

Preston New Road Exploration Works | Community Liaison Group

Date:

Wednesday, 26th April 2017

Venue:

Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH

Attending:

Councillor Paul Hayhurst, member for Fylde West
Councillor Julie Brickles, member for Warton and Westby
Councillor Michael Cornah, member for Warton and Westby
David Kirkham, Westby-with-Plumpton Parish Council
Councillor Dawn Ansell, Weeton-with-Preese Parish Council
Andrew Mullaney, Lancashire County Council
Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
Steve Molyneux, Environment Agency
Sergeant Andy Hill, Lancashire Constabulary
Superintendent Richard Robertshaw, Lancashire Constabulary
Christopher Holliday, Local Community Representative
Mary Finn, Local Community Representative
Mary Ellison, Local Community Representative
Liz Cheadle, Local Community Representative
Sam Schofield, Cuadrilla
Nick Mace, Cuadrilla
Jackie Dobson, Lexington Communications

Apologies:

Tony Almond, Health & Safety Executive
Graham Daniels, Local Community Representative
Helen Taylor, Local Community Representative

Item		Action
1.	Welcome and introductions Those attendees who had not been present at the previous meeting introduced themselves. Jackie Dobson noted apologies received.	
2.	Agree meeting report of 20th March 2017 Councillor Hayhurst clarified his previous statement regarding the Preston New Road Action Group. He asked that consideration be given to allow two members of the Group to sit on the CLG and requested the meeting note be amended. Sam Schofield stated that two members of the Preston New Road Action Group	Jackie Dobson to amend the meeting note

	<p>currently sit on the CLG and agreed that, in the event that one of the members left the CLG, a representative living in close proximity of the site should be invited to join the Group.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles requested that further details are provided in the meeting note, suggesting that several points of discussion had not been included. Nick Mace requested examples and Mary Finn stated that the Group had discussed the protestor activity, notably the lock-ons and slow walking, which had not been specifically cited in the report.</p> <p>Sam Schofield advised that the meeting report provided sufficient detail for a two hour meeting. David Kirkham suggested that if an increased level of detail is required, audio recording software could be used and a MP3 file uploaded to Cuadrilla’s website. Sam Schofield expressed concern that this may not be in the interests of promoting open and frank discussion during CLG meetings, but advised that this would be considered further.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles requested that attendee’s full names are cited in the meeting report. Sam Schofield advised that the use of initials is standard practice for meeting reports but raised no objection.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles requested that members of the CLG who are representatives of either a Town or Parish Council are also referred to as ‘councillors’.</p> <p>Steve Molyneux advised that an update regarding air quality monitoring will be provided at a future CLG meeting, rather than the next CLG meeting as stated in the meeting report.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst provided Sam Schofield with a copy of the letter from a mortgage company that suggested property prices would be reduced in areas where fracking licenses are held.</p>	<p>Sam Schofield to consider audio recording</p> <p>Jackie Dobson to adopt this approach</p> <p>Jackie Dobson to adopt this approach</p> <p>Jackie Dobson to amend</p> <p>Sam Schofield to review valuation letter</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Site update</p> <p>Nick Mace provided an overview of activity at the Preston New Road site, noting that the site is moving into the final stages of construction, citing the installation of the membrane. He explained to attendees that three vehicles have breached the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) turning right exiting the site, but that these incidents have been reported to Lancashire County Council.</p> <p>A discussion followed and several issues were raised:</p> <p><u>Timescales</u></p> <p>Christopher Holliday asked when Cuadrilla expects to commence drilling and</p>	

<p>fracking. Nick Mace advised that it is anticipated that drilling will commence in the summer for 4 – 5 months. He explained that this is dependent on several factors, so could be as early as May or as late as August.</p> <p><u>Pipe</u> Councillor Brickles advised that she had received several photographs showing a pipe to the rear of the site. Andrew Mullaney confirmed he had seen the pipe near Moss House Lane and believed it to be an agricultural drainage pipe. Steve Molyneux advised that he would look into whether the pipe relates to drainage.</p> <p><u>Disseminating Information</u> Councillor Brickles requested that members of the CLG are informed of key announcements made by Cuadrilla ahead of the general public. Citing the recently launched ePortal, she stated that she heard about the launch via the local press and only received an email from Cuadrilla after 11am on the day of the announcement. Sam Schofield advised that Cuadrilla is committed to keeping local stakeholders, including members of the CLG, informed about Cuadrilla’s activity and had informed said stakeholders from 9am onwards. David Kirkham confirmed he received an email at 9.32am.</p> <p>[Post meeting note: All members of the CLG were informed of the launch of the ePortal via email on the day of the announcement and all emails had been issued by 9.46am. An email was issued to Councillor Brickles at 9.07am]</p> <p><u>Wheel Washing</u> Nick Mace explained that several measures have been put in place to address previous concerns regarding the wheel washing at the site, including installing steel trackway. Councillor Hayhurst stated he has seen mud on Preston New Road within the last week, but had no photographic evidence. Andrew Mullaney advised that since the previous CLG meeting, the site has been inspected five times, with one incident of mud recorded. He noted that since Cuadrilla has put additional measures in place to address the issue, no incidents of mud have been recorded. He reiterated his previous request that photographic evidence is provided to support the alleged claims.</p> <p><u>Dust</u> Councillor Ansell raised concerns regarding the dust created on Preston New Road from vehicles delivering to the site in convoys at speed and cited the difficulties being experienced by cyclists. Christopher Holliday noted that he had raised this with Jonathan Haine at Lancashire County Council regarding the Dust Management Plan and stated that few vehicles delivering to the site are sheeted. Andrew Mullaney advised that sheeting is not used as a dust prevention measure, instead noting that it is used to prevent loss of stones during transit. He advised that reducing the number and speed of vehicles can reduce the amount of dust</p>	<p>Councillor Brickles to supply photographs to Steve Molyneux</p>
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	<p>generated.</p> <p>Nick Mace advised that Cuadrilla will implement measures to reduce the amount of dust generated from vehicle movements within the bellmouth area after concerns were raised regarding dust. Sam Schofield reminded attendees that a complaints telephone line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week should members of the public want to make a formal complaint regarding Cuadrilla’s activity. Andrew Mullaney advised that complaints can also be made to Lancashire County Council via the Development Control Team: devman@lancashire.gov.uk</p> <p><u>Parked Vehicles</u></p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst advised that Lancashire County Councillor Liz Oades had been informed that approximately eight vehicles belonging to Pete Marquis Contractors have been sighted using Spen Lane to commence the convoy to site. It was stated that this is a narrow road that is unsuitable for HGVs and that vehicles are also using Wesham and Kirkham.</p> <p><u>Filtration</u></p> <p>Mary Ellison asked whether Cuadrilla was using straw on the site. Nick Mace confirmed that as a result of Storm Doris and excessive rainfall, straw bales had been used to filter the pooling water. He explained that the straw bales trap silt, whilst allowing the water to pass through and is discharged into Carr Bridge Brook. Councillor Ansell asked whether Cuadrilla has approval for this. Nick Mace confirmed that Cuadrilla has liaised with the Environment Agency (EA) and that the approach is common practice.</p> <p><u>Monitoring</u></p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked whether the water discharged into Carr Bridge Brook is being tested. Nick Mace confirmed that Cuadrilla’s contractors, ESG, is testing the water and data collected will be reported on the ePortal. It was suggested by several attendees that data collected by Cuadrilla and the EA should be reported on the same portal. Steve Molyneux advised that, as a public body, the EA would not be able to host data obtained by another party on its website. Sam Schofield stated that Cuadrilla could look into hosting a link on the ePortal to the EA’s website.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst advised that Carr Bridge Brook floods. Steve Molyneux confirmed that Carr Bridge Brook is being monitored but is not in a high flood risk area.</p>	<p>Sam Schofield to consider providing link on ePortal</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council Update</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney advised that several complaints have been made to Lancashire</p>	

<p>County Council regarding dust generated from vehicles delivering to site. He reiterated previous comments that sheeting will not prevent dust and advised that the County will work with Cuadrilla to reduce the amount of dust generated.</p> <p>He noted that complaints have been raised regarding vehicles using rural routes. He advised that the TMP states that HGV traffic will access the site on a left-in/left-out basis, with access along the A583 from junction 4 of the M55 Motorway and exiting turning left to the A583 and A585 to join the M55 Motorway at junction 3. He advised that it was envisaged that stone would be transported from quarries further afield, such as Carnforth, rather than within the local area.</p> <p>Against this background and referring to earlier discussions regarding vehicles using Spen Lane, Andrew Mullaney advised that he needs to understand the number and frequency of HGVs using alternative routes to ensure vehicles do not block local roads. Once the pattern of vehicle movements is established, Lancashire County Council could review suitability of traffic management.</p> <p>Andrew Mullaney explained the difficulty Lancashire County Council has in enforcing a breach of the TMP if the police are facilitating vehicles turning right in and out of the site. He noted that a magistrate would likely dismiss such a case brought to court. Instead, he advised that Lancashire County Council would work with Cuadrilla to resolve the issue.</p> <p>Referring to a recent meeting with the police, Councillor Brickles sought clarification as to whether the TMP had been amended. Andrew Mullaney advised that Cuadrilla has requested a variation of the TMP, but a final decision has not been taken. In response, Councillor Brickles questioned why time had been spent at the Public Inquiry to agree the TMP for it to change once operations commenced. Andrew Mullaney explained that it was a condition of the Secretary of State's approval of the application that a TMP was prepared, but the route had not been specified.</p> <p>Councillor Cornah asked for timescales relating to the construction of the site and questioned whether further peaks in traffic movements are envisaged. Andrew Mullaney stated that construction of the well pad requires increased vehicles to and from the site, and suggested that there are eight peak periods during the operation when traffic movements will increase, each lasting two to three weeks.</p> <p>To provide context to the discussion, Superintendent Robertshaw explained that Cuadrilla decided to stockpile stone away from quarries to avoid disruption resulting from protestor activity, namely Reclaim the Power. He advised that this has led to unusual traffic movements and the police facilitating a right-in/right-</p>	
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	<p>out arrangement.</p> <p>Nick Mace added that Cuadrilla undertakes a risk assessment of vehicle routes in consultation with the police and liaises with Lancashire County Council regarding compliance with the TMP.</p> <p>Sam Schofield advised that at the start of activity on site, severe inconvenience was caused to road users at several times due to closures of the A583 resulting from protestor actions for lengthy periods of up to an hour and even longer in duration. He added that Cuadrilla seeks to minimise the disruption caused and ensure the safety of its operation when assessing the route vehicles take to site.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion was had regarding vehicle routes to site and the suitability of local roads to accommodate convoys of HGVs. Mary Ellison suggested that vehicles from Lea and Kirkham should use the Peel roundabout and join the M55 motorway. Councillor Ansell highlighted the danger posed to cyclists and motorists. Councillor Brickles questioned why recent footage shows a convoy of vehicles avoiding a turnoff for the motorway. Councillor Hayhurst was critical of the police for facilitating Cuadrilla’s requests to allow vehicles to turn right in and out of the site, and of Lancashire County Council for being unable to take action against a breach of the TMP.</p> <p><u>Designated Viewing Area</u></p> <p>David Kirkham questioned whether protestors could be encouraged to use the designated viewing area. Nick Mace advised that the area was not currently being used by the protestors. Councillor Brickles advised that protestors would breach the injunction imposed by the High Court should they enter the area. Sam Schofield clarified that the area can be used to conduct lawful protest as the landowner has consented to the viewing area and a notice outlining this is displayed in the area.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Industry regulators update</p> <p>Steve Molyneux advised that the EA continues to monitor Cuadrilla’s activity onsite, including the current installation of the membrane. He advised that data collected will be available to view on the EA’s website.</p> <p>In Tony Almond’s absence, he provided an update from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). It was noted that there were seven concerns received of which four were for the HSE, whilst the others related to highways issues. Attendees were advised that no new concerns have been received by HSE since the last meeting.</p> <p>Mary Ellison asked whether the protestors have sanitary facilities and Councillor Ansell advised that they have portaloos. Mary Ellison questioned why protestors</p>	

	<p>have been seen relieving themselves in nearby gardens and requested they be advised not to continue to do so. Steve Molyneux stated that environmental health officers at Fylde Borough Council should be contacted if local residents have concerns.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday asked whether Cuadrilla and the EA are using the same boreholes to monitor water. Steve Molyneux confirmed that the EA could use Cuadrilla's boreholes to monitor from.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Lancashire Police update</p> <p>Councillor Ansell asked whether Lancashire Police has planning permission for the two cameras that have been recently installed to monitor the site and if it is envisaged that notices will be erected to advise of that monitoring is in operation. Superintendent Robertshaw advised that planning permission is not required and questioned whether it was a legal requirement to post notices around the site.</p> <p>He explained that the Home Office's Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) offered technical expertise and provided video surveillance equipment for Lancashire Constabulary to use. He stated that cameras are not recording and operate when the silver command room is operational; 7am until the evening.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst questioned why large numbers of police officers are dealing with small numbers of protestors; he cited an example of 60 police officers managing 6 protestors and 12 officers guarding one protestor. Sergeant Hill explained that to prevent further protestors jumping onto the vehicle required 12 officers to monitor, thus mitigating public disruption along the A583. Councillor Hayhurst noted that police officers are no longer visible in the local area and stated that only two police officers operate out of the Preston and Blackpool divisions. He went onto question whether the policing operation is costing £450K a month.</p> <p>Superintendent Robertshaw confirmed this was inaccurate and advised that minimal staffing levels are adhered to in Preston and Blackpool. He explained that the cameras monitoring the site will not replace the presence of police officers, but allow resources to be effectively managed. He advised that the decision to increase the number of police officers followed several incidents at the site.</p> <p>Sam Schofield asked how many arrests have been made. It was confirmed that 93 arrests have been made, primarily for offences relating to the Trade Union Labour Relations Act and Public Order Act. Superintendent Robertshaw advised that those arrested are now being processed through the courts.</p> <p>Councillor Ansell suggested that there have been incidents of police intimidation towards protestors. Superintendent Robertshaw advised that the police are</p>	

	<p>endeavouring to maintain public safety, minimise disruption and allow Cuadrilla to undertake its business activity.</p> <p>In response to Councillor Brickles who asked whether any of the arrests had been for violent offences, Superintendent Robertshaw confirmed that there had been none that he was aware of, citing that the arrests relate to passive aggressive resistance.</p> <p>Christopher Holliday commented that the relationship between the protestors and the police deteriorated when those protesting where prevented from slow walking in front of the vehicles. He advised that this has left protestors with no option but to jump in front of the vehicles. Sergeant Hill explained that the police have to ensure public safety and it is no longer considered safe to allow protestors to walk in front of vehicles as a result of the temporary traffic lights and single carriageway.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Agreed date of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should take place at:</p> <p>7pm on Monday, 22nd May April at Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2PH.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p><u>Security Personnel</u></p> <p>Councillor Brickles asked whether Cuadrilla had considered the request to allow security personnel to be identified or to adopt a numbering system for staff to facilitate complaints. Sam Schofield advised that after careful consideration, in view of the potential for identification or numbering systems for security staff to lead to vexatious allegations to be made against security personal, Cuadrilla is not minded to agree to this request at this stage. He noted that several members of staff have had threats made towards themselves and their families, and that any system allowing staff members to be identified may facilitate such targeting.</p> <p>A discussion followed and Mary Finn stated that she did not understand why allowing security personnel to be identified presented a risk to members of staff. Councillor Hayhurst suggested that Cuadrilla’s position undermined efforts to establish confidence within the community. Councillor Ansell questioned whether there is a legal requirement for security identification to be displayed whilst on duty. Superintendent Robertshaw stated that the Security Industry Authority (SIA) licenses the private security industry. Sam Schofield informed attendees that the SIA has been consulted and is not enforcing the need for staff to be identifiable.</p>	

	<p>Superintendent Robertshaw was unaware of reports of threatening behaviour being reported to the police. Sam Schofield explained that security personnel have not pressed charges to date due to the threat posed to themselves and their families of their names being disclosed in court.</p> <p>Councillor Brickles suggested that the CLG write to the SIA to request it enforces that staff can be identifiable. Sam Schofield advised that the CLG was not an appropriate forum to issue a letter. Councillor Brickles suggested that the Parish Council would approach the SIA.</p> <p>Councillor Hayhurst closed the meeting.</p>	
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