



Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Community & Safety Liaison Committee Meeting

Date: 14th January 2021

Time: 18:30

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Councillor Alistair Bain, Convener – Fife Councillor (AB)
Councillor David Barratt (DB)
Neale Hanvey, MSP
Nigel Kerr – Fife Council (NK)
Ian Brocklebank – SEPA (IB)
Martin Burrell, ExxonMobil
Craig Burnett – Shell (CB)
Irene Burt – Cowdenbeath Community Council (IB)
Peter Franklin - Dalgety Bay Community Council (PF)
Tom Kinnaird – Benarty Community Council (TK)
Alex MacDonald – Burntisland Community Council (AMacD)
Mairi McKay – Shell (MMcK)
Stewart Neill – ExxonMobil (SN) by phone
Angela Roy – Cardenden Community Council (AR)
Louise Russell - ExxonMobil (LR)
Wendy Thornton – SEPA (WT)

Secretariat – Lesley Kirk, Fife Council

Apologies: See below

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Declaration of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes accepted.

4. Presentations

ExxonMobil – FEP Plant Process Animation

Martin Burrell introduced himself and took up the FEP Plant Manager post in November last year and is looking forward to working again in Fife.

Exxonmobil Presentation

Martin Burrell talked to a presentation.

<https://www.exxonmobil.co.uk/Company/Overview/UK-operations/Fife-operations/Our-Operations#WhatWeDo>

Questions

AMacD commented he liked the graphics a lot, sound distorted due to the conference call, liked the similar graphics which was produced on paper recently which have gone down very well. AMacD does use Twitter, but did have a look at the various videos Kylie had produced, delighted to see that each of them has had about 4000/5000 views and hoped to see the same amount of views for this one. How do you plan to disseminate this animation?

SN replied, we host the animation on our website, we are working on a series of opportunities to drive more people to find it on the website and find ways to share through Facebook pages e.g. community councils. Any help from this group would be greatly appreciated. Printed versions available as we are aware not everyone can access digitally.

NK stated the animation was excellent and the video demystifies the process, more personable, easy to watch and learn from it. With regard to the hits for your presentation and animation on the website, perhaps we track this to ascertain how effective this Liaison Committee is in trying to raise the profile, for everything we do we could look at increasing hits against website twitter feed which would maybe gauge some of our success.

SN replied he liked this suggestion and would very keen to work with NK to see how we can create these links. Committed to make our communications stronger through this Committee and it would be good to come up with tangible evidence to support this. SN to speak to NK offline.

AB stated the presentations are excellent and will hopefully get information out there. With regard to the smell from Mossmorran, AB advised there is a lot on Facebook about this and the problem is people believe it does come from Mossmorran and it is a case of trying to disapprove this, we need to say where exactly it is coming from which may be Fife Council's responsibility.

NK confirmed we can take this on board and agree there is a lot of mistrusting and we can raise at the next EAG on Air Quality Group.

DB said he found the video on the website but if you a share a link to it on Facebook it doesn't work like it should, not user friendly and asked if it had been posted on You Tube or on Facebook to share. SN thanked DB for his feedback and confirmed he would take this away as a priority for himself and Louise to look at tomorrow.

Shell Presentation

CB talked to a presentation.

Presentation to follow.

Questions

NK asked, regarding St Fergus can you still extract methane and stop the oil product from going down the line or is it critical they both happen at the same time. CB replied they both need to happen simultaneously. FNGL is required in order for St Fergus to operate as we process the remaining natural gas liquids after St Fergus have extracted the methane to supply to the National Grid. Shutdowns for maintenance activities are carefully planned to ensure continuity of energy supply in the UK.

AB asked what would happen if Mossmorran did close down for the gas network. CB replied the amount of gas supplied to the network would likely be extremely constrained, for Scotland and the wider UK. AB said the unwanted chemicals that are not required for the gas network would they be burnt off? CB replied it is not a system or strategy that would make sense economically or environmentally. AB asked how do we continue to get natural gas in for our network? CB replied other countries import, Co2 and typically the cost of this is significantly higher. In terms of energy security and making use of domestic supply, an effective economic and environmentally friendly way of doing it, is the way the Scottish Government does with the plants we have.

AB thanked Mairi and Craig.

5. Current Situation Reports

4.1 Councillors

DB advised it has been relevantly quiet in terms of flaring which has resulted attention being turned to steam, lots of videos being posted and smell complaints which have subsequently been attributed to the land fill site. Could you confirm what omissions are there from either operator at Mossmorran while not flaring other rather steam.

MB replied we have vapour coming off the cooling tower, if you look at the furnaces and the steam stacks there are combustion products which includes carbon dioxide but no hydrocarbon omissions coming off the plant.

DB said a couple of videos posted suggesting Shell have been flaring over the last week or so. CB replied the flaring was just for two to three minutes whilst we prepared one of our systems for maintenance, by removing the hydrocarbons to make it safe for people to work on. The frequency depends on the maintenance we are conducting. Typically these are low levels, for short durations, ie. a short purge two or three times a month, and non-reportable. Anything above 20 tonnes has to be reported to SEPA but we haven't made a report to SEPA for a number of months.

AB confirmed no formal complaints since the last meeting. There has been a few items on line, one in particular, the discussion was a while ago suggested you have flared every day, is there always a flame at the top of the stack and can you explain why? CB replied. We constantly purge our flare system with nitrogen and there is a pilot which is constantly lit. It is part of the safety system on the flare stack, a very low level flame. MB said it is similar for FEP, pilots are usually not visible, steam purge going to the flare stack. It is only in special weather conditions when they can become visible.

4.2 Shell UK Ltd (CB)

CB talked through items in Shell Report such as:

- Working under Covid restrictions
- Workforce changes
- Social Investment activity

Social Investment – MMcK gave an update on an action from the last minute advising that she met with Scottish Sports Futures in December, who run the Twilight Basketball. A meeting has been arranged this month to discuss potential sessions we may be able to fund. MMcK may reach out to Community Councils for feedback.

AMacD said with reference to the planning stages of the project to address skills, (re)training and digital poverty, AMacD commented he spent a number of years trying to persuade schools and universities on how to get the best educational value out of technology. The ExxonMobil report advises they have given out laptops and hardware to Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly HS's. AMacD said if Shell are taking a wider perspective and looking at training, infrastructure, network and culture, there may be synergy if Shell and Exxon were to work together to get the best educational outcome. AMacD requested more detail on the scope of the project. MMcK advised they are looking at a college course in Aberdeen, Fife and in the Bacton area. Initial conversations at the start of the pandemic highlighted access to technology and the skills required to use it. Planning to work with a partner e.g. Fife College to fund a course or to ascertain what the barriers are for people accessing any existing courses.

SN said they are refocussing their education efforts towards developing STEM support materials. Louise is engaging directly with teachers at Beath HS who are helping us to shape these materials which will be used in classroom but will also be available for every school in Fife and to download as well. The schools have requested real live links to see how this translates to industry which will allow pupils to interact with some of our engineers on how they have developed careers. At very early stages but look forward to sharing in due course. AMacD to send information to Louise.

NK stated regarding climate emergency, carbon reduction, a lot of money is being put into the green recovery, moving towards more sustainable technologies, which is a long term ambition, which ties in with STEM and said it would be a good to try and promote as well and asked for feedback.

SN replied environment and green issues is one of the subjects we are going to look. It is in the syllabus and pupils want to understand how we get the balance between delivering industrial output while reducing our carbon omissions. SN advised they will be looking at module to address this.

AB thanked Shell and all of their staff for their donations to date, particularly the £120k contributed to Dunfermline Foodbank.

4.3 ExxonMobil (MB)

MB stated their safety performance continues to be very strong in the reporting period and throughout 2020.

Regulatory update - we continue with monitoring which shows emissions are within permitted levels and are having minimum impact on communities. We did have a flaring event this quarter which is a concern to communities but it is a safe mode of operation. Continuing to monitor noise with new technologies and

best available techniques. With regard to the installation of the new larger ground flare, a vendor has now been appointed to do the design and the construction. With feedback from this Committee, communities and SEPA we have been working hard looking at our own processes and with the vendor to see how this can be done as quickly as possible. The proposal will hopefully deliver the ground flare by 2022. The investment programme will start in April, investing £140m, which we are on track for. MB gave a short overview of the new publicity materials and short video available and advised they participated in the Cowdenbeath Area Committee in December. Community support has been delivered over the period even in these difficult times and we are mindful we want to be a valuable member of the community and have found ways to continue to offer this support e.g. offering PPE, Fife Gingerbread, Christmas appeal etc Workforce numbers are similar as before although contractor numbers are up due to the new investment ramping up.

NK said it was good news about the enclosed ground flare, particularly bringing the timetable forward. With regard to the £140m investment this will require major works and I am assuming there will be planned shutdowns with periods of flaring, how do we engage with the community, do you have an idea of the scale at this time?

MB replied there will be two distinct periods of flaring – one at the start of the activity to shut the plant down and then at the end. Over the last period we are finding ways of starting up the plant to minimise the amount of flaring, minimise the volume and the duration, using the same techniques in both shutdowns in the middle of April and June. Stewart and his team will be developing a communication programme so people are aware in advance, and we will try to minimise the impact. At the back end of the process we will have our new, state of the art flare tip which will hopefully show it will be very different at the end.

SN stated the communication plan needs to be constructed in a way we reach the biggest possible audience using a range of techniques e.g. radio adverts, newspaper adverts, text alerts, mail direct to households.

Neale advised he has no questions and is very comfortable with everything what has been said this evening. It has been very comprehensive.

AB thanked Exxonmobil for their donations to the community.

4.4 SEPA (WT)

Wendy advised she will be giving a verbal update due to their email systems being offline but information will be posted on their SEPA homepage Mossmorran hub. On Christmas eve SEPA was subjected to a significant cyber-attack which has had a major impact on the way they work, it is subject to a live criminal investigation. Our approach continues to take the best guidance from multi agency partners, working with the Scottish Government, Police Scotland and the National Cyber Security experts. Some of our internal systems and data products are offline in the short term. In general terms our priority regulatory, monitoring, flood forecasting and warning services are adapted and are continuing to operate e.g. contact centre, web self-help services including the 24 hour pollution hotline and online environmental event reporting systems. We are continuing to regulate Mossmorran including working with the HSE, still monitoring noise and air quality, continuing to focus on the delivery of the flaring improvements in the shortest possible timeframe and we are still in contact with both operators. We are following up on pollution reports and complaints but we

would encourage people to use the web reporting tool and will continue to respond to any significant flaring. We are still functioning, still regulating and responding to pollution events.

AB advised he was not aware of the cyber-attack. WT stated there is information on the website.

AB said we have just had two excellent presentations, one from Shell and ExxonMobil and asked if SEPA could give a presentation with SEPA's involvement in Mossmorran. WT happy to do this.

AR said she was on SEPA's website trying to report an incident which was unsuccessful and asked what the process is, how can people report incidents. WT replied unclear as to why it was down as the web reporting tool is working and advised the alternative is to call the pollution hotline 0800 80 70 60.

6. Update on Expert Advisory Groups

- 6.1 NK advised he agreed to meet up with representatives from this Committee for initial discussions on the Expert Advisory Groups. The Air Quality Group met on the 26.11.20, Fife Council, both companies were represented along with Peter Franklin and Alex MacDonald. Good conversations about air quality, agreed we would continue with the Annual Report even though it showed year on year no breaches, however it is important to understand why there are still complaints on air pollution. We agreed to an independent sense check and would continue with this, reporting into this umbrella Committee. We also agreed we need someone independent like the Institute of Occupational Medicine which would give an independent and technical overview. IOM have the most knowledge on this but would look at other consultants who could assist. We are looking at data comparisons with other sites, how do we compare with Grangemouth and sites of a similar nature. It was agreed it is really important the EAG feeds into this Committee and reported out to communities.
- 6.2 NK advised the Noise, Vibration and Light group met on 03.12.20, Fife Council, both companies were represented along with SEPA and Alex MacDonald. Good discussions recognising that when there are flaring events, noise, vibration and light does have impacts. Interesting discussions around the amount of the work undertaken by Companies e.g. the amount of noise monitoring completed on the site, around the site, within Communities and even in households. We will gather all this data and present in a such way to make it easy to understand e.g. noise maps instead of decibel readings. We will look at how the new flare tips will reduce the noise particularly in relation to vibration.

7. Update on selection process for new Chair

NK advised a meeting held on the 12.01.21 with Cllr Barratt, both companies and SEPA. It was agreed, which would require agreement from this committee, to create a subgroup to look at the review and selection process which will be myself, Cllr Barratt, both companies, Wendy Thornton and Alex MacDonald. Agreed to produce a person specification, looking at essential criteria and skills required and produce a due diligence form. Once this has been produced we would ask this committee to look/ask for expressions of interest which would come back to the sub group to look at the applicants and follow the process, carry out checks with the sub group putting forward recommendations for those to be interviewed. It was agreed the interview panel would be myself, Cllr Bain and Alex MacDonald. NK looking for approval from this committee that they agree this is a robust process for selecting a new chair.

WT said she had reflected on discussions from Tuesday with colleagues regarding expressions of interest and advised we should reach out to the community to allow an open and transparent process for people to express their interest or put forward nominations.

Cllr Bain would not object to this. NK said it is important no one comes back at a later stage advising they felt excluded from the process and agreed with WT's point. NK advised SN had a good suggestion e.g. retired Police Officer, we are reaching out to known contacts to see if there are any expressions of interest.

Cllr Bain confirmed he was happy as long as everyone goes through a formal process. NK stated from a governance perspective it is all written down and we will follow a due process which is transparent.

8. Community Engagement proposals

NK confirmed this is work in progress. It is imperative every work stream about Mossmorran comes under this Committee. This will take place after we have some outputs from the Expert Advisory Groups. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

No other business.

AB thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed.

