

Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Community & Safety Liaison Committee Meeting

Date: 8th April 2021

Time: 18:30

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Councillor Alistair Bain, Convener – Fife Councillor (AB)
Councillor David Barratt (DB)
Councillor Kathleen Leslie (KL)
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)
Alex MacDonald – Burntisland Community Council (AMacD)
Emma Miller - Hill of Beath Community Council (EM)
Mairi McKay – Shell (MMcK)
Stewart Neill – ExxonMobil (SN) by phone
John Purdie – Benarty Community Council (TK)
Kevin Poot - ExxonMobil (KP)
Angela Roy – Cardenden Community Council (AR)
Louise Russell - ExxonMobil (LR)

Secretariat – Lesley Kirk, Fife Council

Apologies: Neale Hanvey, MSP
Tom Kinnaird – Benarty Community Council
Wendy Thornton – SEPA

1. Apologies for Absence

Noted.

2. Declaration of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Amendment to 4.3. AB thanked Exxonmobil for their donations to the community.

Minutes accepted.

4. Current Situation Reports

4.1 Councillors

AB: Nothing notable . AB asked if May 6th is the confirmed date for start-up. CB replied for FNGL yes. MB replied Exxonmobil will not be until the end of May beginning of June.

DB: Nothing notable. Some interest on the announcement around the works which is welcome news. Point raised in the last minute the video on Exxonmobil website is still not in an easy format to share. SN will follow up as a priority and respond next week.

KL: Apologised for not attending the last two meetings. Noting notable to report. Exxonmobil Instagram page seemed to have disappeared recently and asked if this was up and running again. SN advised the site and twitter was purposely taken down due to coordinated activist activity which was trying to attack our social media accounts and Shells. They are up and running again.

4.2 Shell UK Ltd (CB)

CB talked to a presentation on the reasoning for the shutdown at FNGL and work at the site.

AMacD asked how long the shipping gap at Braefoot Bay is expected to be. CB replied Shell are expecting their last ship to be loaded on Sunday with the next one planned for the 8th May. MB confirmed their last ship is on the 11th April and won't be loading until early June.

AB asked in teams chat - What would happen if both gas routes were shut down? How long would it take to get your pipeline back up and running? CB replied landing gas is important for electricity generation, industrial users and heating systems. Part of security of supply is we work the government to make sure we are not both shut down at the same time. The pipeline will stay full of Natural Gas Liquids, it's a case of restarting the plants rather than pipelines. The plant is coordinated with offshore to restart on the 6th May as communicated in our Community Notice on 6 April

AR asked if local contractors are being used or are they out with the area. CB replied there are less than ten specialist contractors e.g. from the Netherlands, or based in Scotland but not from the immediate local area. However, most of the 60 contractors we're working with have worked at Mossmorran before and are local to the area. CB said we spoke at this forum last year where an overview was given on the reduction of contract staff, this is an example of returning contractors to site associated with the phasing of this type of work.

CB talked through items in the Shell Report.

AMacD said he was pleased to read about engagement with Downs Syndrome Awareness Week and the introduction to Makaton. AMacD asked if Shell or Exxonmobil employ anyone who is deaf and a is user of British Sign Language and does the companies have experience of deafness? MMcK advised Shell has the enABLE Network to support employees with disabilities and is almost certain there would be members of staff within Shell who are deaf.

NK asked CB the location of the new noise monitor and enquired if can record audio files as well as decibel level. CB replied it is directly opposite our elevated flare and ground flare infrastructure. There are four further locations which are closer to the community receptors which are part of the FEP network. We are looking at the combination of noises received directly at the site and how loud it is and then how it attenuates across into the local noise receptors. There was a noise study undertaken recently to ensure we were in compliance with our PPC (Pollution Prevention Control Permit). MMcK advised we could put Nigel in touch with their environmental specialist if there were more questions regarding noise monitoring.

CB stated the noise monitor does record decibels but will clarify if it can record noise as an audio file.

NK said we do receive complaints and sometimes there might be other external sources and if they are triggering on the noise monitors, you can sometimes record audio files which will allow you to look back and determine where the noise is coming from, may not be the plant. NK said the expert advisory on noise can look at this in more detail going forward.

DB asked in relation to the fly tipping at Braefoot Bay access road how do you hope to prevent this from happening again. MMck said cameras have been installed with appropriate signage advising they are there which appears to be working as a deterrent. No further incidents to date.

4.3 ExxonMobil (MB)

MB talked to a presentation (circulated) on the stand down of operations and the investment project.

NK asked in the early stages of flaring what the estimated maximum tonnage per hour is likely to be. MB replied at the peak we estimate around 100 tons per hour, close to 50% will go to ground flare so we would see 50 or 60 tonnes an hour evaluated flare. There will be an immediate pulse, as soon as the machine is shut down the pressure relief valve opens and there is a surge of gas, it will look big but very quickly it will stabilise and gradually reduce over the course of the day.

DB asked how much of this investment would you be doing if it hadn't been for the concerted campaigning against the plant. MB replied we would be doing it all. We are doing what we think is the right thing to do. This will be our fourth or fifth flare tip. When we first started up there was issues with smoky flaring's and we knew the solution was to add steam, so put in new flare tips, but the unintended consequence of that was noise and vibration issues which was having an impact on communities. We recognised putting in a new ground flare was right and appropriate. The rest of the investment is to ensure the plant is up to date and reliable as it can be.

Kevin Poot talked to a presentation on making operations quieter and less visible (previously circulated).

AR asked in terms of the last investment, how much was that compared to this investment. Also large numbers were quoted in the presentation with regard to the number of parts, labour etc and which puts context to how large the plant actually is, what are the other numbers in relation to that. MB replied he does not know the exact number for all the parts but it will be significant. 80% of the equipment will remain the same it is only the control systems we are working on. In terms of the investment there are two aspects – maintenance and capital/project, we would normally spend £30k to £40k on maintenance and project spend can vary but this is the biggest one we have ever done.

SN confirmed the number of parts does not go down to ancillaries. It is tangible, sizeable pieces of infrastructure.

AR said the new ground flare will be less visible, at the moment we can see the elevated flare and we know there issues within the plant, we do expect forewarning and expect you to be accountable. Will this remain going forward even though it will be less visible. MB replied we will always comment to reassure the public and we

would try do the same. I have said previously, it is hoped with the new investment our reliability is such that we don't have to use either of the flares.

AB posted on the chat is there only one new ground flare. MB replied yes a single ground flare. If there is a problem we would need to use our elevated flare but our intention is to maintain and have the ground flare variable for the vast majority of time. For the vast majority of time it will not be used.

NK said he welcomed the communications that have been so successful recently and hope they continue even with the new investment so the community are fully aware of any planned maintenance or any unplanned flaring events.

CB said anything over 20 tonnes is reportable to SEPA. Ourselves and FEP are responsible for reporting this to SEPA which is non-negotiable in terms of accountability.

NK thanked MB and KP and said the positives should be a game changer in terms of impact on communities.

MB advised their report has been circulated and asked if anyone had any questions.

AR advised she was unable to open the report. AMacD did not receive the report. NK replied the report was circulated. LK will follow this up.

MB said as you go through the report so much effort and activity has been focussed on this upgrade project which features large in the report. Summary of community engagement which SN and his team continue to be very active on. Comments on regulatory update and how we are interfacing with the regulators. Information on recruiting apprentices and other community support we are undertaking.

AR said when she first joined the group there was comment information was not being circulated to communities by community councils and wondered how this has been going. We have been putting it on our social media platforms and wondered if the uptake on your sites have increased.

SN replied your support is appreciated and we would always ask community council to use their platforms to share messaging. We sent out a couple of links today (videos and animations) and your support in sharing these would be great. With regard to comms, as we bring the plant down, we have tried to reach as many people as possible e.g. door drops, advert in local papers, adverts over Kingdom FM. We are trying to use as many channels as possible to reach as many people as possible but any help community councils can give us to further push the messaging is greatly appreciated. SN thanked AR and her community council for their ongoing support.

NK advised it would be useful to monitor going forward to ascertain what comms is most effective, looking at hits on web page, looking at different channels we use. The community councils are a good one, aware due to covid 19 there has been disruption to community councils operating effectively but this is an excellent way of disseminating information, the Communications Expert Advisory Group can look at this going forward.

4.4 SEPA (IB)

NK thanked Ian for attending at short notice.

Ian talked to a slide and confirmed this would be circulated to the group.

IB stated CB and MB have commented on the lengths they have gone to share information with SEPA on the forthcoming shutdown and have spent a lot of time demonstrating to us the plans they have in place which are to minimise the impact on the local community which has been an extremely positive process.

IB said CM and MB commented on the noise monitors which have been put in place by both companies and again this is great to see. We will be spending time looking at those with the companies and also looking at them together with the noise monitors we have in place which can be discussed with the relevant task group.

IB advised in terms of the shutdown next week we will have specialist regulatory and scientific staff deployed in local communities. We will be continuing to do our noise and air quality monitoring and looking to get information out on the air quality monitoring as quickly as we can and keep communities as informed as possible.

IB stated we asked the Irish Environmental Protection Agency to undertake a best practice review on how we were regulating the Mossmorran site, particularly the Fife Ethylene Plant. The review is now available on SEPA's website along with our response and our response to the recommendations. IEPA did advise they had considerable confidence with SEPA's approach to ensuring compliance at the complex and made a number of recommendations; nine already underway but we will progress further, we agreed to take eight forward, one we are thinking about and two we did not think it was appropriate for us to follow through.

IB confirmed the Air Quality Monitoring Report (August 2019 to March 2020) has been published on the Mossmorran Hub which included the shutdown period and restart of the Fife Ethylene Plant. There were no breaches of air quality objectives in our data and all measurements were in a low band of the DAQI.

AR asked as the flaring will be at a lower level will this have a bigger impact, will the monitoring be the same?

KP replied it would not make any difference and analysis shows flaring has no impact on local air quality and in fact flaring is similar to what you burn on your gas hob at home. The ground flare is closer to the ground but in terms of omissions it does not make a difference. The reason why the elevated flare is so high in the air is it generates a lot of heat and would impact on the ground level otherwise. With the enclosed ground flare the flame is in a stack so you will not feel it when you are next to it.

NK said part of the planning application will be an environmental assessment which will look at all the aspects of noise, air pollution etc. This will go to SEPA as a statutory consultee and also environmental health which I am in charge of.

IB said part of the process for the PPC permit at the site is the air quality assessment which will be reviewed and reviewed against the legal air quality objectives so these still need to be met. All of us would not have been pushing for an enclosed ground flare if we did not feel it was the right thing and feel the air quality objectives can be met through this technology.

AR asked with regard to the recommendations made in the IEPA report is there any significant points we should be made aware of now.

IB replied the focus of the recommendations were around extending environmental monitoring ensuring there is community participation in the design of this. Enhance visibility of regulatory information and monitoring results, how we ensure the inspections we do, the information we receive, checks we carry out on odour, noise and air quality are easily accessible and transparent to the community. One of the key elements of this will be enhancing our hub and our website, whilst the cyber attack has been a problem it will give us the opportunity to revisit this. All of this will be done in partnership with the community. In our responses you will see we need to work out a strategy to ensure we are engaging with the right people, getting to the right solutions to ensure the information is available and is shared in the correct way. IB said he is happy to discuss the recommendations in more detail at a future meeting but did point out some of the recommendations will take time due the current situation and recognised the importance of this Committee.

NK asked IB if he could give a presentation to give an update at the next meeting. IB replied yes.

5. Update on Expert Advisory Groups

NK apologised and advised he has been involved in setting up the asymptomatic test centres throughout Fife and has not had the opportunity to set up meetings for the various expert advisory groups, it is hoped meetings can arranged over the two weeks. NK said discussions from the initial meeting were extremely beneficial, which we can build upon and tie in with some of SEPA's recommendations.

NK stated DB has made some approaches with regard to a new chair but unfortunately this has not been followed up.

6 Community Engagement Proposals

NK advised so much is being done at the moment by both companies and thanked AR and AMacD for the community council as a means of getting the message out there.

NK asked the group if they had any comments or if they required the liaison committee to do anything on the forthcoming shutdown.

AMacD said he received his first text alert message from Exxonmobil which appears to be working very well. The text was concise and informative. SN thanked AMacD and asked the group if they could encourage people to sign up as it allows us to give real time information.

IB advised you can sign up with Air Quality Scotland website to receive air pollution alerts.

7. Any Other Business

None.

NK said a huge thankyou to Fife NGL, FEP and SEPA for their excellent presentations and time.

	Action	Lead	Status
1	Circulate slide	IB	

2	SEPA to give a presentation at the next meeting	IB	
3	EAG Meetings to be arranged	NK	
4	New Chair - follow up on approaches by DB	NK	