

Minute of the Tinker Lane CLG, held at Lound Village Hall on Thursday 10th March at 7pm.

In attendance: Rob Boeuf, Chick Fraser, George Fridlington, Sally Hill, Peter Thompson, Tracey Taylor, Julia Kershaw, Bev Fullwood, Sheila Place, Gordon Grant, Rhonda Miller, Jonathan Smith, Oliver Meek.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Jonathan Smith and Oliver Meek from Notts County Council planning department. He thanked Julia for the teas and coffees and Rhonda for the minute. Apologies were received from Michelle Field, Liz Yates, Ann Fraser, Christie Willis and Sharon Dyson.

2. Minute of last Meeting

The minutes were accepted as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

Update on Community Benefit

Gordon reported that he had spoken to UKOOG and that their response was similar to what had been reported at the last meeting. It is not easy to define a community but it is likely that the community will be those who have properties closest to any development and those who have

3 Pilots will commence once fracking begins. These will be developed in collaboration with communities. Gordon has asked for clarity on the pilots – ideally he wants something that the industry can publish to explain the community benefits pilots to the community.

Misson Seismic Communications

Rhonda reported that although Jayne Watson had indicated at the last meeting that there was no communication with the community before seismic testing was carried out in Bassetlaw, this was not the case. Tesla had send out leaflets and put up notices prior to work commencing. They also spoke to several parish councils in the area. Bev noted that any communication must have been poor, as she could not remember anything.

When asked whether communication with IGas was one way, Gordon replied that in the North West, they had held two exhibitions and visited people's homes to discuss their plans. People attending the exhibitions had the opportunity to express their views or concerns. However, peoples concerns were not about the seismic acquisition but what might come after ie fracking.

Open Sessions

Gordon agreed that the likely date for submission of the planning application would be in April and that IGas would hold a public exhibition once the application is vaildated. Rob stated that there is a need to do something soon to raise awareness of what is proposed and to capitalise on any IGas event. It was agreed to keep this on the agenda.

The group discussed whether they would like to organise a multidisciplinary event and how they would publicise this. Oliver pointed out that the regulators had held a very successful event at Misson, with over 70 people attending and he felt sure they would replicate this once a Minerals Planning Application is submitted.

Doe Green Visit

The visit to Doe Green will take place on Monday 25th April. Gordon confirmed that this is a Coal Bed Methane site but looks the same as a producing shale site would. He also confirmed that it is producing and the electricity created from the gas is sent to the national grid.

Leaflets

Rob expressed the view that the North Notts Update, which IGas had sent out before Christmas was a useful tool. A discussion followed about what the TLC would like to achieve from a leaflet. Gordon pointed out that a further leaflet would be sent out by IGas before our exhibition. It was agreed that the group would think about what they would like to see in a leaflet.

Speakers at future meetings

It was confirmed that Janice Bradley of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust will speak at the next meeting. Rhonda suggested that the group should timetable in some technical speakers, so that the group can gain the technical knowledge necessary to answer questions from the community. Bev stated that this had been really useful for the Springs Road CLG. It was agreed that Rhonda should set up some dates, with Kris Bone being a potential first speaker.

Rob asked if we could talk to partners within the PEDL? Gordon explained that they had expressed a wish to attend the CLG. He asked if we are in contact with them and Gordon explained that they talk daily. It was agreed that it would be good to hear from the partners.

For information IGAs hold 55% of PEDL 200, Engie 25% and Ineos 20%.

4. Presentation from Nottinghamshire County Council Planners

Jonathan Smith, Team Manager and Oliver Meek, Principal Planning Officer had attended to give an overview of the planning process and what happens at committee.

Oliver explained that so far IGas have submitted a scoping report to Notts CC which is a formal discussion to agree what the Environmental Impact Assessment will contain. The planning team then responded with a scoping opinion, which details any further information the Council wish to have included.

Rob asked why the Council had responded to IGas agents rather than the company itself, and Jonathan explained that this is normal practice, in much the same way as you might ask your architect to look after the planning side of an extension you were having built.

Rob felt that working in this way did not make sense but Oliver explained that this is such normal practice that there is a section on the planning application which allows for an agent's details to be submitted. He also pointed out that the planning permission goes with the land rather than the applicant.

Rob asked whether it would be the case then that IGas would not necessarily operate the site. Jonathan confirmed that this could be the case, but whoever operated would be required to adhere to any conditions imposed by the planning authority.

Rob then asked where the landowner sits with regard to enforcement action. It was explained that any enforcement notices would be served on both the landowner and the operator.

Oliver went on to explain that they would then put notices in local newspapers, at site and they also send letters to properties closest to the proposed development. For the Misson Springs application they also prepared a press release, as they felt the application was likely to generate a great deal of interest.

They would also consult with statutory consultees at this time. The statutory period for consultation is 3 weeks although at Misson Springs this was extended. It is probable that any application submitted at Tinker Lane would also be extended. He suggested that the CLG members should let the planning team know how long they think the timescale should be.

Rhonda explained that at Springs Road the consultation was extended to 6 weeks and then the CLG asked for it to be extended further and this was agreed.

Oliver then went on to explain that as a result of these consultations, it is often recognised that further information is required in order to determine the application and so the Council will go back to the applicant and ask for further information. This information is then consulted on again by the community and statutory consultees.

Only when the planning team are happy that they have all the information required will they write a report and make a recommendation.

The report is taken to the planning committee and a decision will be taken based on the report contents and the discussions had. The report is released 1 week prior to the meeting and is available to the public.

It will either be granted or refused. If the permission is granted there are likely to be a number of conditions attached. It may be decided to use a legal agreement – commonly used regarding transport routes and limitations.

Jonathan then explained what will happen during the planning committee meeting. Initially he would introduce the application, using powerpoint to summarise the detail. He would then make any observations he feels relevant before confirming the recommendation.

Then there is an opportunity for 3 members of the public who are for the development and 3 who are against to each speak for 3 minutes. Following each speaker Elected Members can ask questions for clarification.

Occasionally the public can ask for Special Procedures to be invoked, but this has happened only a handful of times. If the Chair decided to invoke these, then up to three action groups can speak for a total of 10 minutes each and can provide a presentation. This is only used for significant operations where there is a high level of public interest.

Jonathan pointed out that although the Officers will make recommendations the Elected Members make whatever decision they feel appropriate. However they must make sure that there are valid planning reasons for their decisions and may require legal advice as to whether a reason is valid.

Following on from the public speakers the local Councillor will speak. At this point the MP can also make comments. The local Elected Member will have 20 minutes to speak.

The application is then debated and at this time the members can ask further questions of the planning officers.

At this point the application will be put to a vote. There are 11 members of the planning committee and the Chair has the casting vote.

Members of the public can sit in the viewing gallery and there is another room adjacent to the chamber where the public can hear what is being said.

If the decision is to approve then each condition attached must have a reason behind it. If the application is refused then the reasons why must be set out.

Jonathan explained that the planning committee is made up of cross party elected County Councillors (list attached.) Rob noted that there are no local members in the committee.

The planning officers were asked if this type of application is new to them and they replied that although they have not had 'unconventional' applications they have had very many 'conventional' applications and pointed out that there are coal bed methane sites across the county.

Upon being asked whether they felt capable to assess this type of application, Jonathan stated that although some elements will be unique there is an established team to deal with planning applications and they are quite capable.

He was asked whether the likelihood that this will lead to fracking eventually would have an impact and replied that each application must be determined on its own merits. This was made clear at the meeting to determine the Misson Springs Ground Water Monitoring Boreholes.

There was a discussion about what would happen if the Councillors refused the application on the grounds that this was a precursor to fracking and the planning officials explained that if this were to happen the decision would be appealed and could cost the tax payer significant costs and so the Council would seek to avoid this happening.

The planners were asked whether a company can keep re-applying forever. Oliver explained that the Council can refuse to entertain an application if it is not materially different from a previously refused application.

Rob asked whether consultees have to respond to a consultation. Oliver explained that the County Council had an obligation to invite them to respond, but it is up to the individual organisation to decide whether they will. It is likely that people did not respond to the scoping report consultation because they were happy with the suggested areas of content.

There followed a conversation about how technical some of these applications are and Bev stated that this was when the IGas offer to bring technical experts to speak was very useful. It was suggested that the non-technical summaries take a snapshot of each of the main issues and this can be helpful.

Jonathan and Oliver encouraged the group to make contact with them should they require assistance, they seek to be transparent and inclusive and ensure everyone has their opportunity to comment.

5. Update on Tinker Lane from Tracey Taylor

Tracey wanted to update people on the events of the recent full council meeting. As the group is aware when Bassetlaw District Council were asked to provide input to the Springs Road Water Monitoring Boreholes Application they chose to take the issue to a full planning committee, which meant that the public could be involved and have their say. As a result of this a further condition was imposed on the planning permission.

Following this, Cllrs Critchley and Taylor asked that any further applications dealing with unconventional oil or gas should be aired in the same way – at a full planning committee with the public present.

However the motion was effectively refused with an amendment calling for the planning committee to give the policy some considered thought over the next six months. Tracey wished to register her disappointment at the attitude taken by the Council.

Oliver pointed out that for the Misson Springs application Bassetlaw, North Lincs and Doncaster were all statutory consultees and they all took the issue to the full planning committee.

At this point Chick asked whether the County Council took into account how many people were ‘for’ or ‘against’ a development. Oliver explained that this was not taken into account. One relevant submission with material planning considerations detailed would be of value, large numbers without cognisance of material planning considerations was not.

6. Any Other Business

Peter informed the group that the National Liberal Democrat Conference is held this weekend in Glasgow and one motion is to ban fracking. It is expected that this will go through. He stated that he feels environmental issues will take a higher profile politically over the coming period.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Lound Village Hall on Thursday 24th March at 7pm with Janice Bradley of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in attendance.

Planning Committee Members

Party	Name	Role	Membership Dates
 Conservative	Andrew Brown	Member	04/06/2015 - current
 Labour	Roy Allan	Member	17/08/2015 - current
 Labour	Steve Calvert	Member	02/10/2014 - current
 Labour	Jim Creamer	Member	20/11/2014 - current
 Liberal Democrats	Stan Heptinstall MBE	Member	25/02/2016 - current
 The Ashfield Independents Group	Rachel Madden	Member	04/06/2015 - current
 Conservative	Mrs Sue Saddington	Vice-Chairman	15/05/2013 - current
 Mansfield Independent Forum	Andy Sissons	Member	26/05/2015 - current
 Conservative	Keith Walker	Member	29/01/2016 - current
 Labour	John Wilkinson	Chairman	15/05/2014 - current
 Labour	Yvonne Woodhead	Member	15/05/2013 - current