

**ANGUS ENERGY COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP  
BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL (BPC) NOTES  
Meeting  
held in Bramble Hall, Balcombe  
on Thursday 20 September 2018 commencing at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** 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)  
Max Preston Bell BPC Councillor (MPB)  
Nicky Gould BPC Vice Chair (NG)  
Rosemary Robertson BPC Clerk (RR)  
Andrew MacNaughton MSDC Cabinet Member (AM)  
M Environment Agency (M)  
S Environment Agency (S)  
Yvonne Leddy MSDC Environmental Health (YL)  
Gulu Sibanda WSCC (GS)  
Kate Wilson MSDC (KT)  
Pete Dommett Police (PD)  
Chris Clay Angus Energy (CC)  
Tim Hussain Angus Energy (TH)  
Helen Savage Resident/Teacher  
Louisa Delpy Resident/Frack Free Balcombe Residents' Assoc Rep  
Sally Dowsett Resident  
Isabel Gordon Resident  
Natalie taking notes

**SITE VISIT:** Twelve individuals had undertaken a site visit before the meeting including ST, CM and the four community representatives. After round robin introductions. Paul Vonk talked briefly about the site visit which had taken place.

**APOLOGIES:** Gary Marsh MSDC and Bill Acraman WSCC

**TRAFFIC:**

LD stated that Traffic was the biggest concern for FFBRA members.

CM queried why lorries had used the Haywards Heath entrance last week. JM said that this was not a breach of traffic management plans because this fell under permitted development activities resulting from EA requirements before the planning permission proper (17 Sept). Some site preparation and particularly fencing had been done by Balcombe Estate.

HS raised the issue of lorries not being able to find the site and therefore overshooting, turning and coming back through the village 5 times. Lorries had been seen lost within the centre of the village – this was laughable.

She reported that the Head of Balcombe School was told erroneously that there would be no traffic movements between 8 am and 5.00 pm.

She had also been assured she would get a phone call in advance of a lorry movement past the school and this had not happened on a few occasions.

PV said there had been no traffic violations and undertook to send his Rep (John Knowles) to the School again to correct this mis-information. He said that the traffic management plan was fixed and had been communicated to all suppliers in minute detail; driver error was outside their control. Planning conditions dictate that they should come in from the north a common sense approach should be adopted to get trucks to the site asap even if they overshoot. LD asked that there be adequate signage to rectify this.

One of the conditions is that lorries should not drive past the school at the following times 8.30 – 9.30 am, 11.30 – 12.30 pm, 2.45 – 3.45 pm. HS asked that after school club activity is taken into consideration - PV said he would share this information with the Head of Balcombe School tomorrow and will try to accommodate these new times and will confirm in writing. All equipment had already been delivered to the site so there would only be one or two lorries a day from now on until the site is dismantled after the flow test. He was asked how many truck movements there would be a day. PV said that future operation eg production would involve slightly more movements to get up and running initially, but then when in production at a minimum level to be commercially viable it would only be 2 or 3 trucks a week removing oil. If there was lots of oil then a pipeline or rail head may be considered.

HS said that these incidences of traffic violations should have been taken into consideration in the plan, and in addition HGV numbers had changed from those originally listed in the planning permission documentation (WSCC document). There was a query on the start date so the different stages of the operation could be understood on the WSCC traffic movement tables. PV said the start date of the flow test is still unknown, they have finished mobilising and should be able to start in a day or two but the EA and OGA still haven't signed off. It was reiterated that the start date under the terms of the planning consent was 17 September and lasts for a 6 month period from that date ie the work has to take place within that 6 month window.

## **TIMINGS**

The flow test was imminent because the EA have inspected today and paperwork should be in place tomorrow. Four conditions have already been met so the EA expects all to be signed off tomorrow (21 September). After this the OGA usually give approval/consent rapidly.

JM had not been informed of traffic problems so WSCC cannot respond if they are not made aware.

PV – the flow test will take 7 days then the equipment will be dismantled and will leave the site (12 truck movements the same as for deliver). Pressure monitoring will take place for a few months (a device left in the well). This device is retrieved

after a few months. Activity on the site had not been highlighted in advance because of the risk of encouraging protests.

There will be little or no movements during the flow test and then demobilisation afterwards with the same number of lorry movements. **Signage crucial.**

NG relaxed about everything. SD said she was impressed by the site and everything being done to make it easy for the village - all you could hear at the site was the trains. Silage trucks have been noisier than the oil lorries and this is just for 7 days. We should back the company and not make mountains out of molehills.

## **WASTE PRODUCTS**

ST asked where waste water was going - PV said it was going off site with an approved EA waste carrier – he was not sure where it was going but Angus would find out. Everything that comes out of the well is classified as waste. BKP the carrier is fully regulated. Dilute hydrochloric acid reacts with the limestone and comes back out as salt water and is not acidic. A radioactive waste permit has been transferred to Angus Energy, but is not necessary on this job.

## **FAULT LINES**

MPB asked about Faults. PV said that Cuadrilla had assured them that there were no faults along the line of the borehole. Earthquakes at Brockham were raised as an issue. After 50 years of no seismic events a few days after Angus activity there were several earthquakes. HS said that some senior geologists had called for a moratorium on drilling until this issue was investigated. PV said there were lots of on shore wells in the UK producing for decades and no seismic activity. The Lower Stumble well goes down for 2500 feet and then 1700 feet horizontally to the South West under Rowhill Lane.

## **FLARING**

PV - When you flow test a mix of oil and gas is produced, if you don't flare then there is a safety risk, therefore you burn off methane, propane, and other hydrocarbon molecules – CO<sub>2</sub> and water comes out of the flare. Emissions were raised as a concern – Angus could not understand the concerns so to try to allay these concerns PV said that hypothetically if the Balcombe well turned out to be the largest gas well in the UK and the flare burnt for 24 hours for the 7 day period then this would still not come close to the emissions of 200 households with gas central heating in Balcombe over an 8 week period.

There was a query on the sulphur content of the gas – something recorded in the Conoco drilling results in 1986. Angus was not aware of high levels of sulphur. ST provided details on this later in the meeting (1.52% sulphur). Cuadrilla only drilled in 2013 they did not take samples. Natural Gas can contain sulphur components usually in very small quantities. Angus will be measuring/checking constantly (sulphur and carbon dioxide) to protect their own personnel – if there was any safety concern they would shut down. The flare is high so ST said the emissions would be blown to the village and not affect the workers below.

The EA encouraged Angus to publish results of these tests on their website when possible, taking into consideration commercial sensitivities.

HS was surprised that knowing the concerns of the village about sulphur dioxide that the EA and WSCC did not mention this to Angus. SD insisted that the majority of the village were not concerned by sulphur, HS only represented a minority (420).

SS of the EA had taken into consideration sulphur as part of the assessment – they had reports from Angus and had done their own assessments. They consider that any emissions from the flare would be insignificant. Provided the flare is operated correctly then emissions should not be a concern. The operating conditions of the flare will be monitored and should give confidence that emissions will not even be close to breaching air quality standards. The flare temperature reports will identify that it is working correctly: it will have a continuous feed which will form part of the ongoing inspection process. The national permit service is also controlling standards and the EA did take into consideration high hydrogen sulphide levels recorded by Conoco. During flow testing there are breaks when nothing happens while the pressure is allowed to build up again. The EA has seen the site twice, seen the infrastructure in place, and will inspect during the 7-day test operation. The flare temperature records will be continuous and will enable Angus to see that all is in order, this will be checked by the EA. HS asked it be checked early in the process to give reassurance. The Health and Safety Executive would also be inspecting. Real-time transfer of temperature data to the EA during operations would not be possible although this was requested by CM.

If issues develop the EA would expect to be informed by the Operator straight away. If there had been an issue which was discovered at a later audit then the EA “would not be happy.”

JM clarified that the EA took a risk based approach and had conducted a risk assessment. The Health and Safety Executive are also checking. After an inspection the EA would send a report to the Operator the next day if there was a violation. Angus would have 14 days to come back to the EA. HS asked that the raw data be made available in layman’s language. The EA urged Angus to provide an executive summary that lay people could understand. Information is available on the Public Register except when it is commercially sensitive.

ST returned with the Conoco analysis sheet - Angus said that sulphur won’t make a great deal of difference. RR clarified that the EA had been aware of sulphur. Extra precautions would be taken due to the corrosive nature of sulphur – an upgrade of equipment.

## **MONITORING**

Light and bat monitoring has been set up with an independent lighting consultant with results sent direct to WSCC to make sure there is compliance with agreed limits.

Noise measuring devices were set up at Kemps Farm but train noise was too great so this has been moved somewhere else which equates to the Kemps Farm distance (the nearest residence).

LD asked who to complain to about noise – in the first instance the quickest way to get a response is direct to Angus on the telephone or email (on the website).

Then complain to the EA who have a 24 hour hotline. You could also complain to Environmental Health MSDC. The noise condition is in the Environmental Permit.

ST asked about the quality of the cement bond logs (quality of grouting in well) – Angus will make these available.

EA will be undertaking air monitoring on perimeter fencing. It was highlighted that when Cuadrilla were here in 2013 the canisters monitoring air quality were thrown away by the fencing contractors. Now there is permanent fencing this should not reoccur. There will be one round of air quality monitoring when the flare is in operation.

YL said that from September 17 air monitoring is being done on the London Road by MSDC. This will be done for a year with results after a year showing monthly breakdowns which will go to the Department of Food Environment & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Monthly measuring would not be appropriate.

RR highlighted the depth of feeling on possible emissions and asked that the EA or WSCC measure air quality in the centre of village during the flow test. The EA said that they would not do this because their research has demonstrated that emissions will be insignificant. WSCC said that this is being done on the London Road, measuring Nitrogen Dioxide.

CC of Angus said that the flare that they are using is one of the most sophisticated that he has seen in 30 years in the oil industry and he would be amazed if any emissions are seen in Balcombe. Even if the flare did not run efficiently there still won't be any emissions in the village. There should be no health implications and people should not be overly concerned.

LD will submit technical questions via the email address.

HS said that the Head of School was concerned by an incident in Germany when a pressurised well released a cloud of toxic chemicals. What should she do if this happens? Angus said that an Emergency Plan is in place and it would be the Fire Department that would get involved. Angus's representative will try to allay the School's fears tomorrow. Likewise if a tanker slipped off the road near the school what should she do?. Angus said that this was the responsibility of the carrier, they will check with BKP the carrier. They are not a transportation company. He thought that the children should stay inside till the fire department sort it out.

CM summarised in saying that this had been a helpful meeting, especially having more community members present. CM felt that this had been the first properly constituted Community Liaison Group meeting. Angus said that the next meeting should be in one month's time when the test results are known. In the meantime they welcomed queries by phone or email.

Two final questions were answered:

The request for a webcam on site was declined because of commercial sensitivity. Protestors at the gate had complained about diesel fumes from a generator located nearby. Angus will move the generator.

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER**