



## Protos Community Forum

### Minutes of the meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

6.30 pm Zoom meeting

#### Present:

#### Voting Members:

Cllr. Sarah Temple, Helsby Parish Council  
 Cllr. Andrew Eardley, Ince Parish Council  
 Cllr. Tim Lloyd, Ince Parish Council  
 Cllr. Graham Heatley, Gowy Ward, Cheshire West & Chester Council  
 Cllr. Lynn Riley, Frodsham ward, Cheshire West & Chester Council  
 Cllr. Roy Greenwood, Little Stanney and District Parish Council  
 Justin Madders MP Ellesmere Port & Neston

#### Advisers:

Lois Kay, Peel NRE  
 Myles Kitcher, Peel NRE  
 Richard Bates, Peel NRE  
 Joe Harper, Sisk  
 Andy Smith, Covanta

Agenda Item	Discussion
Apologies	<p>Apologies:            Margaret Parker            Clare Wright</p> <p>Absences:            Cllr. Martin Dickinson, Elton Parish Council            Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly, Elton Parish Council            Cllr. Judith Critchley, Frodsham Town Council            Cllr. Paul Bowers, Helsby ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council</p>
Minutes of Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020 were accepted as a true record
Matters Arising	LK confirmed that an April edition of community update newsletter was circulated on Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> April.
Phase 2 Infrastructure works presentation from Joe Harper	<p>Presentation supplied with minutes.</p> <p>JH detailed the programme for the phase 2 works, which are the works as approved through the Ince RRP planning consent including improved berth onto the Manchester Ship Canal, three further ecological areas, road infrastructure; and installation of services as required by occupiers.</p>

<p>Questions: LR: what green travel plan/sustainable transport options are in place? JH confirmed that Sisk have concrete goals regards their company car provision moving to electric vehicles. MK confirmed the same for Peel L&amp;P.</p> <p>LK and MK detailed the Ince RRP (Protos) 'travel plan' and work being undertaken presently which will include a review of the travel plan over the course of this year alongside master planning work and working with wider stakeholders. Peel will work to go beyond what is required to through current planning and policy. Noted by MK that these targets are harder to achieve during construction phases.</p> <p>ST: how is flooding being addressed through the works? Phase 2 ecology areas will create new surface water management zones, with ditches, ponds and scrapes being formed. LK confirmed that we have completed the ditch clearance works on Peel land at Ince Marshes The drainage points discussed previous meetings relating to pumping station, vandalised assets, and the Manchester Ship Canal are worth noting.</p> <p>ST: do Sisk have an office, which members of the public can go to if any on site questions? Confirmed that they do, however due to H&amp;S on construction site, and Covid procedures, we would ask that any visits/meetings are arranged in advance. LK confirmed that Peel will look into the feasibility of putting the Protos freephone number on one of the on-site signs. Peel can then direct enquiries as required to either Sisk, or other occupiers at Protos. LK confirmed that the newsletter which was distributed last week showed the safe walking route through site. We can no longer permit members of the public from parking on the private estate roads as it is an operational/construction site.</p> <p>AE queried the cycle route from station road, and its permitted use. LK advised that at present, this route can be used to access Grinsome road from Ince. And connect onto the footway along Grinsome Road or for cyclists along the road. MK advised that this link was provided from a travel to work perspective as required by the Local Authority</p> <p>LR raised questions regarding signage and CCTV provision on site for members of the public. LK confirmed that CCTV design is underway, a planning application will shortly be submitted. And that we are working with other landowners and Cheshire police on security. Signage is in place along marsh lane bridleway with directional and informational images and text to allow members of public to understand and enjoy the area.</p>
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<p>Presentation on the Energy from Waste Facility, Plot 8, Protos from Andy Smith Covanta</p>	<p>Presentation supplied with minutes.</p> <p>GH raised concern over extended construction activity hours. AS confirmed that moving forwards wouldn't be undertaking noise sensitive activities outside of core hours. Noting that by reducing hours /day, this will extend the duration of the works and hence any noise. Presentation details the construction phase noise monitoring proposed.</p> <p>AE queried the reason that the noise management plan will only be updated quarterly. AS clarified that the reference to quarterly related to the frequency of noise assessments at the (residential) receptor locations, but provided reassurance that more frequent surveys will be undertaken within the vicinity of site.</p> <p>LR noted that the community want Covanta to be good neighbours. AS advised that they do have regulatory requirements to meet but that community engagement typically sits outside these. AS confirmed that Covanta do want to work with the community and near neighbours. AS welcomed ideas and suggestions moving forwards.</p> <p>ST requested update on what engagement has been had with local/hyper local media. Covanta has worked with Peel to understand known and established communication channels. Still in process of working up final comms plan. Recognise need to find the right balance of the right information for the people who want to engage.</p> <p>ST advised that one of Helsby PC councillors has sent some technical questions by email. AS confirmed that he will respond to these questions, which relate mainly to the operational phase of the project, in due course.</p>
<p>Protos Update</p>	<p><b>Plastics Park</b> An indicative plastic park masterplan was shared with the minutes of the last meeting. The project team have had a pre-application discussion with CWaC. The masterplan design has been further developed and nearing completion We are starting to undertake assessments of the project with a view to undertaking consultation and a submission prior to the summer.</p> <p><b>Plot 13</b> Enviroo who presented at previous forum, are proposing to locate a PET plastics packaging recycling facility on plot 13. As examples, PET plastic includes plastic bottles and the trays which strawberries are packaged received unanimous planning approval at last week's CWaC planning committee.</p>

**Plot 10b – Plastic to Hydrogen Facility**

Vegetation clearance has taken place on plot 10b. we are continuing development of detailed design, discharge of conditions, and review of design to see if any amends required for planning

**Substations**

The construction of the two substations on land to the east of plot 11 and the associated infrastructure continues and is still on target to complete in line with programme, despite some delays caused by flooding during February.

The Construction is split into 2 Projects,

1. Contestable Works: This includes a Substation and connection to the 132 KV supply from the newly installed pylon. This part of the build shall be fully adopted by SPEN upon completion.

The works are progressing well, we are currently in the process of connecting the 132KV main supply cable to the Pylon as well as commissioning of all internal HV control and switching systems.

All major equipment is now on site.

2. Private works: This comprises a new Substation and power distribution equipment to provide 11KV and 33KV to the Protos tenants. All Major Equipment and Switchgear is now installed on site and system commissioning is underway. Smith Brothers are the main contractor for both projects.

It is anticipated that the first connection ‘Phase 1’ enabling 50MW of export and circa 6MW of import will be available by 3rd quarter 2021

The final completion date for all the works(as SPEN will continue their non contestable works following the completion of the substations – including upgrades to their existing infrastructure) is October 2023 when there will be 124MW of total export capability and 57 MW of import/supply. Which will coincide with the completion of the Energy from Waste plant

**UKGEOS**

Update on behalf of UKGEOS. At our last update in December 2020, the ground investigation was underway at the location of the planned thermal research infrastructure. We anticipated that following this ground investigation construction would commence in the summer 2021.

Unfortunately the ground investigation highlighted challenges for the construction and operation of the scientific array. These challenges included the existence of artesian water and the identification soft ground, requiring extensive preparatory works.

BGS, with contractor partners, have been working hard on making the necessary design modifications to the scientific array to mitigate these challenges, as far as possible.

	<p>However, this has inevitably increased the costs for construction at the site. The project team are now working through all the options, given we have experienced an increase in cost associated with the outcome of the ground investigation work. BGS will provide a detailed update for the proposed Cheshire Geoenergy Observatory scientific array at the next Liaison Forum meeting.</p> <p><b>Newsletter</b> Circulated last week, we are promoting on our website and twitter feeds, but again ask that this shared by forum members.</p> <p><b>Air Quality</b> The biomass contracted technical report was shared with December meeting minutes. As discussed previously moving forwards there will be an annual report produced by Ricardo AEA.</p> <p><b>Community Benefit Fund</b> £50,000 was transferred to the Protos community benefit fund at the start of the year.</p>
Benefit fund update from Sarah Temple	<p>Confirmed safe receipt of the £50,000 First Benefit fund meeting of 2021 was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 5 new applications were discussed which were all approved: totalling c. £14,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elton gardeners association, allotment site, new car parking area</li> <li>• Helsby footpath society, new equipment for maintenance</li> <li>• Elton community centre – internal folding partitions</li> <li>• Passion for learning – support and after school club for Elton primary school</li> <li>• PES club Elton, after school sports activities</li> </ul> <p>No detailed updated on any of the ongoing projects available as not much change due to covid limitations, The benefit fund committee are intending to do so some promotion of the fund to all schools in the areas. Community benefit funds 2020 financial accounts were approved at the benefit fund meeting and also approved formally at this meeting (available at <a href="http://www.protos.co.uk/community">www.protos.co.uk/community</a>)</p> <p>LK asked that the benefit fund committee encourage recipients of funding to share photos and quotes so we can help to promote the fund through our comms activity.</p>
AOB	<p>GH raised concern over section of marsh lane. LK confirmed she would confirm section which is in CWaC control, and which section sits within Peel’s ownership and discuss with GH.</p> <p>TL asked about the signage which has been put up around Pool lane roundabout. LK confirmed that Peel are in the process of producing a set of</p>



	signs which respond to all construction and operational activity requirements. Once this is installed, we will remove all unnecessary signs. Signs will also be installed along the A5117 to ensure vehicles travelling to Protos use Pool Lane and not Ash Road.
Date of next meeting	Provisional date of 14 <sup>th</sup> July proposed for the next meeting of the Community Forum and the AGM