

# STAR ENERGY LIAISON GROUP

## Minutes from the meeting, held Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 Following the visit to Humbly Grove

**Present:** Jonathan Lord (Chairman) (Blackheath Village Society)  
Patricia Allen, St Martha Parish Council  
Keith Childs, Guildford Borough Council  
David Wright, Guildford Borough Council  
Christian Staunskiaer, Brook Residents Group  
Nick Wenman, Albury Resident  
Niall Breen, Blackheath Village Society  
Representative from CPRE  
Robin McKie, Commercial and Lands Director, Star Energy  
Roger Pearson, Group Operations Director, Star Energy  
Adrian Fernando, Business Development Director, Star Energy  
Joanna Cadman, Clerk to Albury Parish Council (minute taker)

1. **Apologies** were received from Andrew Povey, Nicola Savage
2. **Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October**, which were distributed at the November meeting, and **Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November** were agreed.
3. **Questions Following Site Visit**

JL thanked SE for arranging this visit and for their hospitality. He believed it had been an interesting and informative afternoon. He suggested that the meeting take the form of questions.

*Planning Application:* It was understood that the application for the appraisal drilling would not now be heard until February and that one of the reasons it had been deferred was that SCC were waiting for responses from SE on issues such as noise levels. RMcK confirmed that SE were carrying out further tests to ensure the rig met the Surrey noise criteria.

*Albury Phase1 and Albury Phase 2:* SE had stated their intention to apply under the '65 Gas Act for storage at Albury before the middle of this year. RMcK advised that the application under consideration was to drill up to two appraisal wells NW took the view that this might mean that any further applications for the site might not be seen by SCC. AF explained that SCC would be an integral part of the consultation process and the liaison panel would continue to ensure local people were consulted

SE had been advised that the 1965 Gas Act was the most appropriate legislation to use and pointed out that a condition of any consent would be that the DTI would have to be satisfied that the development concept was appropriate and in line with their hydrocarbon policy. Albury phase 1 would access the existing reservoir from which SE has been producing gas located in sandstone in the Purbeck geological interval. RP pointed out that production of any remaining gas and gas storage would use the same equipment. The intention would be to produce gas and store in the same reservoir.

Albury Phase1 and Albury Phase 2 were separate gas fields. Albury1 would use the existing gas field. The appraisal wells would go through the (Phase 1) Purbeck geological interval, to explore for a new gas field, in the Portland and Corallian below.

RP confirmed that SE would keep the committee advised on time frames as they moved towards an application under the Gas Act. RP confirmed that it was likely that an application under the Gas Act would go in for Albury before one for their site at Welton, Lincs, and they anticipated that the application would be made in the middle of this year.

The application under the Gas Act would include the County and Borough Councils as consultees. The Energy Minister could request consideration of any issue he considered necessary SE would meet all the criteria that they would for a local application. RP believed that the process would be similar to that for the Electricity Act, where there were public exhibitions and consultations. .

*Preferred Site:* RP confirmed that the preferred site was Albury, but there were other sites and they were currently actively seeking. At present, there were six potential sites. In response to a question concerning what was a suitable site SE, replied that it would be one that met safety and noise criteria, had sufficient screening, met access requirements and had no unacceptable environmental impact. RP confirmed that one or some of these sites were outside the AONB and assured the meeting that they were taking the issue of the AONB very seriously. NW suggested that SE would have to demonstrate that there was no viable alternative site outside the AONB. SE stated that any application would need to show the basis for selecting a site and what other sites had been considered. Humbly Grove is not in an AONB. The same piece of land would be used to contain the gas plant for Albury phase 1 and phase 2, the difference would be additional equipment for phase 2.

RP advised that SE could not discuss specific sites, as they were in discussion with landowners. Once they were in possession of all the relevant facts, they would be able to move very quickly to decide where the site should be.

SE confirmed that Albury Phase 1 was attractive, as they knew the site and the proposition was financially viable. RP advised that SE were currently undertaking the EIA and safety assessments. They were undertaking a full quantified risk assessment, and had engaged independent experts to confirm the issue of the reservoir integrity.

#### **4. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 6.30pm.

Patricia Allen would chair the meeting.