

Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Community & Safety Liaison Committee Meeting

Date 12 December 2019

Time: 18.30

Location: New City House, Dunfermline

Present: Alistair Bain, Chair – Fife Councillor (AB)
Alex Macdonald – Burntisland CC (AMD)
Mairi McKay – Shell UK Limited (MMK)
Teresa Waddington – Shell UK Limited (TW)
Catherine Cubitt – ExxonMobil (CC)
Stuart Neill – ExxonMobil (SN)
Rob Morris – SEPA (RM)
Peter Franklin – Dalgety Bay & Hillend CC (PF)
Willie Dryburgh – Aberdour CC (WD)
Nigel Kerr – Fife Council (NK)
Angie Roy – Cardenden CC (AR)
Amelia Howie – Lumphinnans CC (AH)

Apologies: See below

1. **Appointment of new Minute taker.**

In the absence of volunteers NK agreed to take minutes and to follow up a request from AB for secretariat support for this Committee.

AB: advised that last sets of minutes and reports not posted on Fife website.

NK: confirmed issues with website and had contacted web team to resolve

Action: NK to seek secretariat support from Fife Council

NK to chase up missing minutes/reports on new website

2. **Apologies for Absence**

David Taylor, Ian Brocklebank, Councillor David Barratt, Councillor Kathleen Leslie, Amelia Howie, Jacob McAlister

3. **Declaration of Interest**

None

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Minutes accepted

5. **Current Situation Reports** – reports circulated at meeting and attached with these minutes.

5.1 Councillors

Questions tabled by Councillors pre-meeting – these were answered.
Apologies received from Councillors so no update.

5.2 Shell UK Ltd (TW)

One incident on site (see update report) but no injuries. Continuing to use ethane as fuel gas and reducing the amount of ethane coming down the line. Progress with BAT deadline of January 2020 on track.

Provided feedback on NHS Public Health report – agreed generally with outcomes of report but asked how we identify and address acute impacts – the real and felt issues. Shell UK Ltd keen to work with NHS Public Health to address this via existing community forums and to work with SEPA to meet permit conditions.

Carried out 2 emergency planning exercises in this reporting period.

TW: asked whether the committee requires the NGL processing figures and Braefoot Bay Activities within the regular reports

Action: All – provide feedback to TW re requirement to include these details in future reports.

TW: Number of site visits including members of Mossmorran Action Group on 25 October, 20 members of the Women in Engineering Group from Heriot Watt University on 20 November and Mark Ruskell (Green MSP) and Mags Hall (Scottish Greens candidate) on 22 November.

TW: No Community Notices issued this period as no change in operational status.

TW: Received one complaint from local resident re smoke/odour from ground flares. Monitoring this situation with the complainant.

AB: Raised issue that surprised only 1 complaint received about ground flaring.

Action: TW to re-iterate message re use of ground flares in community notice to be issued ahead of Christmas holidays.

RM: Confirmed SEPA continue to receive complaints re flaring.

AR: Asked why it appears that flaring from both sites.

SN: at ExxonMobil site only vapour coming off from their high level stack i.e. still low-level flaring from Exxon's elevated flare stack.

AR: Advised she had seen this more than once and glow in the sky.

TW: Confirmed this is coming from the ground flare.

AB: Advised that still work to be done to explain the reasons for this in layman's terms.

Action: TW/SN – to include this explanation in simple terms in future briefings.

AB: Asked how they pick which wells offshore to take the gas from and does this change.

TW: We are picking wells with low ethane – the gas mix from these wells is consistent and doesn't change much.

5.3 ExxonMobil Chemicals Ltd (SN)

SN: Operational update - £140M investment to modernise and bring reliability and to deliver elements of the BAT programme. This will reduce frequency and impact of flaring. Perception that company has just reacted to public pressure. This is not the case as this investment has been 2 years in planning and is part of an investment cycle.

Long term partnership for base maintenance set up. The company spends circa£20M per year on base maintenance at the plant. From March 2020-22 there will be a new modular village set up at Braefoot Bay Marine Terminal (replicating what was there in 2012) to support an extensive programme of maintenance and modernisation.

PF: Asked about increase in traffic up to roundabout and whether approached Fife Council re potential speed restrictions.

Action: SN agreed to look in to this matter.

SN: Advised that works continuing to repair/replace boilers and initial preparation carried out to re-start plant. Communications already sent out re visibility of steam from plant. Comprehensive communications program in place if any changes at plant e.g. pipe cleaning.

SN also thanked SEPA for assistance over the last year.

SN: Re-start some time in January and this will be confirmed asap. Also produced new animations and fact sheets covering plant process, flaring and ethylene product. Looking also to raise awareness through radio adverts, press adverts, and reach out to CCs to share messaging.

AR: Asked about steam from pipe cleaning process being released and impacts on community

SN: Advised that this will not be done over Xmas but when it does happen he doesn't believe local residents will hear this.

SN: In terms of community engagement Exxon has met inland CCs up until now but will visit coastal CCs after New Year. In total this has seen the company engage in over 8 hours of discussion with more than 100 members of local communities. Also advised that presentation made to the Council's Environment and Protective Services Committee on 28 November; this was well received and the NHS Health Report was a focus in relation to questions from the councillors. Consensus at both the Environment Committee and Liaison Committee that companies should seek to meet NHS Fife to discuss findings in more detail.

SN: Confirmed that Exxon had supplied over 500 STEM Kit Bags to S1 and S2 pupils at Lochgelly and Beath High Schools. Contributions this year to local good causes and educational programmes stand at over £60k. Full details of employee volunteering and support for FEPs Christmas Appeal detailed in the attached briefing.

SN: Advised that due to current activity at the plant, unfortunately, the Senior Citizens Burns Lunches in January 2020 would have to be postponed – but donation of £500 to each community to help them organise something in their villages.

5.4 SEPA (RM)

RM: Provided a verbal update on the progress on adoption of Best Available Techniques (BAT) for flaring at Mossmorran (full report attached). The timetable set out in the SEPA Update provided to the 12 September 2019 Community & Safety Liaison Committee meeting in respect of noise reducing flare tips at the Fife Ethylene Plant (FEP) for 2020 and Shell Natural Gas Liquids Plant for 2021 is as previously stated. Further permit variations will be served by SEPA to lock in compliance at Mossmorran and reduce flaring impacts.

RM: Advised that good cooperation with both Operators has been evident throughout the shut-down period with impacts on local communities a primary consideration. SEPA has continued to work closely with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) in regulating Mossmorran. SEPA has published weekly monitoring results of air quality (particulate matter) undertaken at three locations (Lochgelly, Auchtertool and Donibristle) throughout the shut-down. These show no breaches of Air Quality Standards., Interacting with other public agency partners has remained a priority.

RM: Confirmed that ExxonMobil Chemical Limited have been developing their plans for the start-up. These plans involve several phases, the initial stage of which involves the use of temporary boilers. SEPA has issued a permit variation for these boilers following an application from ExxonMobil Chemical Limited. SEPA welcomes the announcement that the Christmas and New Year periods are to be avoided for the main phase of the start-up. Final confirmation of the sequencing and dates for the start-up is awaited.

RM: Advised that over 15,000 copies of a leaflet titled 'Tackling unacceptable impacts of flaring at Mossmorran' were posted by SEPA to homes in the surrounding areas to Mossmorran in early November. This leaflet provided an update on monitoring, permit variations, new infrastructure and the regulatory investigation by SEPA. More copies were available on request e.g. for meetings and placing in local libraries. Radio adverts were also undertaken to reach the widest possible audience in Fife.

5.5 Questions

AMD: Advised that he was disappointed with NHS Health Report as whilst it stated that anxiety causes health problems he feels it did not go far enough to explain the specific sources and the supporting evidence.

NK: Advised that difficult to link cause and effect for this type of incident as effect of noise on health will depend on duration, level, type of noise etc.

AMD: Confirmed he had seen several adverts/communications covering ExxonMobil staff members and what they do. Like these as seen as “human face” of company.

AMD: Advised that there has been several changes in Burntisland CC so when he receives emails from this group not sure who else gets them.

Action: AMD to send current list of Burntisland CC to Chair.

Action: All CCs to provide similar list of contacts to the Chair.

SN: Advised looking to distribute 27,000 “Community Matters” newsletter and AMD asked if these could be distributed as soon as possible.

AB: Enquired about any feedback on leaflets so far. ExxonMobil confirmed no feedback so far as they were only just being distributed. SEPA confirmed generally a very positive reaction to its publication.

6. Any Other Business

Review of Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community & Safety Liaison Committee

NK: Provided a background to review of this liaison committee. Advised that report presented at the Council’s Environment and Protective Services Committee on 5 September 2019. This report detailed the legal basis for allowing the Chief Interim Officer – Protective Services to undertake the review and highlighted what this would include. Some feedback from existing community groups and residents which needed to be addressed including:- need for a more transparent, accountable and publicly accessible committee, to build greater trust with the council, SEPA, ExxonMobil, Shell UK and Community Councils, to provide better engagement with residents and allow them to articulate their concerns. Also highlighted issues raised by this liaison committee in relation to the council providing greater technical and secretariat support and need for greater engagement with CCs to enable this committee to be the recognised and formal forum for community oversight of the Mossmorran complex.

Action: NK to send out link to committee report (see link below)

http://publications.fifedirect.org.uk/c64_PublicAgendaPack2019-09-05.pdf

NK: Highlighted that noise, vibration and light not currently covered under the terms of reference or constitution of either this committee or the Independent Air Quality Group. Previous discussions with both chairs and felt this sits best within this liaison committee although some technical knowledge in these areas missing. Advised NK would look to offer this support going forward.

Action: NK to identify technical support for group.

AR: These issues need addressed and fed back to this group more than twice a year.

TW: Advised that she thought noise, vibration and light could be added to the remit of the Air Quality Group as it aligns better in terms of the membership/background knowledge of these individuals.

NK: Advised would raise this issue during review process when met with CCs, SEPA, HSE and both companies. Will also raise issue re need for expanding membership to include other CCs etc

All: General feedback that need clear remit for group and membership criteria, properly resourced by Fife Council, needs to be the recognised group for all communications to the community, chaired in non-partisan manner and transparency is key.

Meeting Closed – 19:50

Date of Next Meeting: 12 March 2020, 1830 in New City House, Dunfermline.

	Action	Lead	Date for completion	Status
1	To seek secretariat support from Fife Council	NK	30/04/20	New
2	To chase up missing minutes/reports on new website	NK	12/03/20	New
3	Provide feedback to TW re requirement to include details of NGL & Braefoot Bay activities in future reports	All	12/03/20	New
4	Re-iterate message re use of ground flares in community notice before Christmas holidays'	TW	12/03/20	New
5	To include message re flaring in simple terms in future briefings.	TW/SN	12/03/20	New
6	Look at increase in traffic up to roundabout re proposals at Braefoot Bay and whether potential need for speed restrictions.	SN	11/06/20	New
7	To send current list of Burntisland CC to Chair	AMD	13/01/20	New
8	All CCs to provide similar list of contacts to the Chair	All CC	13/01/20	New
9	Send out link to report presented at the Council's Environment and Protective Services Committee on 5 September 2019	NK	13/01/20	Complete
10	Identify technical support for group	NK	12/03/20	New

