



## Protos Community Forum

### Minutes of the meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

7:00 pm Elton Community Centre

#### Present:

#### Voting Members:

Cllr. Sarah Temple, Helsby Parish Council  
 Cllr. Andrew Eardley, Ince Parish Council  
 Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly, Elton Parish Council  
 Cllr. Roy Greenwood, Little Stanney and District Parish Council  
 Cllr. Tim Lloyd, Ince Parish Council  
 Cllr Clare Wright, Thornton-le-Moors Parish Council

#### Advisers:

Jane Gaston, Peel Environmental  
 Lois Kay, Peel Environmental

Keith Butterick, Secretary

<u>Issues Discussed</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action by</u>
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>• <b>Absences</b></p>	<p>Justin Madders MP Ellesmere Port &amp; Neston            Sue Pugh (Justin Madders assistant)            Cllr. Martin Dickinson, Elton Parish Council            Alex Sutherland, Environment Agency            Cllr. Matt Bryan, Upton ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Cllr. Paul Donovan, Sutton ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council</p> <p>Cllr. Judith Critchley, Frodsham Town Council            Cllr. Andrew Dawson, Frodsham ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Cllr. Lisa Danson, Westminster ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Cllr. Graham Heatley, Gowy Rural ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Rod Brookfield, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Clare Appleyard, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council</p>	

<p><b>2. Minutes of Last Meeting</b></p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting on 6 March 2019 were accepted as a true record</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters Arising</b></p>	<p><b>ST:</b> What progress was being made on the proposed newsletter?  <b>JG:</b> Section on Community Benefit Fund drafted. Going to be part of a larger newsletter expected by end August. Will be sent to members before distribution.</p>	
<p><b>4. Progress Report</b></p>	<p><b>JG and LK</b> delivered the Progress Report:</p> <p><b>Infrastructure Works</b>  Work is ready to start on phase 2 infrastructure works. This will start on completion of the deal with Covanta for the energy from waste facility.</p> <p><b>Biomass</b>  The biomass plant is now in full operation. The official opening will take place during summer 2019.</p> <p><b>Timber</b>  Peel continue to work with the tenant at plot 3 to ensure the facility is constructed as soon as possible and to improve road cleanliness. The tenant is liaising directly with the Environment Agency to deal with complaints relating to dust migrating from the site.</p> <p><b>Igas</b>  Igas have halted all activities on Protos until the Merseyton Road planning appeal has reached an outcome.</p> <p><b>Plot 10b</b>  Waste 2 Tricity/PHE are now actively progressing development of a facility that will convert 25 tonnes per day of unrecyclable plastic into electricity and hydrogen. Two well attended public information days were held at Elton community centre in early June. Peel has responded to follow up questions received by email and phone. Further briefings are being arranged with CWAC councillors. It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted during the summer.</p> <p><b>UKGEOS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cheshire UK Geoenergy Observatories planning application has been considered by all statutory consultees and by the planning officers and is to be determined by CWACC Planning Committee on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The planning officers are recommending approval.</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UK Geoenergy Observatories website is now live and information on the investment can be viewed at <a href="http://www.ukgeos.ac.uk">www.ukgeos.ac.uk</a></li> <li>• The next UK GEOS Community Liaison meeting is likely to take place following a planning decision. They have asked for the Protos forum members to confirm that they would like to be invited to this.</li> </ul> <p>Members of the Protos Forum said it would be appropriate to be invited as members of their respective councils rather than as members of the Protos Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BGS is working to engage a STEM education specialist provider to work with the BGS, NERC and through the Community Liaison Forums to develop a public engagement and STEM programme throughout the lifetime of the observatories.</li> <li>• Drilling continues at the Glasgow site, with the first scientific data and sampling being returned.</li> <li>• Any questions, please contact <a href="mailto:ukgeosenquiries@bgs.ac.uk">ukgeosenquiries@bgs.ac.uk</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Soils</b> Peel are working under the permit issued by the EA to process soils in preparation for the start of the phase 2 infrastructure works at Protos.</p> <p><b>Energy from Waste</b> Following the planning appeal hearing the Inspector has upheld the appeal to remove the rail element of the scheme before the plant becomes operational. Peel are working closely with Covanta to secure financial close with a view to them starting construction of the EfW facility this summer.</p> <p><b>Plot 4</b> Progressive Energy continues to make good progress with its planning application for the Bio Substitute Natural Gas (BioSNG) renewable fuel facility on the Protos site. Following the public consultation process earlier in the year and a subsequent press release, the project featured positively in the local press and several specialist environmental and energy journals. In April it was shortlisted as a finalist in the Innovation Category of the Renewable Energy Association's prestigious Annual Awards ceremony. Despite delays in receiving responses from some of the statutory consultees Cheshire West and Chester Council now expect the application to go to the planning committee in early-August.</p>	
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	<p>Meanwhile discussions continue with potential investors, utility providers and the engineering design and development of the project.</p> <p><b>ST:</b> Were there any concerns about limited sources of waste wood?</p> <p><b>JG:</b> There currently appeared to be a squeeze on some sources of wood. There was still a commitment by Protos not to use Virgin wood.</p> <p><b>Local Industrial Strategy</b> Peel are supporting CWAC and the Cheshire and Warrington LEP in producing their local industrial strategy for submission to government this year. Energy and clean growth is a key tenet of their response and as such Protos and its successful delivery is seen as important to underline this.</p> <p><b>North West Industrial Cluster</b> Protos has been included as a key project in the North West Hydrogen and Energy Cluster initiative which will be submitted to government. It is hoping to win the Industrial Clusters Mission funding being made available to secure the UK's first net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040. The cluster was launched at an event hosted by Halton BC on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Peel are supporting the project team with information.</p> <p><b>Ecology area schools visit with Cheshire Wildlife Trust</b> A class of pupils from Elton Primary School will visit Ecology area D in July. They will be learning about the species and habitats present, including a focus on two species which have been chosen to form part of the names of the two phase 1 ecology areas. They will also be invited to draw pictures of these species. The winning entrants will receive a prize and their art will also form part of new wayfinding, information, and safety signage which will be installed ready for an formal naming ceremony planned for September.</p>	
<p><b>5. Community Benefit Fund</b></p>	<p><b>ST:</b> Updated the Forum with meeting of the Community Benefit Fund on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hornsmill Primary School. Application for new av/audio equipment was approved.</li> <li>• Thornton-le-Moor PC. Application for new kitchen equipment for refurbished village hall was approved subject to relevant quotes being obtained.</li> <li>• Elton Church Hall. The re-submitted application for heating associated with refurb work was approved in principle.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire Wildlife Trust. The deferred application and response to earlier concerns about sustainability/accessibility was considered. The application was declined.</li> </ul> <p>An update was given on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ince Village lamp</li> </ul> <p><i>Restoration work on the lamp is progressing. Problems have arisen with arranging the electricity supply to the lamp.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frodsham Bellringers.</li> </ul> <p><i>Members been invited to view the new facilities probably either w/c: 22/29 July.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little Stanney &amp; District Council – new sign</li> </ul> <p><i>Work progressing subject to Highways input.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ince Village Hall</li> </ul> <p><i>Work had not started yet due to start shortly.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elton Parish Council.</li> </ul> <p><i>Elton PC confirmed they were going ahead with the play area and had been completed. An official opening was planned for 27 June.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elton First Scouts</li> </ul> <p><i>Work would start in the next few weeks</i></p> <p>The Fund has approximately £6,000 for the remainder of the year.  <b>JG:</b> Confirmed that in September, Peel would be considering expenditure for 2020.</p>	
<p><b>6. Any other Business</b></p>	<p><b>KB:</b> Updated the Forum with the membership changes as a result of the local elections:  Cllr. Matt Bryan, Upton ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council  Cllr. Paul Donovan, Sutton ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council  Cllr. Andrew Dawson, Frodsham ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council  Cllr. Lisa Danson, Westminster ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council  Cllr. Graham Heatley, Gowy Rural ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council</p> <p><b>ST</b> noted the new Cllrs nominated by CWAC no longer represented the wards adjoining the Protos site. All members agreed that since the boundary changes, it would be more appropriate that the Protos Community Forum included CWAC Cllrs solely from the neighbouring wards of Frodsham, Helsby and Gowy Rural.</p>	<p><b>KB</b></p>

	<p><b>TL's</b> question about the maintenance of the grass on the roundabout – led to a number of points being discussed about whether it would be maintained properly now it was the responsibility of CWaC. Members requested <b>KB</b> contact Cllr. Heatley to see if he could assist with the issue.</p> <p><b>AE:</b> Raised the issue of the drainage of Grinsome Road. <b>AE</b> said that despite raising the same issue at the December meeting and previous meetings, the issue still did not appear to have been addressed.</p> <p>The discussion widened into a wider one about the problems identified with Pool Lane.</p> <p><b>JG:</b> A new firm of contractors had been appointed by Peel to maintain the road network, Sisk would be invited to a future meeting of the Forum. Pool Lane had been built to the specification of Cheshire West engineers.</p> <p><b>AE:</b> Had received complaints about quad bikes riding on the site.</p> <p><b>JG:</b> Was aware of the problem. A daily patrol went out at random time. Discussions were taking place with the company to try and resolve the issue. Problems with the bridleway meant the site could not be completely fenced off. Going forward there would be a permanent security or gatehouse presence on site or perhaps CCTV.</p> <p><b>TL:</b> Were the grass verges on Grinsome Road going to be mowed. He also noted vegetation was encroaching on the bridleway.</p> <p><b>JG:</b> Yes these issues would be addressed once a contractor was appointed by CWT.</p> <p><b>JG/LK :</b> A discussion took place after they asked members what they believed was the best means of communicating with the wider public. Was, for example, electronic forms of communication better than traditional print.</p> <p>Members agreed that in reality a number of different methods were probably better e.g. supplement hard copy newsletter with electronic notifications of upcoming/fast-moving events that members could re-post on Council websites and/or Facebook. Protos already had a Twitterfeed that members could follow.</p> <p>Peel would email members directly on some occasions.</p> <p><b>ST:</b> Where was the data produced from the Helsby air quality monitoring station? After gathering baseline data, it would now start to cover a period when the biomass facility was operational.</p> <p><b>JG/LK:</b> Would advise and provide data for next meeting.</p> <p><b>ST:</b> Noted the Community Forum minutes on the Protos website appeared out of date (last set Jan 2018). <b>KB/LK</b> confirmed more recent minutes had been posted and would investigate.</p>	<p><b>KB</b></p> <p><b>JG/LK</b></p> <p><b>JG/LK</b></p> <p><b>KB/LK</b></p>
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<b>7. Date of next meeting</b>	<b>25 September 2019 Elton Community Centre 7.00pm</b>  <b>The next Community Benefit Fund meeting will be 18 September 2019, Elton Community Centre, 7.00pm</b>	
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