

Local Liaison Group Meeting
Wednesday 30th January 2008
Rose and Crown Public House, Old Romney

Attendees

Neale East –Rye resident
Jim Pilcher –East Guldeford resident
Caroline Solly –Brookland resident Ivychurch Parish Council.
Eddie Lang – East Guldeford resident
Barbara Walsh –Former councillor at Lydd
Sandra Banyard –Old Romney Village
Pat Brazier –Camber Parish Council
Belinda Cripps
David Cripps
Frank Kerry
Simon Holt –NRL
Ian Gardener – NRL
Martin Kelly – NRL
Robert Kerr-Bonner – NRL
Tom Worvill - NRL

Not Present

Colin Hill –Brookland Parish Council
Simon Ashworth –Councillor from Lydd, Adjacent farmer at LCC.
David Rhys-Jones
Simon Ashworth

Introductions

Update on Construction

Ian Gardner provided photo's of the work progress to date, confirming that construction works are generally on track, with some elements ahead of schedule and others marginally behind.

Several of the bases have been piled and the remainder will continue to be prepared and poured the following week (weather permitting). First visible construction on site will be the erection of Western Anemometry Masts – One in a permanent position and one temporarily located on a turbine base. The temporary mast will be located to a permanent position on the Eastern side of the site in advance of operation of the site. First heavy load/large deliveries will take place in April with the turbines themselves arriving from June onwards.

Since a complaint from the Highways Agency a JCB *Fasttrack* with a sweeper unit has been deployed on the A259, this together with the wheel-wash and twice daily road inspections have resulted in a marked improvement in the road condition.

Matters arising from residents

Caroline Solly pointed out an issue that had arisen in that the *Fastrack* was using the roadside entrance leading to her property to execute a three-point turn for the return trip and was reversing out onto the main road. This has the potential to damage the bridge crossing. It was pointed out that more suitable turning points were available a short distance down the road and Martin Kelly agreed that this would be taken on board and relayed to the operator. Several individuals expressed their concern at cars overtaking the JCB and other site traffic on the approach to the site entrance, although it was agreed there was little that could be done to alleviate this problem. Signage was in place at an appropriate distance from the site entrance to inform drivers of the construction site.

Caroline Solly expressed her concern at the lack of adherence to the working time limits and stated that site traffic was visible from 7.00am making its way out to the turbine bases. In addition there were several occasions when works had extended beyond the agreed working time. Caroline Solly went on to add that she did not feel that the need to complete foundations could be classified as an emergency and works should not be commenced if they could not be completed during the same working day. Martin Kelly confirmed that he would look into this and remind the contractors of their obligations.

An issue was highlighted where the EDF and its sub-contractors had retained road closed signs when this was not the case and this in turn had led to disruption to residents and businesses. Martin Kelly confirmed that a meeting with the sub-contractors was proposed for the following week and he would raise the matter of the incorrect/inaccurate signage with them.

It was noted that the residents of Church Square, Rye seemed to be happy with the works, with few observations being made over the condition of the roads.

AOB

It was confirmed that suitable first aid trained staff were present on site at all times and that all working procedures are carried out in accordance with the relevant H&S and CDM requirements.

The Archaeological surveys are understood to have been completed and the formal findings were awaited. Frustratingly until the formal report is received, the services of the on-site archaeologist could not be dispensed with.

Confirmation of the delivery date of the transformer was requested and this will be provided when a firm date is known, although it was confirmed that this was purely a heavy load, while the turbines themselves, due to their size would have the greatest impact on traffic during delivery.

As a result of the costs awarded in respect of the Lydd objection, the provision of circa £70,000 of additional community scheme funding was discussed. It was confirmed that whilst schemes of up to £14,000 were preferred, smaller proposals would be considered. To apply to the Environmental Grant scheme contact Katy Woodington in the first instance by e-mail at:

katy.woodington@npower-renewables.com

or by letter at:

Katy Woodington
npower renewables,
Dolgarrog Power Station,
Dolgarrog,
Conwy,
LL32 8QE

Thank you for your attendance.

Date of next meeting: 1st April 2008 @ 6.30pm Venue – Rose and Crown Public House