

Note of the meeting of the Tinker Lane Community Liaison Group held on Thursday 7th January 2016 in Barnby Moor Village Hall.

Gordon Grant from IGas opened the meeting and gave a short explanation about the purpose of the CLG. He explained that the group is led from within and although IGas offer assistance with the running of the meetings they are very much guests.

He then explained that this initial meeting was likely to focus on procedural issues.

Kris Bone, Asset Manager from IGas gave an update of where they are with their Tinker Lane development. IGas have submitted a scoping report to Nottinghamshire County Council with a view to submitting a planning application to drill one exploratory well. The application is likely to be submitted in 3-4 months and would be accompanied by a voluntary environmental impact assessment.

Once validated, there will be a six week consultation period, during which the public can submit comments on the application.

Throughout the meeting discussions tended to veer back to the issue of fracking and these conversations have been captured at the end of the meeting note.

Terms of Reference

A copy of the Springs Road terms of reference was distributed for comment. It was felt that the T of R did not reflect that fact that this was essentially a fact finding group, and was independent of IGas and so the document should be amended to reflect this.

It was agreed that the membership would consist of up to 2 members from Each Parish Council and 1 member of the local community in each Parish. Members can send a proxy if they cannot attend.

It was agreed that IGas would not be included as members of the CLG but attendees.

It was agreed that local representatives from Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council would attend in an ex officio capacity as guests at future meetings.

It was agreed that an IGas representative would act as secretariat for the meetings and that a note of meetings would be compiled and made available publically. The meetings will also be recorded using an audio recorder and put on the website.

There was a discussion as to whether a member of a Frack Free group should be invited to take part but it was pointed out that some of the CLG members may also be members of these types of groups. The decision was made to add wording to the effect that the CLG may invite anyone they like to attend meetings if they feel it would add benefit to a particular discussion.

There was a suggestion that a working group should be formed to rewrite the Terms of Reference but it was agreed that Rhonda would send out a revised Terms of Reference incorporating the changes suggested and the group would decide whether a working group was still necessary following review.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Liz Yates proposed Christie Willis as Chair and this was seconded by Rob Boeuf. Rob Boeuf was proposed by Liz Yates as Vice Chair and this was seconded by Tracey Taylor. Both accepted the positions.

It was agreed that either Tony Roberts or Bob Kendall would attend each meeting, as they have also been part of the Springs Road CLG since its inception.

The group asked if IGas would pay for independent experts to attend and Gordon explained that they would look at this on a case by case basis, but that in the case of Springs Road charges had not been incurred by speakers to date.

Meeting Frequency

It was agreed that in the initial stages of the development meetings should be held fortnightly. Christie suggested that members should compile a list of people they would like to have talk at meetings. It was agreed that Liz Yates and Sheila Place should ask the Planning Officers at Nottinghamshire County Council if they would be willing to attend an early meeting in order to explain the planning process. They agreed to do this.

Other speakers identified included experts from IGas to talk about drilling, seismic and geology. A representative from Oil and Gas UK and representatives from the Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive would also be welcomed. Rhonda explained that she was trying to pull together a meeting with the regulators and it was likely that this would be a joint meeting with the Springs Road CLG. This was acceptable to the group.

At this point Gordon suggested a visit to the IGas Coal Bed Methane site at Doe Green, which was welcomed.

It was further agreed that future meetings should be held at Lound Village Hall.

Questions

Throughout the meeting there were many questions and issues raised. They are summarised below.

- Q How many wells are IGas likely to develop in the area?
- A As yet they don't know. When IGas obtain a licence in an area they are obligated by Government to explore these and determine whether hydrocarbons are present. Until they drill they don't know what they will find. They need to explore and assess before deciding whether a move to production is viable. This is also all dependent on obtaining various planning permissions and permits.
- Q How will this development affect property prices? We already have 2 quarries in the area and this will create something of a 'perfect storm.'
- A An IGas representative explained that they are applying for an exploratory well only at this stage and so this should not affect house prices. He quoted a report which was carried out when Cuadrilla drilled which showed no effect on house prices. This document is attached.
- Q What is the difference between a fracking well and a conventional well?
- A At present this is not an application to frack a well. Before IGas could do this they would need to carry out 3d seismic, which would only be justified if the results of their current application for an exploratory vertical well were positive. However, the engineering is the same.
- Q Will you drill water monitoring boreholes as part of this work?
- A Yes, the application will include the drilling of water monitoring boreholes.

Q Can you give us an indicative timescale for the development?

A Planning Application submitted 3-4 months

Statutory Consultation 6 weeks

Site Construction 3 months Q 3 – 4 2016

Drilling 3-4 months

Analysis

Q Can you explain the community benefit plans?

A At present there will be no payment to the community as it is tied into a fracking application and at present there are no plans to frack. However IGas do have a community fund which pays out up to £15000 to local groups who apply and are situated within a short distance of any of their operational sites.

Q Notwithstanding that this is not a fracking application, if ownership of the company changes between now and a fracking operation taking place, will the community benefit clause be honoured?

A The Community Benefit payments are an industry wide agreed programme, backed by Government and so will be honoured.

Q Are you looking for shale, CBM, hydrocarbons?

A IGas are planning to explore a core of the geology and may find any of the above.

Q What happens if the site is abandoned?

A It will be a condition of planning that if we decide to abandon the well we will reinstate the site to its former condition.

There followed a long conversation about the use of water. Kris Bone explained that water will be used to cool the drill and bring back drill bits and mud. He explained that water would be brought in by tanker unless another option could be found, which might involve local abstraction onsite or joining into the generic water supply. However the default position is that IGas would bring tankered water in. The water would be removed using tankers and taken to a designated waste water treatment facility. Routes had yet to be decided.

Any Other Business

Bob Kendall explained that there was to be a Brownfield Briefing Conference in London in February on the topic of shale gas. He and colleagues from the CLG had attended last year and found it very useful. Several of the CLG expressed an interest in attending. The link to the event is: <https://brownfieldbriefing.com/unconventional-gas>

IGas were asked whether they had planning permission for the current structures in place at Tinker Lane (Fences and Security Cabin) Kris explained the need for security in order to ensure no protestor camps could be built on the site. IGas feel that this is not development activity and so no planning permission is necessary. They are in discussion with Bassetlaw District Council regarding this. It was pointed out that the farmer is still using the field for his crops.

Christie reported that a local parish councillor had gone to the site and was approached by IGas security, who was very abusive and nasty to him. This negatively impacts on IGas. Rob stated that he had also been challenged at the gate, feeling that the security guard over reacted to his presence.

Gordon apologised and stated that he will investigate further and will reiterate to security staff the need for behaving in an appropriate manner.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st January at 7pm in Lound Village Hall.