



Protos Community Forum

Minutes of the meeting 4th March 2020

7:00 pm Elton Community Centre

Present:

Voting Members:

Cllr. Sarah Temple, Helsby Parish Council
 Cllr. Andrew Eardley, Ince 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
 Cllr. Martin Dickinson, Elton Parish Council

Advisers:

Jane Gaston, Peel Environmental

Rebecca Eatwell, Font Communications

Keith Butterick, Secretary

<u>Issues Discussed</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action by</u>
1. Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absences 	Lois Kay, Peel Environmental Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly, Elton Parish Council Cllr. Judith Critchley, Frodsham Town Council Cllr. Andrew Dawson, Frodsham ward, Cheshire West & Chester Council Cllr. Paul Bowers, Helsby ward, Cheshire West & Chester Council Cllr. Graham Heatley, Gowy Rural ward, Cheshire West & Chester Council Rod Brookfield, Cheshire West & Chester Council Clare Appleyard, Cheshire West & Chester Council Justin Madders MP Ellesmere Port & Neston Sue Pugh (Justin Madders assistant) Alex Sutherland, Environment Agency	
2. Minutes of Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting on 9 October 2019 were accepted as a true record	
3. Matters Arising	ST Forum visit to Biomass plant. JG Company had received a number of requests to visit from local education institutions. JG would speak to the company about the best way to organise a visit. There may be an opportunity during the shutdown planned end April.	



	<p>ST: PO'R had raised concerns from Elton PC about the Waste2tricity proposals and requesting a meeting JG these were part of a separate discussion.</p> <p>Newsletter: Members expressed concern about not receiving the newsletter e.g. postcode WA6 9PE in centre of Helsby had not received a copy. This led to a wider-ranging discussion about the future of the newsletter. RE plans were for the newsletter to become electronic in future. Members agreed this would help communication and save cost but still wanted to distribute copies to local centres. RE/JG agreed a lower print number of newsletters for distribution by members would be feasible.</p> <p>Website: JG: A new website would be launched in April – it was not possible to have a separate Community Benefit Fund website but the Community section would be more prominent and have an easy link.</p> <p>Twitter/Facebook: Discussion on the target audience, best way to use these and how to generate regular stories from Benefit Fund investments. RE/KB to agree a formal procedure for generating stories.</p> <p>Agreed that the application form be revised to state that future projects funded by the Benefit Fund would be invited to agree to being part of the publicity for the fund. The Marshes CBF also used stickers to identify/advertise projects enabled by the fund.</p> <p>CW suggested that Protos should start using local news sites such as Elton Village Chat. Other local industries and the Marshes CBF already posted updates which were shared by users to other community sites such as Elton Primary School. Similar Facebook forums were available for Helsby, Ellesmere Port and other areas relevant to Protos. All agreed to share relevant news sites with RE. RE agreed to post information/share information with Forum members to post as appropriate.</p> <p>Andrew Miller RIP: Members noted the important contribution that former MP Andrew Miller and his wife Fran had made to the Community Forum. Protos had made a donation in his memory to Newton's Apple, a science policy charity.</p>	
<p>4. Community Benefit Fund Accounts</p>	<p>The Protos Community Benefit Fund Report and Financial Statements Year ended 31 January 2020 were approved by the members</p>	



<p>5. Progress Report</p>	<p>JG delivered the Progress Report:</p> <p>Biomass: The biomass facility continues to process biomass and generate energy following being passed into full operations last year. There is a planned shutdown during April in order to carry out pre planned maintenance and repairs to the facility. During this time there will be additional car and van traffic coming into Protos associated with the contractor carrying out the work. Carparking will be provided for them on Protos. The work should be complete by mid-May.</p> <p>Timber: Peel continues to work with the tenant at plot 3 to address issues such as dust and car parking and to ensure completion of the facility as soon as possible. There have been various meetings with the occupier to progress this.</p> <p>Plot 10b (Waste4Tricity facility) The planning application for the waste plastics to hydrogen facility on Plot 10b at Protos was granted unanimous approval at the planning committee on 3rd March. Once the decision letter is received, Peel will provide the required pre commencement information to the Council. The plan is to start construction in summer 2020.</p> <p>UKGEOS Since planning permission was granted, the BGS has been working closely with CWaC to determine what needs to be done to meet the planning consent conditions. There have also been discussions with the contractor about the order of the drilling works. This scheduling process involves detailed consideration of seasonal, environmental and planning factors (for example nesting seasons, winter weather, and traffic constraints). Now BGS has full and detailed costings from contractors, Peel have entered discussions with the funding council UKRI-NERC over the full amount of funding required to deliver the UK Geoenergy Observatories. Current discussions indicate a positive conclusion will be achieved over the coming months. Due to a number of different factors (including availability of drilling rigs and contractual agreements), Peel anticipate BGS starting drilling operations on Protos land in early 2021.</p>	
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	<p>The BGS is looking to hold a Community Liaison Forum for Cheshire residents in April and is currently identifying a suitable date. JG will notify Protos members of the date. ST noted the previous meeting in Nov 2019 had been very poorly attended.</p> <p>Energy from Waste Covanta have experienced delays to their project as a result of the general challenges facing the construction sector in the UK. Financial close has been delayed until early summer 2020 on the project with work hoped to start at end of summer. A further update will be provided at the next community forum meeting. ST: Noted a non-material planning submission had been made describing slight design changes to accommodate the smaller facility. For safety reasons, it was proposed the North and South facades would use bronze-coloured cladding (illuminated at night) instead of transparent plastic material.</p> <p>Plot 4 (BioSNG) Progressive Energy received planning approval for their Bio Substitute Natural Gas (BioSNG) renewable fuel facility on the Protos site in November 2019. They are currently working with funders and contractors to develop a forward programme for the construction of the facility so no timescales available yet</p> <p>Website A refreshed website will be launched in the next few months. All community content will remain on a dedicated community page.</p> <p>Estate Management Peel are in the process of programming in landscape management for spring and summer 2020 including the bridleway and have gone out to tender with a tightened scope for more frequent maintenance. AE: Hoped this would mean that maintenance of the areas would be improved by the new company and requested an overview of the what the contractor would be doing JG: Agreed to provide a summary to members of what was expected from the approved contractor. It was Peel's responsibility to monitor contractor performance. TL: Issues around the management of the paths on Grinsome Road JG: The paths were only meant to be used by workers going to the plants on the road. Walkers should use the bridleways. AE: Is it the intention to provide waste bins to dispose of dog waste?</p>	
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	<p>JG: Agreed to investigate placing waste bins and arrangements for emptying.</p> <p>Daily discussions were ongoing with CWAC, Environment Agency and Manchester Ship Canal regarding drainage of the marshes. Burnout of the Ince station pump and recent storms, together with other factors currently being investigated, had resulted in unusually high water levels. Marsh Lane was affected and the Protos habitat areas were impassable. It was expected to be 3 weeks before things returned to normal.</p> <p>Following a tree safety survey undertaken late last year, Peel currently have a contractor on site removing trees, and limbs from trees which were identified as having potential to cause injury if they fell. The majority of these are adjacent to Grinsome road. JG noted Peel had an obligation to replace any new trees planted at Protos which subsequently failed. TL: Noted blue and orange markers had appeared on some trees. He reported that new trees planted to screen the acoustic fence had failed because they had not been protected from livestock in the field. JG will follow up.</p> <p>Air Quality At the Helsby AQ monitoring station, ingress of water into the plugs had caused power outages which resulted in short periods where monitoring was not possible. In coordination with RSK who now have a lease over the Eccies club building, and AEA Ricardo, who operate the equipment, Peel have arranged for an electrician to undertake the necessary replacement of plugs and plug housing. This was completed early last week. ST: Asked about status of baseline AQ data report by Ricardo. JG: will ask LK to follow up. AE: Asked about current status of the Air Quality Forum set up by the Protos Community Forum. JG: The next meeting would be triggered by dates for the EfW plant completion/operation ST: Noted the Protos AQ Forum had come to a natural break after Prof Laxen's reports and a reduction in staff within CWAC Environment Protection Unit. CWAC EPU, local industries (including Protos) and community reps/councillors still met annually as part of the Ellesmere Port AQ Forum, which had evolved to cover AQ issues over a wider area. ST: Would send AE details of the Ellesmere Port Air Quality Forum.</p>	
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	<p>Nature Areas Following Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis, Peel are aware of flooding affecting Marsh Lane and Goldfinch Meadows. Once levels have dropped, Peel will review any reinstatement works required.</p> <p>Works to further improve the watervole habitat in Snipe Haven will be commencing shortly. These will be done in a sensitive way to ensure limited impact on the wider area. In the western field of Goldfinch Meadows, CF Fertilisers will be upgrading around a 50 metre section of their 60 year old sewer pipe. This is where the pipe route takes a 90 degree turn, and has leaked on a few occasions over the last 2 years. These works will commence when the land is drier. Following these works, the land affected by the construction and the required access route across Goldfinch Meadows will be reinstated with seed planted as advised by Cheshire Wildlife Trust.</p>	
<p>6. Community Benefit Fund</p>	<p>ST: Updated the Forum on the Community Benefit Fund panel meeting on 19th February 2020.</p> <p>Applications considered on the evening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elton Village Events Committee (£4,000). Approved. The panel welcomed the application as evidence that the community was working together. The Committee had supplied the information KB had requested on behalf of the Panel regarding an established Constitution and bank account. - Passion for Learning (£4,000) for after-school Enrichment Club at Elton Primary School. Deferred on the evening - although the panel liked the concept, there were concerns about long-term sustainability of the project. However, Pfl had supplied the clarification the Panel required and the School had confirmed their support. Members decided to approve the application at the Community Forum meeting. <p>ST: Pfl seemed a well-established and well-connected organisation who worked long-term with local industries to deliver community programs. The CBF panel had noted the issue of future funding of the Pfl scheme at Elton school and ST suggested Protos/Peel might like to fund it separately as a long-term benefit for the community and enhanced profile for Protos. KB to send JG the Pfl application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elton Community Centre, Noise Reduction Scheme (£4,000). Approved. A new Committee were now running Elton Community Centre with the aim of getting the centre 	

	<p>more widely used. The proposal was for noise reduction equipment which would allow this. The committee had responded to the request for information confirming their financial independence.</p> <p>An update was provided on existing projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ince village lamp: <i>The column was completed but there were now uncertainties about the fabricators. AE/TL going to get the crown back and use another fabricator.</i> • Little Stanney and District Council (new sign): <i>Still awaiting CWAC Highways approval</i> • Elton School (musical instruments). £1,500 was still available to be used for the after school club. • Elton Gardeners Association. MD said the toilet had been installed. No request for finance received. <p>Other decisions made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel agreed the £4,000 cap on each application should be retained for the current year • Postcodes. Panel agreed to maintain the current postcode and not to expand it. • Application Guidelines should state that while an applicant could be based outside the postcode limits, the benefits should be in the area. • Guidelines should include a statement along the lines of, 'applications would lapse six months after approval if no work has been started or completed within 12 months.' <p>With the funding commitments made the fund had approx. £25,000 left for the remainder of the year.</p>	
<p>7. Any other Business</p>	<p>TL: Issue with motocross bikes racing on Grinsome Road. Would it be possible to put motorcycle inhibitors in place. He could send a picture of a type that may be suitable. JG situation was more complicated – issues of possibly being sued by anyone injured by inhibitors – but would look into options.</p> <p>TL: Requested a up-to-date map of the overall Protos site/facilities. JG – this would be available as an interactive plan on the new website,</p> <p>TL: Issue of conditions on Marsh Lane – JG noted land was owned by CWAC and that nothing had been received back from CWaC/Highways yet.</p>	



	<p>MD: What is Protos doing on the issue of carbon neutrality. JG: Explained Protos has short, medium and long-term plans and how they are working a number of organisations on this. JG would produce a paper for the AGM outlining their work in this area.</p> <p>ST: It was unlikely that the circulated quote (part of a larger piece on Protos) would make the next edition of Helsby News due to shortage of space.</p>	
<p>8. Date of next meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AGM and June business meeting Wednesday 10 June 2020 Elton Community Centre 7.00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The next Community Benefit Fund meeting Weds 20 May 2020 Elton Community Centre 7.00pm</p>	