

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL / STAR ENERGY LIAISON WORKING GROUP

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 8th March 2010

Present: Cllrs John Brockwell and Peter Gellatly, Joseph From (Star Energy Drilling Manager), Barrie Hedges (Daybreak Communications).

Apologies: Cllr Nick Wenman, Joanna Cadman (clerk to Albury Parish Council) Sophie Tucker (Star Energy Project Manager)

The meeting was preceded by a visit to the Albury Park Wellsite to see drilling underway with the noise baffle in place.

1 Review timings against project plan

A total distance of some 14,000 feet had been drilled at the time of the meeting, of which 12,493 feet had been cased off. Drilling had been continuous between 11th and 21st January, when the top drive failed and had to be repaired. Drilling recommenced on 9th February and had been continuous since then.

Update: Subsequent to the meeting Star Energy has advised that the drilling of the appraisal well at Albury Park Wellsite was completed by 2nd April. This completion date was in line with the company's requested time limit extension which was granted by Surrey County Council on 26th March. With drilling complete, work began on dismantling the acoustic enclosure and the company plans to complete demobilisation of the drilling rig and its associated equipment from the Wellsite by the end of April. Although there will be some very minor activity at the Wellsite after this date to ensure that the site is maintained in a suitable condition, there will essentially be a period of some months of inactivity while Star Energy analyses the data obtained from the appraisal well. The company will keep the community informed of the outcome of this analysis and next steps in the appraisal process.

2 Review planning conditions

Star Energy had submitted a planning application to Surrey County Council on 15th January 2010, in relation to extension of the overall drilling phase and for the erection of the acoustic enclosure. As detailed above, permission was granted on 26th March.

3 Traffic

3.1 Traffic management plan

While traffic management continued to go well, two concerns were raised at the meeting:

The first related to two lorries bound for the site that had parked at the Silent Pool car park on the morning of Sunday 28 February. The concern was that it was inappropriate for them to park in a beauty spot on a Sunday. Joseph From responded that the company tried to avoid lorry deliveries at weekends other than for operational necessity, which this had been. He had had the tachometers checked and one parked at the Silent Pool for 45 minutes and the other for 35 minutes. The drivers were due rest breaks and had decided to take them at the Silent Pool rather than at the Wellsite.

The second concern related to a claim from a resident that, over the same weekend, four lorries may have accessed the site from New Road at one time rather than being called down a maximum of two at a time as per the management plan. Joseph From said that he had checked, and five lorries accessed the site on Saturday and four on Sunday but never four at a time. He was complimented by Councillor Brockwell on the efforts made to manage traffic in ways that minimised community impact. The second concern related to a suggestion that, over the same weekend, four lorries had accessed the site from New Road at one time rather than being called down a maximum of two at a time as per the management plan. Joseph From said that he had checked, and five lorries accessed the site on Saturday and four on Sunday but never four at a time. He was complimented by Councillor Brockwell on the efforts made to manage traffic in ways that minimised community impact.

3.2 Photographic surveys

A total of 12 photographic surveys had taken place to date (the most recent two days prior to the meeting) and no significant discrepancies had been noted.

4 Noise

Noise monitoring had resumed following erection of the baffle and consisted of:

- a site microphone linked to a computer which provided 'real time' traffic light style warnings if there was any likelihood of noise conditions being exceeded over any half-hour period
- weekly visits by acoustics consultants who visited the Wellsite and key properties several times over the course of a day.

5 Security

There had been no security issues at the wellsite.

6 Communications

6.1 Communications programme

The communications programme was progressing as follows:

- personal contact had been maintained with residents at The Bungalow and Keepers Cottage as well as other nearby residents as required
- a 24-hour complaint line continued to operate
- the general Star Energy information line continued to be available in work hours

6.2 Other community activity

Applications for the 2010 Star Energy Community Fund would be considered by its grants panel on 18th March.

Action: BH promised to advise the outcome of grant applications from Albury and Shere subsequent to the grants panel meeting. He would also provide a more detailed update at the next working group meeting.

7 Complaints

No further complaints had been received since the last meeting. Only one, received in early August, was regarded as having involved a likely temporary breach of the planning limits

8 Any other business

9 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19th April at 6pm (note return to 6pm start).