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**Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay**

**Community & Safety Committee Meeting**

Date: 28th November 2024

Time: 18:30

Location: City Chambers Dunfermline

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

Elaine Collins, Cardenden Community Development Forum (EC)

Lindsay Scott, Cardenden Community Council (LS)

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

Eleanor Martin – Lumphinnans Community Council (EM)

James Martin - Lumphinnans Community Council (JM)

Stuart Neill – ExxonMobil (SN)

Emma Bradshaw - ExxonMobil (EB)

Pauline McGeevor – Shell (PMcG)

David Fisher – SEPA (DF)

Tyne Bradley – Shell (TB)

Paul McGowan – Lochgelly Community Council (PM)

In attendance: Nigel Kerr - Fife Council (NK)

Kenny Bisset – Fife Council (KB)

Secretariat: Morag Paterson, Fife Council

Apologies: Toby Hamblin – ExxonMobil (TH)

Councillor Julie MacDougall - Fife Councillor (JMacD)

Cowdenbeath Community Council

Councillor David Barratt – Fife Councillor (DB)

Gordon Black - Crossgates & Mossgreen Community Council (GB)

Alex MacDonald - Burntisland Community Council (AMacD)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Noted.

1. **Declaration of Interest**

None.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes accepted.

1. **Current Situation Reports**

**4.1 Councillors**

Nothing to report.

**4.2 ExxonMobil Chemicals Ltd**

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



**4.2.1 Operations**

**Enclosed Ground Flare (EGF) engineering assessment**

As detailed in the prior Liaison Committee update, the EGF has proven to significantly reduce disturbance to local communities compared to our elevated flare.

The unit itself is a new design and the only one of its kind and size currently operating in Europe. As with many new designs, our monitoring identified areas where performance is not meeting the agreed design specifications requiring a short ‘pit stop’ to determine the scope of work. During the outage we utilised the neighbouring ground flares a the Shell NGL plant to minimise community impact.

This ‘pit stop’ was successfully completed ahead of schedule, with no community impact, and we are continuing to work with the manufacturer of the unit to engineer the necessary improvements. We have subsequently shared our findings with other operators to help them maximise this best available technology. These findings have also been discussed and shared with SEPA.

**Short Use of EGF – 26 October**

On the evening of 26 October, to allow for safely manage an unplanned increase in feedstock via the FNGL site, we diverted this excess ethane gas to the EGF. This was a short, transient event lasting just six minutes.

The EGF unit is designed to help us safely manage just such a requirement, ensuring we do not have to deploy our elevated flare and minimising potential community disturbance.

Due to the unplanned nature, combined with the very short duration, we did not issue any advisory communications.

**New Emergency Response Vehicle for FEP and Braefoot Bay**

With four decades of safe operations behind us at FEP, our commitment to invest, train and prepare ensures we remain ready to respond to any event.

We have further improved our onsite fire-fighting capabilities with the addition of a state-of-theart response vehicle, bolstering our existing technology and mutual aid arrangements with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

This ensures we have the best possible response standing ready for both our FEP and Braefoot Bay sites.

Built by Emergency One Group Ltd right here in Scotland, we are equally proud to support home grown skills and businesses.

**Visit by Dr Alasdair Allan, Scottish Government Minister for Climate Action**

Meeting the growing demand for ethylene while lowering emissions were the focus of our discussion during the Minister’s recent visit to FEP.

We explored the potential for investment in decarbonisation technology that will help to protect and grow the skilled jobs, and economic contribution, that FEP has made in Fife for almost 40 years.

We heard how the Scottish Government is pressing the case with counterparts in Westminster for the advancement of The Acorn Project and associated Hydrogen projects, and we remain committed to playing our part.

We believe FEP can have a long term future in Scotland with lower emissions technology at the heart of a just transition for the site.

**4.2.2 Employment**

**Real jobs, real skills**

We are proud that for almost 40 years we have provided a large number of skilled, high value jobs and contributed directly to the Fife local economy.

So, what does it take to safely produce up to 800,000 tonnes of ethylene every year?

500 skilled staff and contractors

70+ qualified engineers

100+ different skills

40 years of apprentices

17 contracting companies

120 supply chain companies

**4.2.3 Supporting Our Communities**

**Building Bridges in the Community**

In response to an appeal from Cardenden Community Council and the Ramblers Scotland Fife Access Forum, we have restored two local bridges, which form a valued route for local walkers.

The dedication, skills and teamwork from ExxonMobil staff and valued contractors from Bilfinger UK and Kaefer UK & Ireland ensured the results matched the exceptional workmanship of an FEP team that built the original bridges over 25 years ago. Total project represented a £10k+ investment in our community.

Safety is at the heart of everything we do, and this bridge restoration is no different. We look forward to welcoming many community members to enjoy the newly restored bridges on their walks.

**Inspiring STEM**

We have donated £50,000 to enhance future STEM talent across 20 local schools by supporting the purchase of equipment and learning aids.

This contribution is part off our long-standing commitment to provide financial and skills support to benefit learning experiences, inspire the next generation of innovators, and help students apply their knowledge to real-life situations.

**Stepping up when the community needs us**

Following a malicious fire that caused damage and the loss of all toys at Lumphinnans Primary School, we stepped up to offer help. Our team and contractors proudly came together to donate hundreds of toys to pupils affected by this unfortunate event.

Lumphinnans Community Council informed that the school were overwhelmed with the generosity and the toys are well played with and thanked ExxonMobile for this donation on behalf of the school.

**Developing the Young Workforce**

We are pleased to have made a £10,000 donation to Beath High School to launch a coffee shop initiative, that will provide hands on experience to support a Barista Level 5 vocational qualification. Working with DYW Fife, the initiative will also help develop self-confidence and interpersonal skills required in the world of work. Our funding enabled the purchase of all equipment and materials to get the project off the ground.

**4.3 Shell UK Ltd**

Tyne (TB) – talked to the report previously circulated and highlighted the following:



* + 1. **Safety and Environmental**

Operational update -Fife NGL continued a steady period of operation this reporting period. In August the first of three mini modular outages to enhance our safety systems onsite. This work was successfully completed and there are plans in place to replicate the work on the other two modules in November. We are continuing our program of steam outages to enhance and improve our steam pipelines across systems. The latest short outage commenced on Monday 18 November and is set to run for five days. A community notice was issued and SEPA were informed.

Process and personal safety - There were no process or personal safety incidents recorded in the period since the last report. There was one Health & Safety Executive inspection in August which was a mechanical inspection on the floating roof tanks. There were no actions as a result. There were two SEPA inspections - one in September focused on the ground flares, and one in November in relation to winterisation.

Environmental - SEPA have issued the site with a PPC permit variation covering several areas, including a change to the definition of major flaring at our site to make it more consistent with similar oil/gas and petrochemical sites. All instances of major flaring will be reported to SEPA in accordance with this definition - flaring of 15 tonnes or more for a continuous period of 60 minutes or more, and the requirements of our permit. This is likely to be an infrequent event for our site.

* + 1. **Emergency Response Exercises**

Two emergency response exercises have been completed since the last report, both covering low likelihood scenarios at Mossmorran. The first was an exercise scenario related to a fire in the control room basement involving several casualties. The other exercise scenario related to a reported gas release on a propane storage tank and its associated pipework. Emergency planning exercises take place every month (usually the second Thursday) and cover a multitude of scenarios throughout the year.

* + 1. **Workforce**

Currently stands at Shell Employees 62; Contractors 173; Apprentices 7 Total 242

* + 1. **Site Visits**

We were invited to attend a meeting at FEP in September with the Climate Action Minister, Dr Alasdair Allan. Discussions about operations, workforce, skills and the Scottish Government Just Transition for Mossmorran took place.

Annabelle Ewing MSP was invited to FNGL in November and was introduced to Tyne Bradley (Plant Manager), conversations about our operations and community took place.

**4.3.5 Community Notices and Feedback**

**Community notices**

One community notice was issued in November relating to a steam outage at site to allow maintenance work to be carried out.

Community notices can be read in full on the ‘Community Notices’ tab of the plant website: <https://www.shell.co.uk/about-us/projects-and-sites/shell-fife-ngl/contact.html>

**Feedback**

A complaint from a community group was received about accessing community grant funding via the Benevity system and how they found it difficult to access. The Community Liaison Officer (CLO) engaged with the group to guide them on to the next steps.

There was a request from a resident about overgrown trees near their home which is close to Braefoot Bay. The CLO engaged our land management agency to carry out some maintenance on the trees.

There was a request for information from Fife Council and SEPA about ground flaring at site. We were able to confirm we were not flaring at the time specified and reported this back to Fife Council and SEPA.

A reminder of how to make a complaint directly to Shell regarding Shell Fife NGL.

If you have a complaint or some feedback for us, and your request is not urgent, then please email [pauline.mcgeevor@shell.com](mailto:pauline.mcgeevor@shell.com).

If you need to contact Shell urgently, then please phone the Gatehouse at Shell Fife NGL +44 (0)1383 611333 or the Gatehouse at Braefoot Bay Marine Terminal +44 (0) 1383 892123.

* + 1. **Social Investment and Events**

In September a 40th Anniversary event was held to celebrate forty years of operation at the Fife NGL plant. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the milestone with colleagues from across the site.

We attended the Stemovator Teacher Awards in September at Edinburgh Napier University. Teachers were recognised for their contributions to STEM education within their respective schools.

We visited the Community Trade Hub (CTH) in Buckhaven in October and met with some of their trainees and team members. Shell UK’s downstream business launched a community giving initiative earlier this year and CTH were successful in accessing funding of up to £10,000 through the scheme. The funding will be used to deliver SQA qualifications to young people who are at risk of disengaging from mainstream education.

We are delighted that our apprentice, Rachel Newbigging has been awarded College Apprentice of the Year.

We are delighted to fund Learning through Football for a second year. The programme, delivered by Cowden in the Community offers 16 local primary schools access to a free six-week block of football and lifeskills training.

**4.3.7 2024 social investment calendar overview**

November -We visited the Girls in Energy class at Levenmouth Campus and we are visiting a local primary school who are taking part in Learning through Football later this month

September - Learning commenced at Energy Transition Skill Hub with 250 people engaged in Shell UK funded courses

August - Learning through Football started its second year of delivery

June - STEMovators Fife & Tayside Celebration event Career Ready pupil internships

May - Fife Family Fun Day

March - Girls in Energy visit to Fife NGL, Mossmorran

February - Energy Transition Skills Hub launched (Fife College) Career Ready pupil visit to site

January - DYW Fife Board visit to sit

**4.3.8 Grants, Donations and Support**

Grants – there are two separate grants available:

**Shell** **Community Kindness Grant** - This long running programme allows Shell employees and pensioners to apply for grants to support the charities and community groups near our operations in Aberdeen, Mossmorran, St Fergus, and Bacton. Applications can be made for up to £350.

**Community Grants** - Grants of up to £1,000 are available to support charities and community groups near our operations in Aberdeen, Mossmorran, St Fergus, and Bacton. These grants can be applied for by an external charity or community group.

**Shell Community Grants – 2024**

 We support communities near to our UK operations through activities that aim to meet community needs or address issues, often based on their suggestions.

Fife NGL Community Grants 2024

• Lochgelly Gala

• YMCA

• Kinghorn Gala

• Cowdenbeath Gala

 • LADAMA

• Beath High School Equity Project

 • Home Start

• Scots Verse (Burntisland Community Council)

 • Dunfermline & West Fife Bee Keeping Association

If you have a community group who would like to make an application for support, please contact Pauline McGeevor on Pauline.mcgeevor@shell.com or make an application on our website here.

**4.3.9 Ongoing Social Investment**

Shell UK supports a number of community development and STEM education programmes, which are summarised below. For more information, please click here to visit our website or contact Mairi McKay at [mairi.mckay@shell.com](mailto:mairi.mckay@shell.com).

**Scotland & fenceline programmes**

Skills Transition programme - The UK needs to grow its workforce and develop the skills required to make its net-zero economy a reality. That’s why Shell UK has developed its SkillsTransition programme, which aims to help 15,000 people into jobs with a focus on the energy transition by 2035. We want as many people as possible to benefit from the energy system of the future, so that the transition is an opportunity for everyone.

The Energy Transition Skills Hub at Fife College, in Scotland, supported by Shell UK, once built, will offer a new immersive NanoGrid Learning Environment within the college campus, which will offer a broad range of skills to students training for opportunities within energy sectors.

Shell UK Girls in Energy - A one-year course specifically designed to encourage young women to engage in STEM subjects and to consider a career in the global energy sector as it transitions towards net zero. It is for 14 to 17-year-olds, sponsored by Shell UK and delivered in partnership with Fife College and NESCol in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

STEMovators (previously Young Engineers and Science Clubs) - The programme supports learners and their teachers with a range of innovative STEM projects, developed with industry partners, including CCS in a Box and Climate Smarter. The interdisciplinary projects – accompanied by resource kits and teacher CPD courses – support teachers to tackle challenging STEM concepts through engaging activities; while supporting pupils to develop valuable skills and knowledge; to encourage uptake in STEM subjects and careers.

Shell Twilight – There are sessions running in Lochgelly. Shell Twilight is a national programme delivered by Scottish Sports Futures which provides multi-sports sessions infused with education and life-skills. Sessions are free for 11 to 21 year olds. <https://scottishsportsfutures.org.uk/shell-twilight/>

Cowden in the Community - Using football as the vehicle and tool in both the classroom and activity sessions, pupils improve on important life-skills such as leadership, resilience, respect and improve their confidence. The ‘Learning Through Football’ six-week programme is being delivered to primary schools in Cowdenbeath, Kelty, Lochgelly, Benarty/Ballingry and Cardenden.

**4.4 SEPA**

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



**4.4.1 Mossmorran Hub**:

Refreshed website link here: [Mossmorran | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency](https://beta.sepa.scot/local-environmental-issues/mossmorran/)

The website is updated regularly and the inspection from the last quarter is available.

Ground flaring, maintenance being looked at and the next inspection is due in February 2025.

**4.4.2 Inspections**:

FEP

* Project to reduce nitrogen dioxide emissions – quarterly meetings (latest in November 2024).
* Ground flare incident follow up inspection completed in August 2024.
* Maintenance Inspection completed end November 2024.
* Forthcoming COMAH Inspection on Climate Change Adaptation planned for February 2025.

FNGL

* New ground flare quarterly progress meetings next in one is December 2024
* Existing ground flares maintenance inspection completed in September 2024.
* Response to planning application for new ground flare provided to Fife Council (Nov 2024).
* Change to use of single ground flare for routine operation processed (Nov 2024).
* Winterisation inspection completed in November 2024.
* COMAH Safety Report pre-receipt meeting attended with HSE in November 2024.

Braefoot Bay

* FNGL COMAH Safety Report received in November 2024 and review ongoing.
  + 1. Complaints since last update (24 August to 21 November) – Total 4, these were general flaring complaints.
    2. Noise Monitoring - SEPA continue to operate two continuous noise monitoring stations, one at the Lochgelly water tower and the other on farmland immediately north of the Mossmorran complex.
    3. Air monitoring and website The SEPA monitoring network data continues to be available in near real time to the public at: [Mossmorran Air Quality Network (sepa.org.uk)](http://informatics.sepa.org.uk/MossmorranAirQualityNetwork/)

Successful repairs to monitors completed to restore complete coverage.

The VOC data will be available shortly and backdated to Jan 2023.

**4.5 Update on Expert Advisory Groups**

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

**Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Expert Advisory Group on Air Quality**

The Independent Air Quality Report for 2023 is being produced with an expected completion date of the end of this calendar year. Once finalised then this report will be circulated with an elected members briefing note. This will also be accompanied by a two-sided leaflet summarising the content of the report in a non-technical format. These documents will be made available on the dedicated Fife Council Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay web pages.

**Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Expert Advisory Group on Noise, Vibration and Light**

It was agreed at a previous Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee that meetings of this Group would only be as/when required given the relatively small number of complaints now received regarding Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay facilities. Any issues could be raised at the Community and Safety Committee and dealt with as a task and finish project.

**Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Expert Advisory Group on Communications**

It was agreed at a previous Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee that meetings of this Group would only be as/when required given the relatively small number of complaints/concerns now received regarding Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay facilities. Any issues could be raised at the Community and Safety Committee and dealt with as a task and finish project.

The non-technical content of the MMBB Independent Air Quality Annual Report has also been agreed with this Group.

**Mossmorran and** **Braefoot Bay General Annual Progress Report 2023 & 2024**

KB attended Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee on 3rd September 2024. The Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay General Annual Progress Report 2023 was accepted, and KB then presented to South West Fife Area, Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy Area Committees this September for noting. In general, the report was well received in particular the dramatic reduction in number of complaints. A Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay General Annual Progress Report 2024 report is to be submitted to the above Scrutiny Committee in Spring 2025. This to include number of flaring incidents at MMBB facilities and reasons for this as requested by Cowdenbeath Area Committee.

NK informed that reports were out of sync due to covid and wants to pull them all together and asked to try and get reports sooner, he acknowledges that everyone is busy and discussions can be made around this.

1. **Any Other Business**

Elaine Collins, Cardenden Community Development Forum and Cardenden Walking Club wanted to thank Exxonmobile for their contribution

At Liaison meeting in May 2024 Elaine mentioned that when Mossmorran was first established they gifted two wooden bridges which they installed on an ancient right of way …’ the Old North Road. They had faired well but had now collapsed as the wood was now rotten. She asked if there would be any consideration by the group of replacing these. Stuart Neil immediately intimated that ExxonMobil would be very interested and would scope the task. True to their word this was done in late summer by a site visit by several engineers and an agreed plan of action was formulated.

Amazingly the bridges were installed in October 2024 by a brilliant team from Exxonmobil and linked companies. They worked relentlessly from 7am till 4pm and the results were outstanding. Two new bridges of composite anti-slip material were used in the build which looks stunning. Huge thanks to all involved.

The Forum and Walking Club are hopeful that there may be a Phase 2 to the project which would include installing some more route markers and tidying up the Right of Way which is a wee bit narrow in parts.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 27th February 2025, City Chambers, Dunfermline.

Meeting dates for the year:

29th May 2025

28th August 2025

27th November 2025