

**Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay**

**Community & Safety Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday 27h March 2025

**Time:** 18:30

**Location:** Mossmorran Site, Cowdenbeath

**Present:** Councillor Alistair Bain, Convener - Fife Councillor (AB)

Sarah Polspoel – ExxonMobil (SP)

David Fisher – SEPA (DF)

Emma Bradshaw - ExxonMobil (EB)

Stuart Neill – ExxonMobil (SN)

Toby Hamblin – ExxonMobil (TH)

Alex MacDonald - Burntisland Community Council (AMacD)

Kerry Myers - ExxonMobil (EB)

Peter Franklin - Dalgety Bay & Hillend Community Council (PF)

Councillor Julie MacDougall - Fife Councillor (JMacD)

Pauline McGeevor – Shell (PMcG)

Tyne Bradley – Shell (TB)

Paul McGowan – Lochgelly Community Council (PM)

Elaine Collins, Cardenden Community Development Forum (EC)

Eleanor Martin – Lumphinnans Community Council (EM)

James Martin - Lumphinnans Community Council (JM)

**In attendance:** Nigel Kerr - Fife Council (NK)

Rob Bowditch – Fife Council (RB)

**Apologies**  Councillor David Barratt – Fife Councillor (DB)

Gordon Black - Crossgates & Mossgreen Community Council (GB)

Kenny Bisset – Fife Council (KB)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Noted

1. **Declaration of Interest**

None

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**



Minutes accepted

1. **Current Situation Reports** 
   1. **Councillors**

Nothing to report

* 1. **ExxonMobil Chemicals Ltd**

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

Operations have now been present in Fife for 40 years, highlighted in a video shown to attendees. There are plans for celebrations, events and similar to take place throughout the anniversary year.

A single furnace was found to be emitting elevated levels of 02 into the atmosphere. SEPA were notified.

Three complaints were received in relation to an audible alarm on the evening of the 27th of January. This was a false alarm and there were no risks associated with it. An apology was offered for any disturbance caused.

The Enclosed Ground Flare has been proven to reduce disturbance to the local communities and the company is proud of their investment in it. Routine monitoring has identified that performance is not meeting the design specifications, therefore the unit will be taken offline for a period of around 7 weeks from the 5th of May.

Two new members have joined the team, Kerry Myers as a Community Affairs Advisor and Sarah Polspoel as a Process Manager.

MP Melanie Ward visited the site earlier this year and was given a tour of the facility.

The apprenticeship recruitment campaign closes on the 30th of March and it is hoped that a number of further applications will be submitted. The company is proud of their work in relation to this.

To celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day, the team paid for people’s drinks / rolls / cakes at Bayne’s Family Bakers in Cowdenbeath.

A donation of £3,300 was recently given to Nourish Support Centre, a local Fife charity.

Beath High School Cadets who may be looking to pursue a career in this industry have been provided with mentorship by members of the team.

A number of Chemical Engineering students from the University of Edinburgh recently visited the site.

A donation of £10,000 was made to Beath High School, allowing them to create a coffee shop, helping to develop the young workforce. A further £6,000 in funding was provided to fund a second phase, the development of a portable unit, helping to build life skills.

Question (PM) – What was the root cause of the elevated O2 emissions?

Answer: It was a tolerance issue, levels of O2 and fuel need to be balanced to provide better combustion.

Question (NK) – Are there any planned works during the 7 weeks when the Enclosed Ground Flare is offline?

Answer: There are no planned works, although there is always a remote possibility that flaring may be required, however Shell are providing access to theirs.

* 1. **Shell UK Ltd**

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* + 1. **Operational**

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

Operations are safe and reliable. Two modules online and one off, but available on standby.

No safety incidents.

Operation of ground flares changed (Duty / Standby) to enable an equivalent reduction of in the region of 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year

Emergency response exercises undertaken, including two involving mock fire emergencies.

Slight increase in workforce with seven apprentices.

Question (PM) – Is the Duty / Standby normal operating procedure?

Answer – It is a change, but a standard change

Question (AB) – Was there a reason for the emergency fire exercise?

Answer – It’s a good learning exercise, and good for all duty rota teams to experience one which is why it was repeated

* + 1. **Community**

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

Two community notices issued. One in November in relation to a steam outage and the other in March inviting members of the community to the annual Fife Family Fun Day event.

A complaint was received in relation to water pressure, relating to a burst water main which was repaired by Scottish Water.

An enquiry was received in January regarding flaring, however after investigation it was found that this did not take place at Fife NGL.

In March a flaring complaint was made to SEPA. Upon investigation it appeared that this may have been part of routine operations and feedback was provided.

Three notifications were received of tree damage at Braefoot Bay. The land management team dealt with these complaints.

Someone requested permission to fly their drone over Braefoot Bay. The request was declined however the person still launched their drone.

Shell UK is in a partnership with UK Cycling and representatives recently came to the site.

Two school pupils undertook work placements for a week.

Annual charity awards took place in January, with teams selected – The Tuesday club (Aberdour Day Care). The Pars Foundation and Aberlour Childrens Charity.

In February a geography student from Glasgow University undertook a work placement

In March a group of pupils from Lochgelly High School visited for a tour of the site.

Currently moving to a new grants / donation’s portal, hopefully up and running in April 2025. Once live, applications can be made.

Question (AMacD) – Any feedback on the January flaring?

Answer – Not linked to operations at Shell. Likely linked to alarm complaint at ExxonMobil, and steam release, no significant flaring.

Question (AMacD) – Would it be possible to observe an exercise as previously this happened?

Answer – Will consider the request and respond

PM – Previous exercise undertaken by Resilience team

Question (AB) If people are not on the mailing list how do they know how to get in touch?

Answer – If the request is not urgent – [Pauline.mcgeevor@shell.com](mailto:Pauline.mcgeevor@shell.com)

If the matter is urgent, contact the Gatehouse at Shell Fife NGL +44 (0)1383 611333 or at Braefoot Bay Marine Terminal +44 (0)1383 892123.

Question (AB) – Can drones be stopped from flying over the site?

Answer – Investigations are ongoing with Security and Health and Safety involved.

* 1. **SEPA**

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

Maintaining the Mossmorran Hub website.

Inspections:

FEP

* Joint inspection with HSE in December.
* Quarterly meetings regarding reducing nitrogen dioxide emissions
* COMAH inspection in February relating to Climate
* Continue with work looking at Ground Flare, drainage etc.
* 2024 data returns received.

FNGL

* Ground Flare inspection took place in September and switch to single Ground Flare processed in November
* Winter inspection took place in November
* COMAH safety report pre-receipt meeting took place with HSE in November

Braefoot Bay

* Data received and review complete.

Attended November site exercise.

Four complaints received:

* General flaring complaint
* Steam complaint
* Complaint regarding alarm noise, as previously discussed
* FNGL Ground Flare visibility which was investigated

SEPA continue to operate two continuous noise monitoring stations. A member of the public has requested data from the noise monitors.

Real time Air Quality monitoring data continues to be available on the SEPA website. Total VOC data isn’t on the website currently but do have the data and will be made available.

Question (PM) – Any noticeable findings from inspections?

Answer – Joint inspection with HSE checked various parts of site and looked at a multi-year fixing programme. Nitrogen Dioxide reduction project is progressing. Starting baseline work in relation to Climate Change adaptation. Works underway to make Ground Flare safe for the next 10 years. Shell drone survey footage of Ground Flare viewed.

**4.5 Update on Expert Advisory Groups**



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

The Independent Air Quality Report for 2023 is almost ready and will be sent out. Still trying to catch up post Covid, and to pick up the pace to get back on track. A number of requests have been made for information.

Air Quality group to meet after release of 2023 report to discuss 2024 report.

Noise / Vibration / Light group haven’t met as there have been no complaints / issues

There hasn’t been a need for the Communications group to meet.

General Annual report to go to Fife Council Scrutiny on the 27th of May. A request was made for flaring data for 2024 to be included, both planned and unplanned.

Question (TB) – Just looking for the number of flaring events?

Answer – Yes, just the number

Question (PM) – Can you clarify if this is planned and unplanned?

Answer – Yes, this is the number of planned and unplanned

1. **Any Other Business**

AMacD has stepped down from Burntisland Community Council may be replaced at future meetings

PF raised the matter of flight paths to / from Edinburgh Airport, and the potential for flight paths to go over the site.

AB and NK advised that there is a consultation process ongoing regarding flight paths to / from Edinburgh Airport and this can be a lengthy process. Likely to be outside of the Terms of Reference of this group, however, can provide updates if any relevant information.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 29th May 2025 in City Chambers Dunfermline.

Meeting dates for the year:

28th August 2025

27th November 2025