

Frodsham Wind Farm – Local Liaison Committee Meeting
October 2016

Date: 07.10.2016 Time: 1800-2000 Venue: Castle Park, Frodsham

Invited:

The Operator (Frodsham Wind Farm Limited)

The Main Contractor (Nordex UK Limited)

The Local Authority (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Ward Councillors of Elton, Frodsham, Gowey, Helsby and Kingsley

Two representatives of the local councils of:

Elton, Frodsham, Helsby

One representative from the local councils of:

Alvanley, Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford, Ince, Kingsley, Sutton Weaver and Thornton-le-Moors

Agenda

- 1 Attendance and Apologies
- 2 Adoption of Previous Minutes
 - 2a Actions Arising
- 3 Main Business
 - 3a Public Matters
 - 3b Members Matters
 - 3c Condition 58 Report
 - 3d Construction Programme Update
- 4 Agreement of Actions arising from this meeting
- 5 Agreement of date of next meeting

Enclosures

Draft Previous Meeting Minutes

MINUTES

1. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Lynn Riley, Cllr Ste Smith, Cllr T Mills, Cllr M Poulton, Cllr C Ashton, Cllr A Eardley, Cllr C Ellams, Cllr B Crowe

Attended by Cllr A McKie (Helsby), Cllr A Dawson (Frodsham), Cllr E Johnson (Gowy), Cllr R Oultram (Kingsley), Cllr R Tiplady (Dunham Hill & Hapsford), Cllr R Wilson (Kingsley)

Muir Miller (Frodsham Wind Farm Limited), Stephen Snowdon (Frodsham Wind Farm Limited)

It was noted that Cllr T Mills had requested that the meeting not proceed due to the short notice provided by the Company.

2. Adoption of the previous Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 1 July 2016 were adopted (subject to amendments) as an accurate record of the meeting.

2a. Actions from the previous meeting

No.	Description	Owner
1	Provide details of the schools that have been in contact concerning the wind farm	SS
2	Consider allowing LLC meetings to be webcast / recorded	LLC
3	Provide a briefing to the LLC on various complaint procedures	SS
4	Consider engagement on development of 'safer routes to schools' around the site	SS
5	Provide information about the warranted sound power level of the turbines	SS
6	Pursue the appointment of an independent Secretary to organise and record meetings	SS
7	Approach CBF group with a view to further involvement of LLC members	SS
8	Provide a list of all persons involved in CBF meetings to date	SS
9	Provide details of the terms of reference for the CBF and its operation	SS

3a. Main Business – public matters

None presented

3b Main Business – Members matters

SS provided the following list of primary schools that had been contacted by FWFL: Frodsham Manor House, Frodsham Weaver Vale, Frodsham C of E, Elton Primary, Helsby Hillside, Helsby Horns

Mill. SS advised that an approach had also been made to the Company by Croft Primary School seeking to visit the site. SS advised that whilst the site was still a 'construction site' and covered by CDM regulations it was not possible to take school children around. Peel Energy was however, amenable to providing a 'talk' about the wind farm if this would fit in with the lesson plan. Cllr Johnson requested that Alvanley Primary School be advised of this. RW requested that Kingsley schools be contacted as well. Cllr Dawson suggested that basic information about the wind farm and the machines themselves should be made available on the Company's website to allow pupils to conduct their own research

Cllr A Dawson asked whether there was any issue with the meetings of the LLC being recorded so that they might be available for remote viewing. FWFL confirmed it had no issue with this. The matter was voted on and agreed unanimously, subject to the requirement for any matters that were by necessity, confidential, being edited out of the recording. Cllr Dawson advised that this was possible. It was agreed that this would commence with the next meeting in November.

SS provided an outline of the main complaint procedures provided for by operative planning conditions. The issues covered related to 'noise', 'TV / Radio reception interference' and 'shadow flicker':

Noise – This is covered by condition 45(2) of the planning permission. A key point is that complaints should be made directly to the LPA if they are to be enforced by the LPA. The Company has 21 days to begin investigations into the complaint which will entail: appointment of a pre-approved independent noise consultant; recording of sound conditions at complainant's property; comparison with baseline conditions; evaluation of validity of complaint; taking remedial action. Complainants have to provide a minimum amount of information to ensure that their complaint is treated as 'valid' and not vexatious.

Shadow flicker – This is covered by condition 41 of the planning permission. For the LPA to enforce compliance, a complaint must be made to the LPA. When notified of a complaint, the Company requests that the Complainant provides certain information (e.g. time of day, room that was affected, duration of the effect). This will allow it to be assessed against information gathered from the monitoring equipment installed at the wind farm. In the event that a problem is confirmed, the shadow-flicker module on the relevant turbine will be adjusted to prevent re-occurrence. SS advised that all turbines were fitted with shadow-flicker control modules, the purpose of which is to ensure that this phenomenon does not take place in the first place, as it is predictable.

TV / Radio Interference – Again, complainants are asked to provide details of the problem to assist in assessment (time problem was

noticed, description, any actions taken to try and resolve). The Company would retain an independent engineer to carry out an assessment and compare the location of the complainant's residence with that recorded in the 'baseline' survey of likely risk areas. If a problem was confirmed the Company would attempt to resolve it. If it were found that the Company were not culpable (e.g. if the complainant's equipment were faulty) no further action would be taken. PF advised the LLC that the Company was only under an obligation to carry out these investigations for 12 months following commissioning of the entire wind farm.

RT was of the view that having a single point of call for people to use was a much more appropriate mechanism to adopt. AD asked what would occur if a complaint were to be made outside of normal office hours, e.g. weekend or late at night. PF said that he assumed that noise complaints would be dealt with by officers in the environmental health section. EJ asked if they had an 'out-of-hours' capacity. MM advised that FWFL did not have the capacity for a 24-hour response team; there was however, another management company (Natural Power) retained by the Company which was intended to assist the Operations Manager and this might afford some enhanced capability in terms of response times.

SS advised that dialogue was continuing with both Council officers and other Peel companies about potential delivery of improved cycle routes to Helsby High School. Some recent restrictions on access had been put in effect by CF to preserve an emergency exit route from their facility, but these would not hamper cycling. Cllr Dawson advised that a planning application had been received from "HoverForce" that may raise issues relating to increased traffic along parts of the network envisaged as being included in the 'safer cycling route' initiative, e.g. Godscroft Lane.

SS advised that the actual sound-power levels of the turbines installed at the wind farm were being verified by another test being carried out by TNEI on behalf of the Company. These results would be presented to the Council in compliance with the relevant planning condition.

SS advised that appointment of an independent Secretary was a priority for the Company. There was discussion about whether an existing parish clerk may wish to take on this role. SS advised that the Company had no objections to this. Cllr Johnson suggested that a basic 'job specification' be prepared to allow parish councillors to approach their respective clerks to gauge interest.

SS updated the LLC on the CBF Panel's progress. SS advised that there was still opposition among the Panel members to have to accept involvement of LLC members. Cllr McKie was concerned that the Panel was not prepared to work with others. SS advised that under the Articles prepared by the Panel, one third of its

membership would have to resign each year and nominations to fill the vacancies would be sought. MM observed that this was a voluntary contribution on the part of the Company and as such it was free to pursue this format. In the event that it did not work as envisaged, it had 'step in' rights to recover the Fund and try a new arrangement. RT asked whether application forms, guidance notes, qualifying criteria etc. had been prepared; SS confirmed that they had and that all of this would be made available in November when the Fund launched. Cllr Dawson asked whether the draft Articles of the Panel might be made available as it was possible that further improvements could be introduced by way of external scrutiny. SS advised that all legal agreements relating to the Fund's operation would be made available for public inspection on the Fund's website. Cllr Dawson was keen that there was transparency in relation to the projects that had been promoted as well as those that had been selected for support. MM advised that this was also a key objective of the Company, as it had to be assured that correct procedure was being followed and that projects were being fairly assessed. RT suggested that the Panel meet independently with the LLC to allow a more open dialogue to take place.

3c Main Business – Condition 58 Report

SS advised that an additional complaint had been received on 7 October relating to possible TV reception interference. This would be investigated as in the same manner as the previous instance. Cllr Dawson advised that the Company's response in relation to the first TV complaint was very good and hoped that this standard would be maintained.

3d Main Business – Construction programme update

SS advised that the main civil engineering operations on the site (by CHC) were complete and their main role would be to apply the final road surface treatments before leaving site. Five of the turbines were currently commissioned and going through their 240hr 'run-in' testing, with a further two turbines to be commissioned by 14 October. The entire array is anticipated to be operational before Christmas 2016. The main reason for delay would be weather conditions, i.e. not enough wind to allow run-in testing of turbines.

4. Agreement of Actions arising from this meeting

No.	Description	Owner
1	Contact Alvanley and Kingsley Primary Schools to advise of FWFL offer to provide talks about the wind farm if invited to do so by the school	SS
2	Provide more information about the wind farm on the Company website, e.g. details about the turbines and how they operate	SS
3	Confirm out-of-hours capacity of Council's	PF

	environmental health section for dealing with complaints	
4	Investigate and report on out-of-hours capacity of Operations & Maintenance team to respond to complaints	SS
5	Continue to work with Peel Group companies and the Council on the safer cycling route initiative	SS
6	Provide basic details on the requirements for the position of Secretary to the LLC for circulation by members	SS
7	Circulate details of position of Secretary to respective Parish clerks to gauge interest in the role	LLC
8	Urge the CBF Panel to release its draft Articles before finalisation so that comment / suggestions might be made	SS
9	Advise the CBF Panel of the desire for a meeting with the LLC to discuss the Fund's operation and procedures	SS

5. Date of Next Meeting

Provisionally scheduled for 18 November 2016, Castle Park, Frodsham, commencing at 1800.