

## **Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Community & Safety Liaison Committee Meeting**

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Time: 18:30

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Councillor Alistair Bain, Convener - Fife Councillor (AB)  
Councillor David Barratt - Fife Councillor (DB)  
Councillor Kathleen Leslie - Fife Councillor (KL)  
Nigel Kerr - Fife Council (NK)  
Kenny Bissett – Fife Council (KB)  
Ian Brocklebank - SEPA (IB)  
Martin Burrell - ExxonMobil (MB)  
Craig Burnett - Shell (CB)  
William Dryburgh – Aberdour Community Council (WD)  
Peter Finnie – SEPA (PF)  
Peter Franklin - Dalgety Bay & Hillend Community Council (PF)  
Martin Grey – SEPA (MG)  
Tom Kinnaird – Benarty Community Council  
Amy Laird – SEPA (AL)  
Alex MacDonald - Burntisland Community Council (AMacD)  
Mairi McKay – Shell (MMcK)  
Stuart Neill - ExxonMobil (SN) by phone  
Angela Roy - Cardenden Community Council  
Janet Shepherd – SEPA (JS)  
Wendy Thornton - SEPA (WT)

Secretariat – Lesley Kirk, Fife Council

Apologies: Neale Hanvey MP  
Ameila Howie - Lumphinnans Community Council  
Louise Russell - ExxonMobil (LR)

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Noted.

### **2. Declaration of Interest**

None.

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

MMcK stated in response to a question raised by AMacD at the last meeting, students who complete the digital skills programme get to keep the chromebook to help with the continuation of their digital skills.

Minutes accepted.

Prior to situation reports JS, Science Manager from SEPA gave an update on proposals from the last meeting. It is proposed a further eight lamppost mounted sensors will be implemented. SEPA have ordered a particulate analyser for their reference site, which is

planned to be in Auchtertool, this will enable SEPA to compare against the air quality standards and will tie in with the lamppost sensors. A constructive meeting took place this week with KB to ascertain the best location for this. JS said they will now be looking at the communication process – how we gather and share the data to the community. KB concurred the meeting was very constructive. KB stated he is currently looking into land ownership, making enquiries as to whether planning permission is required, and a site visit has been arranged at the proposed site in Auchtertool.

TK enquired if the new monitoring stations will monitor particulate matter. JS replied they will be particulate; it will be DOCs as it is quite complex to be able to monitor down to individual chemical species.

TK said he read a report this week ExxonMobil are launching an ethene leakage monitoring satellite and is aware, not just at Mossmorran, the whole pipeline network is carrying huge volumes of ethene through Scotland and enquired if this being monitored.

IB replied SEPA do not regulate the pipelines, this is regulated by the HSE Pipelines Division.

MB advised the satellite relates to methane, it is associated with on field reservoirs which exist particularly in the United States and confirmed the situation/installation is very different at Mossmorran. MB stated pipelines between Mossmorran, St Fergus, Braefoot Bay and Grangemouth have ongoing robust inspections/monitoring/checking leaks. MB stated an inspection of the pipeline between Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay was undertaken last year.

MB commented as extensive monitoring on air quality has been undertaken/ongoing which states there is no impact on air quality from the operations at Mossmorran, enquired what this will prove and was concerned as the monitoring is being placed at distant receptor sites which may pick up monitoring from associated sites e.g. A92

JS replied the map was indicative and will be refined. The principle purpose is to provide community reassurance. JS commented all air quality monitoring undertaken by SEPA has not found any significant issues on air quality at all and if levels elevate SEPA will look at the weather data and work with colleagues at Fife Council. JS said we are mindful traffic is a significant source of pollution.

IB said the workshop numbers were not particularly high which reflects the current situation at the plant and is a good reflection of the site. IB commented we have been very clear that the air quality data shows there is not a problem, this is to answer questions the community has put forward to us, reassure and provide information to help them understand the situation. SEPA will think carefully about where the monitors will be sited and will be working with KB.

AB stated no complaints at present but when flaring starts we need to be able to show people information which shows there is no pollution, no danger or concerns.

NK stated he takes on board comments made and said it is about reassuring the community. The first Communications EAG takes place next week and it is imperative information from the other EAGs are fed to the Communications Group as communication is an issue. NK commented we do have a fantastic baseline of air quality data which shows there is not an issue. If we can show peaks are associated with other sources, it shows the wider issue of air pollution particularly associated with traffic and will provide excellent data. The new monitors will be checked with the automatic monitors across Fife to baseline everything.

TK said SEPA's site will show there has been complaints, there has been flaring, there was flaring this week, and said the lived experience of residents within the Cowdenbeath area is there is a problem with air quality. AB replied he agrees there is a belief there is a problem with air quality and it comes from Mossmorran. AB said all reports show there is not a

problem with air pollution from Mossmorran. JS confirmed one of the analysers will be in Cowdenbeath which will help with a continuous assessment of the air quality in the area.

MG stated SEPA's role is to be an independent evidence-based organisation. The purpose of this network is to provide evidence, the evidence to date is very clear, there is not an air quality issue from Mossmorran, we do see peaks and troughs and see some public confusion. This will provide a richer picture through the Communications Group, working together to better explain what is going on in the local area and the local environment.

MB said in response to TK comment he is not aware of any flaring this week at the Mossmorran complex and is aware of flaring within the geographical area. MG replied there was significant flaring at the INEOS facility at Grangemouth, there is information on the SEPA website just in case of any confusion and confirmed they are not aware of any flaring at Mossmorran.

#### **4. Current Situation Reports**

##### **4.1 Councillors**

DB said he has nothing to report but commented he had seen the video which was posted regarding the elevated flare and would share on the chat.

KL said she has nothing to report.

AB said he had not received any complaints but has seen posts on social media, picture of smoke which was a vast cloud.

##### **4.2 ExxonMobil (MB)**

MB talked to the report previously circulated and highlighted the following:

- Stabilising operations since completing the upgrade.
- Elevated flare only used for short, planned periods to assist FNGL plant.
- We continue to liaise with regulators - HSE and SEPA.
- Two complaints from SEPA, no tie back to our operations it was related to steam.
- Enclosed Ground Flare project is progressing with manufacture and contractor onsite.
- We were able to support a number of community groups last year (Round Up Publication available) and highlighted the significant donation to Homestart. Support will continue in 2022.
- Workforce is stable. Contractors number vary but estimated around another 100 contractors being supported by operations.

AR said in the Round Up publication it mentions selection boxes were donated to Cardenden Community Council but was unaware of these being received. SN agreed to check the contact and let AR know. AR thanked SN for their donation it was greatly appreciated.

AMacD asked if the company responded to the two complaints and enquired if they were satisfied with the response. IB said he is unable to confirm if they did/did not respond, we do make it clear we don't not always go back to a complainant with a response. AMacD replied he was disappointed with this given we are still getting a large number of complaints/concerns, a response may help prevent concerns being raised. IB agreed to pick this up at the SEPA update.

AMacD commented he liked the Round Up information and enquired if he should be circulating to his own contacts. SN replied it is circulated via social media but welcomed any assistance from Community Councils to share appropriately.

#### 4.3 Shell UK Ltd (CB)

CB talked to the report previously circulated and highlighted the following:

- During November we completed the routine maintenance activities on Module 3, which was the final part of the year's planned maintenance programme. The Module has returned to service.
- We have completed significant engineering in preparation for the installation, including the removal of the tip that will be replaced and are working to complete the project by June 2022.
- Spare sections of pipeline have been shipped to the United States for testing.
- Continued to operate through Covid-19 adhering to SG Guidelines.
- Jetty inspection at Braefoot Bay undertaken by the HSE in September. No follow-up actions.
- No personal safety incidents over the last quarter.
- Fife NGL have updated their website to include air quality and monitoring information.
- Four emergency exercises in this period, the most significant of which was a live role play two-day exercise involving operators, emergency services, partners etc
- Processing of NGLs and Shipping at Braefoot Bay for December - standard.
- Workforce slightly lower due to less seasonal work.
- HSE and SEPA have visited the site.
- A short video has been created about the Fife NGL plant and is available online.
- Four Community Notices issued. Two complaints received were dealt with appropriately.
- The Apprentice of Year is working at Mossmorran with a further six attending Fife College. We are in the process of reviewing whether we can widen the trade mix of the apprentices we take on.
- We are in the process of donating £1700 to six charities. Donated gifts to Fife Women's Aid. Unable to hold the Fife Family Fund Day event but as alternative we will be offering free STEM livestreams to local schools in conjunction with Aberdeen Science Centre.
- We awarded four engineering students at Fife College with a Scholarship.
- One cohort has completed the Digital Skills Course with a pass rate of 71%. A further three cohorts this year, one has just started (12 participants), with the other two starting in February and April.

AR asked for additional information on the support for energy transition. CB replied the existing infrastructure is designed for the transport of natural gas to people's houses. We transport a proportion of hydrogen mixed in with natural gas to lower the carbon footprint of the gas. Hydrogen is a small molecule, part of the testing is to see the impact on the actual metallise of the pipe ensuring we do not have unintended consequences, a pipe already in the ground is used to understand what the impact will be.

AR enquired if this was taken out of existing pipe or was it an extra bit. CB replied it was spare pipe. AR asked how effective this would be if the spare part has not been used. CB replied it is more effective to have pipe which is made from the same material even though it has not been used in the same service. MB said it is not necessarily what is going inside it, it is how do you protect the outside as they are buried, we are testing to see if there is any degradation externally. MB commented it is using the existing infrastructure to move to the latest carbon friendly solutions.

AMacD said after reading the report it was his understanding it was about cleaning the coating of the inside of the pipe, if this the case, is there technology available to undertake for the whole length of the pipeline. CB replied because the pipeline between Mossmorran and St Fergus is effectively water free, no oxygen, there is not a corrosion mechanism nor a mechanism for degradation of pipeline from within, the external is the challenge.

NK said he has looked at the new website and commented it is helpful to provide links to other websites which gives one single source of truth, the video was excellent which informs everyone on how the site operates.

NK asked what the purpose of the noise tests on the ground flares were for and asked how many people are signed up to receive the community updates. This could be picked up at the Communications Group meeting next week, encouraging people to sign up.

CB replied there is a process called best available techniques, we were required to test our ground flares from a noise perspective and we pre agreed with SEPA the noise testing methodology. We had to use an independent contractor to complete this work. It is up to the contractor to confirm if the ground flare meets best available techniques standards set by SEPA.

MMcK said they do have a distribution list and will confirm the number with the Communications EAG next week. MMcK advised they are open to having anyone on the list to enable messages being shared with stakeholders.

SN advised they have around two hundred and fifty on their distribution list and are still actively encouraging community members to sign up to Rapid Reach (sends text or email messages).

AB said to CB you are intending to put 10% hydrogen into the gas mains. In theory could this percentage be increased. CB said he was unable to give an answer on behalf of Shell and advised his personal opinion is he thought percentages could be increased and thinks the country will go this way, but it is important we understand the technical details before we proceed. MB said it is much broader than the Mossmorran complex, Shell and ExxonMobil are actively engaged in discussions around what we can do to make the transition to a lower carbon footprint. MB commented this question is more for British Gas or the National Grid. AB replied there is a trial being undertaken in Fife.

#### 4.4 SEPA (IB)

IB talked to slides previously circulated and highlighted the following:

- SEPA continues to monitor air quality and noise in community locations. We use this information to inform how we respond to certain situations.
- SEPA continues to progress their response to the IEPA Best Practice Review. IB stated himself and Amy will include in future updates.
- SEPA is continuing to carry out desktop, and where possible, on site inspections are continuing. If SEPA cannot get on site they are carrying out reviews of documents or by zoom/teams. Current focus is on maintenance and ground glare installation.
- SEPA continues to review and follow up on complaints.
- 25 complaints since the last meeting with the bulk relating to concerns about flaring.
- Recent complaints have expressed concerns over dark clouds or smoke which are normal emissions. We are looking at the best way on how the information is readily available to as many people as possible.
- Continuing to work with companies to deliver flaring improvements in the shortest possible timeframe.

IB reiterated they do follow up on every complaint even though they may not respond to every complainant.

MB suggested showing a video of someone boiling a kettle in a kitchen which shows steam, the same video with a kettle boiled in a cold store, you would see more significant steam from the kettle which is exactly what you see from our site which may help to educate. IB replied he would take this away and said it is important we help people to understand what is smoke and what isn't in terms of what you can see.

AL advised she works in the communications team, had a role in organising the community engagement events. AL talked to a slide:

- The events took place over two weeks, on different days, at different times to try and get as much attendance from communities as possible. Robust marketing campaign.
- Numbers were fairly low. First week, first session only three participants and four participants at the second session. Made up predominately of Community Councillors.
- In the second week ten and eleven participants. Made up of community councillors, MSPs, members of action groups and the community.
- Total of twenty-eight participants which gave a broad range of views and opinions.
- Feedback suggested low attendance was due to improved performance at the site.
- A post event survey (over 50) issued to all those who had signed up for the event. Fourteen responses to the survey, two had attended the online event.

AL confirmed the sessions were open to whoever who wanted to attend at any time.

SN asked if there was a pattern for the community member participants. JL replied no, it was widespread.

## **5. Support for cost of independent Chair**

NK said Professor Wilson Sibbett stood down from the Air Quality Group and a potential replacement raises the question of independent chairs across the Liaison Committee and EAGs. NK advised the priority is an independent chair for this Liaison Committee which was raised at a previous meeting but does bring challenges e.g. people approached enquired about financial payment. Local authorities particularly around Social Work have contracts in place with independent chairs for Adult Protection, Committees etc and was sure Fife Council have contracts in place. NK said in term of this Committee it is required for the TOR and Constitution and asked the Committee for their views.

MB said we would support an independent chair but was concerned as if there is any suggestion we are funding the position it calls into question the independency of the chair.

CB said Shell's position mirrors MB's comments. Any assemblance of us paying for someone who is meant to be independent loses that sense of independence and is not in the Shell Governance. CB fully supports independent chairs as it is the only way to build trust with communities.

AR said why would Fife Council be funding this, as like the two operators, there would be a bias there if Fife Council paid for it and questioned why someone would be paid in this role. What is the difference with this role compared to the roles in other committees and asked for NK for an explanation?

NK replied looking at similar type committees often they are paid positions but takes on board comments as most people carry out the role without any recompense. NK advised he

had approached two people and they did ask about recompense which is different from Community Council or other committees, it is quite unique and stated it is a challenge on how this may be perceived, Fife Council has a budget challenge and advised it works out at about £2k per year for eight days.

NK said the names put forward were Peter Wilson, former Chief Constable for Fife, Keith Winter who is due to retire from Fife Council, Executive Director for Enterprise and Environment and Joe Noble, CEO of Scottish Enterprise Fife and Director of the Fife Environmental Trust. NK stated they are good choices who have lots of skills, if we approached either of them they would be looking for some sort of payment.

MB said there must be models elsewhere about how you fund or recompense independent chairs which allows it to be truly independent. MB said we want independence but do not want any unintended consequences of a linkage back to what we are being independent over.

NK said he would investigate this and advised to pick a chair a robust method for identifying someone, engaging interviewing and funding is required.

AMacD said he had not fully understood the distinction between the expertise from Wilson Sibbett and his independence, completely understands the comments made by operators and Fife Council, the risk of not being seen as independent.

AMacD said as we are looking for independence as opposed to technical expertise the need for payment maybe diminished and said he hoped there was people out there who would take this role on a goodwill basis.

AR said reimbursement for expenses to attend face to face meetings is different. What is the exception to this person to everybody else, which is what people will be asking?

NK said he could approach the persons to ask if they would be interested and see if there is any mention of recompense as he may be doing them a disservice. NK said they would make excellent independent chairs and does not see ties in their history to business.

AB confirmed the Committee would be happy for NK to take this forward.

## **6. Update on Liaison Committee Review process – Expert Advisory Groups, amendments to Terms of Reference/Constitution and Annual Report**

KB advised the Air Quality EAG took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It was agreed Miranda Loh, Institute of Occupational Medicine be approached to produce a draft report of the 2020 Annual Mossmorran and Braefoot Bae Air Quality Report by February 2022, subsequent reports will be at the discretion of the EAG.

A revised version of the TOR and Constitution will be circulated ahead of the next meeting.

KB said a decision is required on whether the EAG is an open or closed group which will be discussed at the next meeting.

SEPA gave a presentation on the proposed air quality monitoring which JS has given details at this meeting.

A Communications EAG meeting will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> January. A draft TOR and Constitution has been circulated to members.

KB stated a chair for the Air Quality EAG is required, it is proposed a decision is made at the next meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> February.

NK said in his opinion an independent chair is not required for the EAG, anyone with relevant expertise could chair. NK said with regard to the Air Quality EAG being open or closed, this Committee should give direction and said they are EAGs, there is no reason for them to be open as they all feed the output to this Committee.

NK said he may have a potential solution to future virtual meetings, we can allow any one to access the meeting but not participate, we can post when it is happening.

AB agreed with NK's comments on EAG's.

KB confirmed there is a good mix of people for the Communications EAG and are currently looking into the Noise, Light and Vibrations. SEPA has provided representations and the list is being added to. A meeting for the EAG for Noise, Vibration and Light is being progressed.

IB said having an independent expert to provide the robust challenge in the EAG on Air Quality is extremely important and appreciated.

NK said the Annual Report for 2021 will hopefully be ready after the Elections. There will be a partnership approach to this e.g. information from quarterly reports, will include work with the Liaison Committee, EAGs and feedback from any consultations undertaken.

## 7. Any Other Business

7.1 AB asked the Committee if the next meeting should be held in March or April. After a short discussion, NK stated he would feed back to the Chair and an appointment will be circulated thereafter.

7.2 AB said he would like to put forward Fair and Just Transition for the Mossmorran Site as a future agenda items for the Committee. After a short discussion it was agreed this would be a future agenda item.

7.3 AR asked for an amendment to the previous minute.

AB thanked everyone for attending.

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Encourage CCs to send representatives to attend Liaison Committee when attending CC meetings	SN	
2	Feedback on whether Chromebooks retained by college or gifted to students	CB	Complete
3	Consider asking complainants whether they are signed up to the Community Notification Scheme	MG	
4	Updated Terms of Reference for EAGs to be circulated.	NK	
5	Annual Report – meet companies to agree scope and timelines	NK	
6	Consider further Recording of Meetings	NK	
7	Independent Chairs alternative models	NK	
8	Nominations for a new Chair to be approached	NK	