

## Angus Energy Community Liaison Group Balcombe Parish Council (BPC) Notes

Meeting held in Bramble Hall

On Wednesday 28 August commencing at 7.00 pm

4 Members Angus Energy	Charles Metcalfe BPC Chair (CM) Sue Taylor BPC Councillor (ST) Max Preston Bell BPC Councillor (MPB) Alison Stevenson BPC Councillor (AS) Rosemary Robertson Clerk (RR)
Andrew MacNaughton (AM) MSDC Councillor Gary Marsh MSDC District Councillor (GM) Police (PD) Paul Collard MSDC (PC) Chris Bartlett WSCC Planner (CB) Ed Anderson (WSCC)	4 Balcombe Residents

1	A brief welcome was given, and Angus outlined that they wanted to reassure people that in this new phase of operations any arising issues would be addressed as soon as possible e.g. Signage to the site
2	A planning application to carry out an Extended Flow Test (EWT) would be submitted shortly. These CLG meetings would hopefully allow Angus to ascertain what had gone right last time and correct what had gone wrong.
3	A brief history of the site was given – in 2018 the 7 day flow test found oil but also unexpected water which at the time they had assumed was formation water (from the rock). Subsequently it was discovered to be water left over from the drilling by Cuadrilla.
4	<p>What would happen and what would be applied for....</p> <p><b>Stage 1</b> Taking roughly 3 weeks would be the pumping out of the remaining fluid/water to hopefully see oil behind. This represents c. 160 barrels (42 gallons per barrel) of losses that were not reported before due to inaccurate records (Angus noted that unreported losses were extremely common in the drilling of all wells both oil and water). After this time then either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) They may see actual formation water (confirmed via salinity testing) and will re-assess options</li> <li>b) They may see oil and would move onto Stage 2</li> </ul> <p><b>Stage 2</b> Extended flow test to see if the well will operate at commercial rates over 2 – 3 years. The process will involve a series of flowing &amp; shut-in periods over different lengths of time (varying from hours to months depending on the technical objectives). It is a lengthy process and the aim is to fully assess the characteristics of the reservoir and ascertain the possible long term performance and sustained rates</p>
5	Equipment on site. In 2018 everything was removed, the well test equipment and the coiled tubing unit. During Stage 1 only half the well testing equipment will be required and no coiled tubing. Stage 1 involves simply the installation of the pump on

	<p>the well. If it is successful then the rest of the equipment will be brought in but still no coiled tubing unit which would only be used as a contingency.</p> <p>Nitrogen lifting, as used in 2018, may have to be used via the coiled tubing unit if required.</p> <p>Transportation of equipment would be more staggered than last time – between 1 – 3 weeks. The first half of equipment would arrive at the beginning of stage 1, and the second half at the beginning of stage 2. During the extended well test itself, movements are anticipated to be maybe a tanker or two a day plus staff cars entering/exiting the site.</p> <p>The Planning Application will offer the worst case scenario in terms of traffic movements. If the well flows with the pump and no contingency options are required then traffic movements would be less as there would be no requirement for the coiled tubing unit and associated equipment.</p> <p>Last time there were concerns about inadequate signage which will be rectified this time – signs will be clear with directions posted</p> <p>Noise was a concern and acoustic panels will be placed around the generators. The coiled tubing unit was loud and this may not be on site at all. If it is, acoustic panels would also be placed around the equipment.</p> <p>A District Councillor suggested that banksmen be on site to guide traffic in – Angus said that security and logistics people will be on hand to direct traffic.</p> <p>Last time there was congestion within the site on the track which impacted on traffic on the road so that issue has now been resolved through altering the internal track.</p> <p>Should lorries call ahead from the M23 so they are expected?</p>
6	There was a question about the flare. This would only be used at Stage 2 and would be the same flare as last time.
7	Is Balcombe’s Kimmeridge Shale different from Brockham where fracking was the only solution for extraction? Angus said they “felt confident” that it was different based on extensive geochemical analysis as well as the fact that flowing oil was clearly observed during the previous work. They hope that they will not have to use acid but it is a contingency option. Acid washing is common for oil and water wells.
8	They are only expecting the water removal to last 2/3 days depending on the exact volumes. Last time Angus were not aware of the unaccounted 160 bbls of drilling fluid that had been left over from the drilling of the well by Cuadrilla in 2013.
9	It was requested that information on their findings be shared with the community as much as was commercially possible. Angus had raised the levels of transparency and CLG meetings will be held every couple of months.
10	The Permit has already been given but variation requests will go in and the EA will have several pre-operational conditions that will need to be discharged. The Oil & Gas Authority will not give permission until all the regulators are happy and stipulations have been adhered to. The OGA also assess operational competency looking at financial capabilities, money in the bank, insurance policies, CVs of technical staff etc
11	Angus said that although the share price was currently 1p this was unrealistic and it should be valued at £20/25 million with shares worth five times the current 1p. Angus talked about investors being emotionally driven as opposed to value driven visualising a “gusher” and gambling The Lincolnshire gas field represents very good cash flow so they will not need to fund raise.

12	Brockham (Another Angus Energy Site) had formation water and Balcombe is a “sweeter spot” in the Weald which should have better oil bearing capacity.
13	The next CLG meeting will be 4/6 weeks after the Planning Application has gone in. The process takes c13 weeks. Once the application is submitted it is not relevant for WSCC to attend CLGs. The CLG can address questions that come up from residents from the application process. BPC will have a line of communication with WSCC to comment and discuss issues. The WSCC Planner will make recommendations to the Planning Committee but they will make the decision.
14	Angus are willing to have additional meetings to alleviate concerns. Q & A sheets presented in advance worked well last time. A site visit was requested and Angus said this should be possible but there would not be much to see initially. A Parish Councillor stressed that Balcombe was a quiet village so generator noise at night was a real concern although train noise was always present
15	The EA have approved the flare for the second stage (the same as before). Could one be viewed in operation? The same flare is at Horse Hill and could be viewed there.
16	Light pollution levels were queried with longer evenings making it more noticeable. Angus said it would generally not stretch beyond the perimeter.
17	Noise/pollution monitoring – Base line data was imperative - Generators would run 24 hours. Residents felt it was important to monitor not just on the site boundaries but within the village too. The flare will be shrouded and will give off some exhaust fumes but no naked flame will be visible. Pollution will be monitored with air emission tubes around the site and a model for the flare stack itself. Flare emissions were likened to central heating boilers in the village. BPC asked that Angus be transparent on results from the monitoring tubes. Cuadrilla had lost the data when contractors removed the tubes at the same time as the fencing and lost them. Angus said that they would supply this data.
18	In summary next CLG will be from 4/6 weeks from the application being posted. Angus will notify CLG members when the application has been submitted. There will be no drilling activity during the operation only well testing. If it does flow at sustainable commercial rates then they will declare it commercial and apply for a production licence. Commercial viability would be of the order of 50 - 200 barrels a day (1 lorry a day) highly dependent on project economics. There was discussion about the traffic flow which would be approved at the planning stage. It made no sense for traffic coming from the South to use Junction 10a. BPC asked if another well would be drilled at a different angle if it was commercial. Angus said it was possible but unknown at present. They cited the Poole Harbour oil field at Brownsea which had been in production from the 80s and was hardly visible even though it was a much larger scale. BPC questioned methane emissions which had been in the press recently. Angus said that they were “not concerned,” it had not been seen at Lower Stumble before and it would be monitored all the time.
19	Meeting closed 8.05 pm