

Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Community & Safety Liaison Committee Meeting

Date

Time: 18.30

Location: New City House, Dunfermline

Present: Alistair Bain, Chair – Fife Councillor
Darren Tod – Secretary
Alex Macdonald – Burntisland CC
John Raine – Shell UK Limited
Teresa Waddington – Shell UK Limited
Jacob McAlister – ExxonMobil
Stuart Neill – ExxonMobil
Alex Haddow – Cowdenbeath CC
Ian Brocklebank – SEPA
Kathleen Leslie – Fife Councillor
David Barratt – Fife Councillor
Amelia Howie – Lumphinnans CC
Peter Franklin – Dalgety Bay & Hillend CC
Willie Dryburgh – Aberdour CC
Maria.McKay@Shell.com

Apologies:

1. Apologies for Absence
David Taylor, Catherine Cubitt
2. Declaration of Interest
None
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minutes accepted
4. Current Situation Reports – Circulated Report?

4.1. Shell UK Ltd

No incidents, nothing to report for personal safety.

A cracked pressure gauge resulted in a propane gas leak on May 17 at Braefoot Bay. Incident was responded to as per protocol and resolved. No danger to members of the public.

BAT has been submitted to SEPA.

Family Fun Day – was successful.

AMc: commented that he was delighted to see the return of the family fun day and asked if any consideration had been made to having local school involved in the run up to the event.

Mairi McKay new Community Liaison Officer took up position in April. Looking into possible afternoon in local schools to involve them in the family fun day in future events.

Cllr Bain attended the event and welcomed the amount of families taking part in the science experiments and other activities. Especially enjoyed the archery.

Entries now open for Fife Art exhibition to take place October and November.

AMc: When emergency services are on site have RNLI been considered / contacted in the past.

TW: will check.

4.2. ExxonMobil Chemicals Ltd

JMc: Met Co-leaders, Chief Executive and Convener of Environment Committee to discuss how we can work together more closely and support the Community & Safety Liaison Committee.

Fully intend to support the STEM environmental pond dipping education programme and are looking for a new partner to work with.

Scheduling aptitude testing and interviews for apprenticeship programme and looking to make appointments by the end of July, with the new apprentices then starting college in August.

Flaring

Investigation ongoing, and full report will be produced in due course.

Plant is self-sufficient, no grid backup to maintain steam balance. 2 of 3 boilers are needed to run plant properly, on the day of incident plant was down to 2 boilers as one was down for maintenance. Wire snapped on trip system taking second boiler offline. When this happens steam is diverted to ensure safe operation of plant, steam had to be drawn away from flare, therefore black smoke was produced. However, this is a very safe and very effective way of burning chemicals. No health impact associated with this, but can look concerning. Boiler fault was traced, rectified and steam was rediverted and plant was returned to normal production.

Because of plant operation it is not possible to just turn off, it would take 7 days of flaring to close plant and 7 days to restart this would mean product would have to be flared for at least 14 days.

WD: how much does flaring cost, Jacob almost £1million per day

DB: Is there any update on progress of monitoring by SEPA.

J Mc – We will be releasing more information, and we have been doing work on explaining this to general public.

AB – What type of wire broke to cause this breakdown and will you be checking other cables of this type.

J Mc – All other wires have already been checked. We do functionality tests.

Limits are you can do tests to see if working and visual check.

Recommendations will cover how we address this and any possible improvements.

AB: Is it possible to reduce feedstock from Shell

J Mc: We need to maintain balance in plant to produce steam required for vital operations. Feed stock was minimal required for start-up.

AB: is it possible to provide another steam boiler specifically for the flare stack.

J Mc: Under investigation, unable to comment.

AMc: Has this happened before

J Mc: Unique set of events.

Cllr's Reports: Moved forward to allow Cllr's to attend other meetings if required.

Cllr Barratt: Very few direct emails with complaints, and nothing specific to raise. Cllr Barratt said he would await the outcome of the ongoing investigation, and his main observation is that it is important to provide full information, but accepts not everyone will be satisfied.

Jacob McAllister voiced that he was not satisfied and that as an organisation they are exploring how they can improve information sharing in the future.

Cllr Leslie: Same as Cllr Barratt no direct complaints, did ask at Auchtertool Community Cllrs, understanding only one additional complaint.

D Barrat Left meeting – 18:50.

Suggested that Cllr's report should be brought forward to item 4 in future agendas, to allow Cllr's to attend other meetings.

4.3. SEPA

A formal regulatory investigation is now underway, with around 900 complaints being received regarding the latest episode of flaring. This is the highest volume that Ian has experienced for a single even. Ian did, however, confirm that the 900 was not a verified figure and acknowledged that not all were complaints, some were multiple submissions by the same individual and some were part of a coordinated campaign. Ian committed to presenting the verified figures at a future meeting.

The majority of calls were answered, but because of volume SEPA did struggle to answer every call. This is something SEPA are looking to address going forward.

During the event, Air Quality Monitoring was carried out. The full report is online, however Ian acknowledged that SEPA are conscious that this information should be presented in a understandable format for the public.

BAT Assessment is currently running on time, and it is important that the outcomes are available sooner rather than later.

At the recent public meeting it was expressed that people want the public agencies to work collaboratively. SEPA has been meeting with NHS Fife and Fife Council regularly. And looks to meet with the Health and Safety Executive in the near future.

J Mc : Have you considered oil and gas authority.
SEPA: Yes

Cllr Leslie asked for the makeup of the complaints, was it mainly telephone calls or emails? Also, where the complaints individual and unique. Ian answered that it was a mix of both, primarily individual complaints but they are looking to investigate further.

It was raised that a smell was being emitted from the flaring event. SEPA staff deployed around the surrounding area did not experience this. However, it was acknowledged that this had been mention by numerous people.

Monitors where placed strategically around the communities, based on wind direction etc forecasts from the MET Office.

AB: There has been talk online about where, when and for how long you were monitoring. Online information can be interpreted at only 18 minutes of monitoring.

SEPA; we tried to ensure that the community could see we were monitoring we also tried to understand what the communities were experiencing.

We are looking at ways to communicate why and what we are monitoring.

Cllr Bain raised the issue of unanswered calls, and reports that people had been informed that they had reached the wrong department. SEPA confirmed that at peak times not all calls where answered, and they are looking how in future they can improve this when there are flaring incidents.

4.4: Cllrs: Reports

Cllr Bain reported on the recent meeting of the Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group regarding who should take responsibility for looking into noise and light pollution from Mossmoran. It was determined in the end that this should come to this committee. It was agreed by all that this should be explored, however necessary expertise would have to be sought to allow this to happen. Cllr Bain will raise this with Fife Council.

On the matter of the role of this committee and Fife Councils commitment, a meeting took place between representatives of FEP and the Co-Leaders of Fife Council, its Chief Executive and Convener of Environmental Committee. They have agreed to consider the matter, and the companies have reiterated they are willing cover any costs if required.

Cllr Bain welcomed the news, and discussed how any decisions can best be communicated.

ExxonMobil and Shell reiterated the offer made to Fife Council Co-Leaders, Chief Executive and Chair of Environment Committee to commit funds to support the proper resourcing and communication of the Liaison Committee.

Cllr Bain reported having received 183 emails regarding motion to Fife Full Council. Motion as amended was passed by Fife Council.

The committee discussed the motion passed by Fife Full Council (insert). Jacob McAlister informed that whilst meeting with the Co-Leaders of Fife Council and the Chief Executive they discussed the motion and if the perception from the public was equal to the reality. The perception raised was that the motion called for the plant to be decommission, although the meaning of this was also not clear. Both Shell and ExxonMobil reiterated there long term commitment to Mossmorran, its maintenance, and securing its ongoing role as an important strategic resource of national importance.

The committee agreed that the agenda would be sent out 1 week in advance, and reports from Shell, ExxonMobil and SEPA would also be circulated in advance to allow opportunity for members to look over and consider items they may wish to raise.

5: Questions re Flaring

Need electronic copy of answers to questions raised.

The committee agreed with the Cllr Bains suggestion that going forward 'Question Time' will be a permanent item. This will allow Community Councillors the opportunity to submit questions to Shell, ExxonMobil and SEPA who can submit written answers that will then be included in the minutes. A discussion took place on how Community Councillors would know who to direct questions too, and it was agreed that if possible, they will be directed towards the correct organisation, however if unsure the companies representatives have agreed to liaise to decide who is best to answer.

6: Committee Membership

To be discussed with Fife Council re planning conditions.

7: Any Other Competent Business

Committee agreed agenda would be sent out one week in advance and reports from Shell, ExxonMobil and SEPA would also be circulated in advance to allow opportunity for members to look over and consider items they may wish to raise.

Meeting Closed – 1943

Date of Next Meeting: 12 September 2019, 1830 in Brunton House
Dunfermline