

**ANGUS ENERGY COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP
BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL (BPC) NOTES
Meeting
held at Lower Stumble, Balcombe
on Wednesday 5 September 2018 commencing at 6.00 pm**

Present: Bill Acraman (Chair) WSCC Councillor (BA)
Paul Vonk MD Angus Energy (PV)
Chris Bartlett WSCC Planner (CB)
Jane Moseley WSCC Planner (JM)
Charles Metcalfe BPC Chair (CM)
Sue Taylor BPC Councillor (ST)
Alison Stevenson BPC Councillor (AS)
Max Preston Bell BPC Councillor (MPB)
Nicky Gould BPC Vice Chair (NG)
Rosemary Robertson BPC Clerk (RR)
Andrew MacNaughton MSDC Cabinet Member (AM)
Gary Marsh MSDC Cabinet Member (GM)
Michael Turner Environment Agency (MT)
Kate Wilson MSDC (KT)
Graeme Brackenbridge Eclipse Security (GB)
Pete Dommett Police (PD)
Chris Clay Angus Energy (CC)
Natalie taking notes

Chairman's Introduction:

BA said that the CLG had not started well because of lack of notice which had given BPC insufficient time to organise 4 residents to attend. As a result BPC had chosen to bring 6 Councillors instead (5 + Clerk) but at the next meeting 4 residents would be present, whether they were recruited from bodies or as individuals. BA wanted Pete Bradbury to be included because of traffic issues in Cuckfield. Happy to have replacement representatives for those who cannot attend through sickness. The CLG is not to rerun the planning application and those attempting to do that will be stopped.

Chris Bartlett spoke briefly about this current application granted in January which is simply to flow test the existing well with no further drilling. This will take 7 days with set up and decommission days either side.

Paul Vonk Presentation:

Paul Vonk circulated a presentation and agreed that the presentation papers could be posted on the BPC website.

PV explained that it was short notice because all the pre-conditions had been fulfilled last week and so this had instigated the process. PV was happy to repeat presentations when the 4 residents are recruited and attend subsequent meetings.

CM suggested that this wasn't the first CLG meeting but BA dismissed this implying that the definition was immaterial because there would be no actions from the meeting. Several parish councillors present disagreed, and said that in their opinion the meeting could not be counted as the first meeting of the CLG, as the four residents who have to form part of the CLG had not been there.

Angus are an onshore Oil and Gas development company and have four licences in the South – Brockham, Lidsey, Holmwood (a minority share) and Balcombe (a minority share - in January acquired a 25% stake). They are positive about prospects in the area and think that last time there had been mis-communication. PV assured all that there would be no fracking at the Balcombe site – Angus Energy is a non-fracking company.

PV explained about the geology of the area (Slides 4 & 5). They intend to test the entire section of the 1700 foot horizontal section which runs through the Kimmeridge Micrite. The process will involve a 2" diameter pipe which will inject nitrogen and 15% dilute hydrochloric acid (20 Sq Metre) into the void to displace the fluid lying there, and through being marginally pressurised should drive up the fluids from the earth (Oil). The hydrochloric acid will arrive on site already diluted. This acid type is used regularly by the water companies to clean pipes. It is not a strong chemical.

ST asked if Angus had drilled through the Pilstye or Paddockhurst fault lines. PV did not know of either of these, and will address this with their geologist.

Slide 6 During the 7 days of the flow test they will analyse the fluids coming up and measure well productivity. They will also collect samples for compositional analysis, Gas Oil Ratio determination etc.

Slide 7 demonstrated what the site will look like – with the tallest items being the crane to move machinery, a 4 m high tubing unit and the enclosed flare 13.7 m high. The flare is EA compliant. There was a question about the noise levels and JM indicated that there is a 55 decibel limit which should be adhered to. GM will get MSDC Environmental Health Officers to check the emissions figures produced by Angus at the base of the flare. It was noted that in 2013 noise levels were exceeded.

Slide 9 Angus have an approved Traffic Management Plan which will be strictly adhered to with trucks only arriving between 7.30 am – 6.30 pm Monday to Friday plus Saturday morning. They will not move in school hours and GM asked that this be extended to cover 12 noon (approx.) when very young children leave after a half day. PV will liaise with the school to check timings to make sure these times are avoided. It was noted that traffic will enter and exit the site on the same route (ie there is not a looped route through Cuckfield). NG pointed out that there was therefore no need to include Pete Bradbury as another MSDC representative. BA said he wanted him there.

The estimate of traffic movements during set up and decommission is probably 12 movements per day (6 in and 6 out). A mixture of HGVs and probably some articulated flat beds. During the flow test 7 days probably little or no traffic. Lorries will come straight through with no dwell time in the village centre.

GM said that air monitoring will happen on the London Road which WSCC will finance.

PV said that before work commences the bund plastic will have to be installed. This will be a temporary cover. Most tanks will have drip trays. There will be some site preparation work, then the main equipment will arrive, there will be one week flow testing with flaring and then decommissioning of the site.

Air and water monitoring will be done by specialist contractors who will attend the next CLG meeting to give further information. Samples will be taken from the bund site and around. Light, noise and bat surveys will also be done.

ST queried why there was a need to *model* emissions and not *measure*. The EA have agreed this method. CC said that this was because to take samples from above a burning flare is not done. At the base you measure the gas going in and can calculate emissions – their composition and volumes. ST queried that there would be different gases/fluids along the length of the 1700 well. Angus said the total mix would be measured.

All documents will be on the public register and the public can write to apply to see them, PV said Angus would be happy to publish these documents and reiterated that monitoring specialists would be at the next meeting. GM asked that a MSDC Environmental Health Officer should attend.

Slide 11 PV insisted that Angus were happy to work with the community and would be happy to arrange site visits for anyone in the village. He said that Lower Stumble was an unconventional reservoir that they were going to test using conventional methods.

FAQs

A sheet of questions and answers had been prepared although will need further work before publication. When it is complete it will be on the Angus website and BPC can publish it too. Angus may do some information videos and will invite local journalists to visit. They will also publish a contact telephone number and email address so residents can ask questions.

ST urged Angus to be transparent on the composition and volumes of acid used on site to avoid people being suspicious.

When asked about Angus's expectations for the site PV said that they don't expect high productivity (North Sea Oil levels) but for on shore activity 100 barrels a day would be deemed successful. As soon as they know how much is produced they will advertise it (both to investors and to villagers). 100 barrels a day for a couple of years from this one well would be commercially viable. A figure of 6% of the revenues will go to the local community if they go into production.

ST queried the terms of the PEDL licence which refers to a second well to be drilled before 2021. PV said it was likely to be drilled somewhere else.

Angus are still waiting for sign off from regulators (OGA, HSE, the Radioactive permit exists for the site but does need to be transferred). These agencies should sign off quickly. PV estimates that flow testing will start in September, but it will not be a big operation.

There was discussion on how BPC would recruit 4 residents and the need to do this within the confines of a Parish Council meeting to be transparent. JM suggested a random 4 through a draw. BPC will work to find a solution and recruit before the next CLG meeting scheduled on Thursday 20 September 7 pm in Bramble Hall. This will be a private meeting with Pete Dommatt (Police) able to attend. The monitoring specialists will attend too.

BPC QUESTIONS

PV reiterated that the FAQs document will be constantly evolving and will be updated and published regularly, with RR as Clerk acting as a conduit for questions as they come in.

- Q Is the injunction to keep protesters to the allocated site still in place?
A Angus have no injunction. The present injunction is through WSCC. JM will follow up to find out whether it is still fit for purpose and can be enforced.
- Q What is Angus Energy's financial status, what reserves are in place for contingency and crisis management? Who provides insurance cover?
A Angus is publicly listed on the stock market. Other information is commercially sensitive so not available. The OGA have given permission for this activity which means that insurance is in place and there is adequate finance.
- Q Can Angus Energy organise a public meeting in the church for example?
A PV said that perhaps this could happen after the flow test because there is not much to say beforehand. PV noted that at Lidsey Angus have instigated a scholarship fund of £10,000 for a ten year period.
- Q How much notice will Angus give before the flow test because people want to go away to avoid the flare emissions?
A PV said they will try to give as much notice as possible and will take advice from the police for security concerns. He was puzzled by concern for health over the flare.
- Q Kate Wilson asked that the telephone line be 9.00 am – 5.00 pm.
A This was agreed
- Q AS asked if BPC could have more representatives on the CLG
A Agreed to increase BPC from 2 to 4 representatives.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER