1 there will be no need to drill down any further. At well 1a they will reabandon the bottom two thirds of the well by re-cementing (plugging), and then utilise the upper third section to access the gas for generation. The abandonment programme has been agreed by both the HSE and DECC.

Are the blow out preventers entirely independent?

The oil and gas industry is health and safety focused. The system is pressure tested. There are three different types of blow out preventers; these are certified by the manufacturer and tested on a daily basis.

Concern over the potential for explosions.

Large amounts of time and effort have been expended to minimise the risks and the Health and Safety Executive would not allow the works to go ahead if they thought they were not safe.

Concern over the colour of the equipment currently on site.

The yellow tanks on site are associated with the coil tubing unit and will only be present as long as the unit is needed. The colour treatment is standard yellow-ochre specification for this type of specialist gas work.

Presented a map taken from Staffordshire County Council's website; this depicted a 'Red Line' area much larger than the permitted area of Phase 1 works. Concern as to whether the permitted Phase 2 area is being used to conduct phase 1 work. Further concern that the car parking area currently being used is not approved in the Phase 1 planning application, and such non-compliance suggests other aspects may not be being complied with.

TB reiterated that only Phase 1 works are currently taking place, and that Phase 2 operations have yet to commence. DHol stated the current parking

area on site is safe, and that vehicles could alternatively be parked along Top Road and thus cause significant disruption and safety issues to road users and the general public. JJ stated that as long as the works are taking place inside the phase 1 boundary, then the position of the car park is not really an issue.

Reference made to the planning permission where soil bunds are suggested to be installed as sound reflectors, and that these have not been installed in compliance with the submitted details. Reference was also made to another (similar) site where fencing was installed.

Discussion was had regarding the location of the soil bunds. Mounding has been formed between the main noise sources at the site and nearby sensitive receptors (properties). Only available soil from the site has been used to form the mounds, as any further mounding would necessitate additional deliveries of soil and hence more vehicle movements to/from the site. Should noise become a genuine issue, mitigation will be explored. Noise monitoring is due to start on 11th April 2013 to coincide with the coil tubing works.

Query whether the drill time set out in the planning application would be exceeded.

It was stated that the drilling process is difficult to predict with certainty as it is not known what might be encountered as the works proceed. Given the cost per day of operations and equipment, Seven Star does not want the process to continue longer than absolutely necessary.

Query why in the previous minutes it discusses phase 2 works taking place now.

This relates to the liaison committee, which is a requirement of the S106 Legal Agreement for Phase 2, which has yet to be formally signed off. Given the nature of the Phase 1 operations, it was felt by Seven Star that it would be prudent to commence the liaison committee meetings now. It was confirmed that the S106 Legal Agreement is due to be signed soon, once the planning conditions and legal aspects have been agreed by all parties.

4.2 DHol stated she had received a request for more information to be published on the project website. TB stated that more information was due to be uploaded concerning anticipated vehicle movements, with the possibility of a weekly update being explored. It was confirmed that most equipment is now on site and there would only be 2-3 vehicle movements per day while the coil tubing unit is being operated.

4.3 DHol had received a report of one of the delivery vehicles driving in a discourteous fashion. TB stated he was aware of this.

4.4 JG provided an update on the ecological walkover and species update survey that took place on 5th April 2013. Ecological conditions were as per previous surveys. JG also confirmed the position regarding working within the bird breeding season and reiterated the requirements set out in the Phase 1 planning conditions.

4.5 CS asked when the committee members/residents would be able to visit the site. TB stated that he would try to organise a visit prior to the next meeting; however he wanted to ensure that it would fit in with the site programme

TB

- and the health and safety was taken into account. It was agreed that any site visit would take place in an evening from circa 6pm.
- 4.6 GF asked whether the coil tubing unit replaces the drill rig. TB explained the difference between the drill rig and the coil, the latter being required for health and safety reasons to guarantee controlled entry into the wells which cannot be achieved with a conventional drill rig.
- 4.7 TB confirmed that the coil works should be complete on site next month, and the conventional drill rig will arrive and be set up for operation.
- 4.8 JJ asked how the committee and residents felt about possible press attendance at future meetings, as a means of information exchange and reassuring residents about the openness/transparency of the meetings.

Concern was raised about control of content and misrepresentation, and that press attendance would increase numbers. CH stated that inviting the press would demonstrate openness and ensure quick dissemination of the information discussed at the meetings; however there may be 'sensationalist' headlines as a result. It was suggested that regular press statements could be prepared, or a chairperson's summary statement be drafted. Another option is to prepare a monthly update on the project website covering events in the previous month and planned activities for the coming month.

- TB explained that he would be inviting the press to site to take photos in due course. Following discussion, it was agreed that this item be left on the agenda to be discussed at further meetings as necessary.
- 4.9 RC raised the point that those residents attending the meeting received a greater level of detail than other residents. It was reiterated that if local residents want to attend that they should contact the chairperson.
- 4.10 RC enquired about the publication of the meeting minutes on the council website. JJ confirmed he would make these available going forwards. JJ
- 4.11 DHaw suggested that if no issues were raised about the meeting minutes that they could be published earlier.
- 5 Arrangements for Next Meeting**
- 5.1 15th May at 6:00pm in Horton Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7:30pm

Chairperson Contact Details – Gill Heath

Tel: 01538 381601 or 07932 165472 | email: gill.heath@staffordshire.gov.uk

POST MEETING NOTES:

- 1) Following the meeting, RC sent emails to DHol and JJ requesting items be added to the agenda to discuss: a) production of a 'Documents and Actions Register' for the project; b) RC's personal notes from Meeting 4; and c) a series of questions for SSNG and WPD regarding the current and planned operations at the site. These specific matters will be discussed under Agenda Item 4 (AOB) at the next meeting (14th May 2012).