

## **Community Liaison Group Meeting**

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 2pm, Burton Agnes Hall**

### **Attendees**

Sue Burt (elected by BA Parish Council) (SB)

Matthew Sunman (planning officer, Local Planning Authority) (MS)

Simon Cunliffe-Lister (Burton Agnes Renewables Ltd) (SCL)

Rob Heap (Rob Heap Consulting, project manager for Burton Agnes Renewables Ltd) (RH)

### **Apologies**

Rick Dewhurst (Burton Agnes Renewables Ltd) (RD)

Simon Caine (environment officer, Environment Agency) (SC)

Clive Neale (elected by BA Parish Council) (CN)

### **Agenda**

- Apologies (Simon Caine, Clive Neale, Rick Dewhurst)
- Project update (Rob Heap)
- Matters raised by the community
- Any other business
- Date of next meeting: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 2pm, on site (activities permitting)

### **Minutes**

Apologies for absence received from Rick Dewhurst, Clive Neale, and Simon Caine.

### **Matters arising from previous minutes**

Site visit: during the meeting it was agreed to host the next meeting at the site, provided the site activities are not prohibitive of this. If they are then the meeting can be relocated to the Courtyard Meeting Room at Burton Agnes Hall and a separate time scheduled for visiting the site. Interested parties that may wish to visit, include SB, CN, Gary Burt, and other interested community members. Also, through MS, committee members; and ecology/landscaping officer(s). SCL commented that the landscaping plans which had been comprehensively worked on during the planning application needed final confirmation; MS advised he would be the point of contact for this, and it was commented that in confirming these it might be an appropriate time for the ecology/landscaping officer(s) to visit. SCL commented that the plans will need finalising in time to allow planning and ordering of plants for planting in the bare root winter planting season. SCL advised MS that he would contact the agents Brown & Co to pull together the landscaping plans that were developed in the planning application and present them to MS for appropriate confirmation within the planning authority.

The access from Pit Lane for feedstocks coming in north of Burton Agnes village has been introduced. The introduction of the access was considered by the planning authorities to come under agricultural permitted development as it is on agricultural land, and for carrying agricultural crops, off an unclassified road. This therefore required appropriate notification and provision of information to the planning authority, which was provided and considered; but didn't require a full planning application. SCL highlighted that there remains (for the bare root planting season) the work of planting up with hedge the pre-existing farm access off Pit Lane, further south, netting off the permitted removal of hedge for the creation of the new access.

### **Update on activities**

RH gave an update on activities. No operational activity in terms of producing gas, or digestate spreading since last meeting. Focussed on construction and co-ordinating what needs to be done by who and when. Process tanks are all but complete in construction (digester tank, digestate store, feeder tank); except for the digester which has c.10 days work to complete the ceiling and make gas tight. Once completed move from predominantly civil engineering build in the tanks/bunded area to a mechanical installation of the equipment onto the tanks. c. 6 weeks of installing technology, mixers, etc. around the bunded area. Gas membrane roof to go on the digestate store towards the end of August, dependent on weather (particularly wind). Consistent high winds would postpone this. Some more of the gas upgrading technology has been installed since March.

RH notified MS that there has been the need for an additional piece of equipment to the gas processing area, which would be picked up in the amendments with planning. Expect end of September / early October to complete details for planning amendments. An example is the need to put down a pipeline protection slab, to cover the area where the gas pipeline runs south from the site. A 4 metre square concrete slab (approx.) is required for this by Northern Gas Networks. This is an example of some of the non-negotiable requirements that have been instructed by Northern Gas Networks and Northern Power Grid (who have requested a change to the location of the electricity connecting sub-station, a c.4 metre square floor area structure).

The other silage clamps are being constructed. The two eastern clamps are constructed; with the southern of the two being filled now with silage from the rye harvest. Drainage systems are being installed. The tanks have been water tested and passed.

Likely to be gas testing and leak testing the plant around 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> September for seeding 12<sup>th</sup> September. For gas testing the whole system is purged with nitrogen. The nitrogen is then forced out of the chimney by the biogas produced; until the system is fully containing biogas/biomethane. Optimistically these dates could be earlier. 10 day period of seeding; with deliveries of digestate coming in from a number of sites. Seed material will come from agricultural digesters; for example the Vulcan Biogas digester site near Doncaster, that SB, Gary Burt, RH and SCL visited in 2015. Road tankers to come into the site. RH/SCL confirmed this not a convoy, but staggered deliveries coming from more than one site.

Once the site is seeded there will be a period of heating; fully commissioning the combined heat and power unit, and the gas processing equipment. October to early February/end of March will be ramping up production of biogas, and feeding of the plant with the diet of slurry, manures and maize and rye. Aiming to be fully operational at 100% output around April 2017.

Remaining silage clamps and roadways that are partially constructed to date will be fully completed in parallel to seeding. Remaining three western silage clamps will be complete for October when the maize harvest is due.

The role of site manager has been offered and accepted by a gentleman who is managing an AD site in Somerset. He is due to start at the end of August, and would be invited to the next community liaison meeting. He has experience managing AD sites and is a biology graduate. He is interested in the two new areas for him at the Burton Agnes site; working with agricultural feedstocks, as a change from working with food waste feedstocks; and working with gas processing for injection into the gas network, as opposed to working on purely electricity generating sites. A number two role is expected to be filled shortly.

SCL highlighted that uses of the heat from the combined heat power generator are being considered. The generator's primary purpose is to provide electricity for the site, fuelled by biogas produced on site. The generator also generates heat, which if not used is lost to the atmosphere.

This is unutilised energy. It may be possible to introduce a practical use of the heat. At the recent AD and Biogas trade show in Birmingham SCL spoke to a number of businesses that provide drying equipment that can use this heat. The drying equipment heats air which is blown over products for drying them. Products are moved through the drier on a conveyor belt or similar moving floor. The units tend to be of the nature of a shipping container unit built for standing alone outside, say 12 metres in length. Wet woodchip destined for use in biomass boilers could be dried on such a system; also agricultural products such as grain or wet straw could be dried. The Burton Agnes AD site layout could easily accommodate such a unit in the north east area which was originally allocated as a sixth silage clamp; in this area a unit of similar dimensions to those seen at the show would be well concealed. SB asked about noise from such a system. This concept is to be fully explored, and factors such as noise will be considered in that exploration.

### **Matters raised by the community**

MS commented that no complaints had been received by the council.

SB had been asked about the new access track off Pit Lane, and whether she had seen a planning application for this; SB commented on this query when the access track and its planning requirements were discussed (see earlier in these minutes) and that this answered that query. MS offered his attendance at a Parish Council meeting to provide information on that if required; SB thanked MS and advised she was happy to report back with the information discussed.

The meeting discussed the rye harvest that began on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July (i.e. the day before the meeting). The first few days of the harvest are bringing crop from Burton Agnes fields south of the village, necessitating the tractors and trailers to come through the village along Station Road, and to/from the site access along the A614. SB commented that she had received some comment(s) regarding the tractor/trailer movements in the village. SCL advised that a call had been received in the Estate Office on the afternoon of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July from a resident living by the A614 in the west of the village, expressing concern about the speed of the empty tractors and trailers travelling into the village from the west. SCL informed the meeting that upon receipt of the call he informed the manager of the contracting firm, and asked him to reiterate to all drivers the need to drive with due care, particularly through the village; Tina in the Burton Agnes Estate Office was asked to call back the resident and advise them that this had been done, also to ask that if there were any particular drivers they were concerned about that if they could provide the registration of the tractor this could be addressed directly with the driver. SCL reported that there was only one of the c.5 tractors that should be capable of going over the 30mph speed limit; but noted that the drivers were not just instructed to respect speed limits, but to also drive with due care and at sensible speeds within those limits. SCL commented that the harvest movements are in substitution of tractor and trailer movements that would otherwise occur when harvesting other crops that would have been grown in the fields.

RH asked if there had been questions on the maize planted in fields north of the village. SB asked about the amount of maize being grown, and if it would be grown repeatedly in the same fields. SCL commented that in this initial year both Burton Agnes and the Dewhirsts' farming operations are growing more maize and rye than they intend to for following years; with the difference being picked up by more local growers coming on board. Burton Agnes are growing 708 acres of maize and 291 acres of rye this year, out of a total of c.2,700 acres of land farmed by Burton Agnes. This might be reduced by around a third for following years. The Burton Agnes maize is predominantly planted on Burton Agnes land north of Burton Agnes village; with an aim of using roughly a third of that land for maize each year, rotating around that area as part of a crop rotation. As the maize is being grown on the land north of the village, it means that for the maize harvest there should be few tractor/trailer movements through the village from Burton Agnes land south of the village.

**Date of next meeting**

A date for the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, 2pm **at the AD site**. There is parking at the site, reached by following the access road up to the site. This will likely be during the maize harvest, and if activities on the site prohibit meeting there then the meeting will be relocated to the Courtyard meeting room at Burton Agnes Hall.

**The meeting closed around 3:10pm.**