



## Protos Community Forum

### Minutes of the meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

7:00 pm Zoom meeting

#### 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

#### Advisers:

Lois Kay, Peel L&P Environmental  
 Myles Kitcher, Peel L&P Environmental  
 Alex Sutherland, Environment Agency

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Apologies	<p>Apologies:            Cllr. Graham Heatley, Gowy Rural ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Cllr. Martin Dickinson, Elton Parish Council</p> <p>Absences:            Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly, Elton Parish Council            Cllr. Judith Critchley, Frodsham Town Council            Cllr. Andrew Dawson, Frodsham ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Cllr. Paul Bowers, Helsby ward, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Rod Brookfield, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Clare Appleyard, Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council            Justin Madders MP Ellesmere Port &amp; Neston            Sue Pugh (Justin Madders assistant)</p>	
Minutes of Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting on 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 were accepted as a true record	
Matters Arising	Estate management update requested at the last meeting to be dealt with in the Progress Update.	
Progress Report (with Questions)	<b>Plot 10b Waste2Tricity waste plastic to hydrogen facility</b>	



<p>and Answers)</p>	<p>Following receipt of the decision notice from CWaC, we are working through the required pre commencement information and expect to start on site later in the year.</p> <p>ST asked if one of the conditions relates to Air quality monitoring at a residential location. LK confirmed that it did.</p> <p><b>UKGEOS</b> Over the past six months the UKGEOS team has been focused on the detailed design of the Cheshire research facility. The ground investigations are due to commence in the autumn and will last around 4-5 weeks. These works will improve their understanding of the shallow deposits which can require specific drilling techniques. They have a new technical manager David Hetherington who will work closely with BGS Science Director Mike Spence to work through this part of the project. The construction of the Cheshire facility is due to start in summer of 2021 and they will keep the community regularly updated through the dedicated website <a href="http://www.ukgeos.ac.uk">www.ukgeos.ac.uk</a> , social media channels - a new Twitter account was launched last week for ukgeos and the regular meeting and email updates. Rachel Dearden (previously Deputy Project Manager) is now the Project Manager for the whole project. Cristina Chapman, their Comms Manager is currently seconded to the Department of Health and so the Director of Communications and External Affairs is leading the UKGEOS comms (Jen Jamieson Ball) The UKGEOS project has funded an educational STEM programme being delivered by the Glasgow Science Centre. The outputs of this project will be designed with the Cheshire community in mind and they hope that schools in the area will make full use of the materials developed</p> <p>ST asked if they will be starting on Protos land first. LK noted it was too early to say and they would probably hear more after the ongoing ground investigations.</p> <p><b>Biomass</b></p>	
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	<p>The biomass facility continues to process biomass and generate energy following being passed into full operations last year.</p> <p><b>Timber</b> Ince Biopower, the leaseholder of the timber facility, have terminated the sublease with Boden Moody and as of mid-August, are operating the facility themselves. They are revisiting the planning requirements and any variations to this, such as the size of the enclosed facility, that they may need to discuss with CWaC. We are working closely with them on this and will keep the forum informed of any proposals.</p> <p><b>ST</b> queried the different parties involved in the biomass facility and the timber facility <b>LK</b> advised that there are different company names used for different business elements however in its simple terms – the same people will be managing both facilities.</p> <p><b>Energy from Waste</b> Covanta have entered into a lease of plot 8 at Protos. They are working towards financial close for the facility and have started works on site to ensure implementation of their planning consent. Once they have reached financial close, they will be able to start the main works to construct the facility which is around a 3 year build time. Peel will in parallel commence the phase 2 infrastructure works which are required to be complete prior to the EfW's operation.</p> <p><b>Plot 4</b> Progressive Energy received planning approval for their Bio Substitute Natural Gas (BioSNG) renewable fuel facility on the Protos site in November last year. They are currently working with funders and contractors to develop a forward programme for the construction of the facility.</p> <p><b>Substation</b> The construction of the substations on land to the east of plot 11 and the associated infrastructure has made good progress over the summer.</p>	
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	<p>SPEN (Scottish Power) are on programme with their aspect of the works and have already built their new pylon. They will also be carrying out upgrades to the network in Frodsham and Capenhurst to facilitate the works that are being done at Protos as some of the infrastructure is up to 40 years old</p> <p>The Independent connection provider is building the new substations – one of which will be adopted by SPEN.</p> <p>The final completion date for all the works is expected to be December 2023 when there will be 124MW of export capability and 52 MW of import/supply.</p> <p><b>Other Power</b></p> <p>We are also working on the design of an 11KV main which will supply the plastic to Hydrogen facility and enable export of any electricity produced as a by-product and export to the grid.</p>	
<p>Progress Report</p>	<p><b>Plastics Park</b></p> <p>Peel are reviewing the masterplan of Protos and expanding the Plastic Village (plot 6) in the light of increasing demand for recycled materials and associated need for new infrastructure.</p> <p>This has led us to revise the plan for a plastics park which will sit alongside the already consented plot 10b plastic to hydrogen facility and will provide benefits by co-locating plastic recycling and recovery facilities on plots 9b – 13 at Protos.</p> <p>The plastics park will include a Materials Recycling Facility, a Plastics Recovery Facility, a PET recycler, and other Plastic Recovery Facilities that will produce base products for reintroduction into the plastic production process.</p> <p>The plastics park will be subject to a detailed planning application which Peel will be able to provide more detail on shortly.</p> <p>Alongside this, over the last 6 months we have been working with a company called Enviroo who 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 in.</p> <p>This facility will take waste PET plastics, some of which will be derived from the within the plastics park and use proven technology to process it to produce</p>	

	<p>food grade polymers (pellets) which can be re-used by packaging companies. This will support businesses in complying with new legislation coming into play April 2022 mandating all plastic packaging to be at least 1/3 recycled product.</p> <p>Enviroo are in the process of preparing a planning application, and expect to be undertaking public consultation starting in early October. They will be sending a newsletter to the addresses on the agreed distribution list providing details of the scheme, how to find out more information on their website, and including a tear off question slip. Forum members will be provided with a digital copy of this before it is sent out to their communities.</p> <p>Enviroo will be happy to meet with forum members either individually, through the parish councils or as a special meeting of the forum and will be in touch in due course to offer this.</p> <p>This facility will sit within the plastics park, alongside a Materials Recycling Facility, a Plastics Recovery Facility, a Polymer Recycling Facility and the plastics to hydrogen facility</p> <p>At this point in time, a detailed programme is not available however subject to planning and other consents, they would like to be operational by Spring 2022</p> <p><b>ST</b> asked if the Enviroo scheme is leading on the whole of the plastics park.</p> <p><b>LK</b> confirmed that Peel will be leading on the planning application associated with the plastics park. However Enviroo will be doing the PET facility on their plot and this will be dealt with as a separate planning application due to timings.</p> <p>Forum members confirmed that they would like to be offered meetings with Enviroo and that if timings worked for specific meetings with their parish councils this would be preferred.</p> <p>Enviroo are one occupier within the plastic park</p> <p>ST asked if the park going to include any sorting facility for mixed waste which contains plastics</p> <p><b>LK</b> confirmed that the plastics park will include a MRF (materials recycling facility) and a PRF (plastics</p>	
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	<p>recovery facility) which will separate the plastics waste into different types</p> <p><b>MK</b> detailed that if the plastics can be recycled and reused as plastic – as in the PET facility - this will be done.</p> <p>Those that can't be e.g. films and hard plastics will go to the hydrogen facility</p> <p>We are looking to work with Local Authorities and commercial industrials who will be able to provide all their waste plastics to the plastics park where it can all be dealt with, thus increasing recycling.</p> <p>A lot of the non-clean mixed plastic currently gets sent overseas. Equally a lot of it remains within the waste stream with the non-recyclable general waste.</p> <p>PRFs are already used in UK and Europe.</p> <p><b>ST</b> asked regarding how this will be transported to site.</p> <p><b>MK</b> stated that we are looking at vehicle movements and different sizes of vehicles</p> <p><b>ST</b> asked on timings, and could we be in a situation where pre-sorted waste will be being brought in just for Enviroo's scheme. <b>MK</b> confirmed that yes, this could be likely in the short term.</p> <p><b>ST</b> asked that the distribution list being used by Enviroo is checked that it is correct and up to date.</p>	<p><b>LK</b> will liaise with Enviroo to ensure the newsletter distribution list is correct</p>
	<p><b>Website and Newsletter</b></p> <p>We have updated the Protos website <a href="http://www.protos.co.uk">www.protos.co.uk</a> which continues to have a dedicated community page.</p> <p>A community newsletter was distributed electronically at the start of September</p> <p><b>Estate Management</b></p> <p>We have done two rounds of estate vegetation management works, including the grass verges along Grinsome road and the internal estate roads, and cutting back of vegetation along the bridleway.</p> <p>Following the felling of some trees earlier this year, we continue to monitor trees to ensure safety along roads and walkways. Unfortunately when trees show signs</p>	<p><b>LK</b> to arrange copy of the 2020-2021 landscape management scope to be attached to minutes</p>

	<p>of disease or damage, they can fall over the paths and pose a danger to people using the site. We expect to be on site removing a few more which were heavily affected by the high winds over the summer shortly. Where possible and without posing a danger to those on the footpaths dead wood will be left for the benefit of wildlife.</p> <p><b>TL</b> raised concern about the bridleway not being passable at certain points. <b>LK</b> confirmed that hedgerows within Peels ownership have been cut back and that the bridleway is passable by all users permitted to use it.</p> <p><b>TL</b> raised concern at dust from timber facility being on the roads within Protos and on the bridleway <b>LK</b> confirmed that the operators on site have road sweepers in place to keep the roads clear. <b>LK</b> to review the bridleway</p> <p><b>TL</b> reported that the bollards have been removed and he has reported to CWaC.</p> <p><b><u>Air Quality</u></b></p> <p>The contract with Ricardo AEA for AQ monitoring at the Helsby location has been extended, and the line of communication is now direct between Peel and Ricardo.</p> <p>We are working with the current tenant of the Eccies Club (RSK) and Helsby PC to get long term property agreements in place.</p> <p>Included in the contract of works, Ricardo will produce an annual summary report which will be shared with the forum at each AGM.</p> <p>The data collected over the last couple of years as part of the contract with the biomass facility, has been collated into a technical report which is in draft form and awaiting sign off. Once this is approved it will be shared with the forum ahead of the next meeting and can go on the website in the future</p> <p><b>Nature Areas</b></p> <p>CWT have provided me with some text about their work over the summer. They had a large number of their employees on furlough however the key bird and vole surveys are on track. Although they are not fully</p>	<p><b>LK</b> to share the biomass AQ report with forum members in advance of next meeting</p>
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	<p>mobilised, they are working with the contractors to get the annual works underway. To keep Goldfinch Meadows and Snipe Haven in the best possible condition for wildlife, maintenance works are undertaken every year. This year you may have seen the areas of wildflower meadow being cut. Each year sections of the flower rich grassland will be cut to ensure that the flowers can flourish and the grass species mixed in with them don't take over. However, the seeds produced once plants have finished flowering are important for birds, and the dead flower heads and long grass are important places for insects to hibernate over winter. Therefore some longer vegetation will always be left around the site over winter.</p> <p><b>ST</b> asked for clarity over the different parties involved <b>LK</b> confirmed that Caddis are a contractor who can be appointed to do works by Peel or CWT.</p> <p><b>ST</b> asked for an update regarding drainage <b>LK</b> confirmed that all the parties involved in managing the system, EA, MSCC and Peel Environmental are talking to each other and are looking into the best way to manage and maintain the system.</p>	
<p><b>Community Benefit Fund</b></p>	<p>ST reported that 3 applications were considered at last weeks meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>Approved - Runcorn rowing club requested funds for waste water treatment plant to support expansion of the club facilities. The fund will be contributing towards this project, alongside a grant from the MCBF and money from the club.</p> <p>Approved - Ince Village Hall. Requesting contribution towards refurbishment. A program of items/timelines had been provided. The committee approved subject to receiving more details of exactly which items would be covered by the Protos fund.</p> <p>Elton youth hub. This application was refused as it is for an organisation which has already been granted funding this year. However as some money was remaining unspent from this earlier grant because items had come in below budget, the committee</p>	



	<p>confirmed the organisation could use this remaining amount for the Elton youth hub scheme.</p> <p>ST confirmed that after all approved projects and commitments were taken into account, there was about £6000 remaining in the fund for 2020.</p> <p>The committee noted there had been some delays in a few previously funded projects due to Covid.</p> <p>Fund committee are happy with the marketing/PR form which Peel had asked to be included with application forms (subject to a few minor amendments).</p> <p>Fund will ask applicants to complete this, but will not make this mandatory and no application would be refused on the grounds the PR form was not completed</p> <p>The fund will be setting up dates for their meetings over the next 12 months (one per quarter).</p> <p>Next benefit fund meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020</p> <p><b>ST</b> asked if Peel will be contributing to the fund next year,</p> <p><b>LK:</b> Despite the impact of coronavirus has had, we will be able to make a contribution to the fund in 2021 and we will confirm as soon as possible what the value will be.</p>	<p><b>LK</b> to provide update to ST on Community Benefit funding for 2021 before the next benefit fund meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.</p>
<p><b>Any other Business</b></p>	<p><b>ST</b> asked if 2020-2021 forum meetings could be put in the diary in advance, ideally following a week or two after the Benefit Fund meeting</p> <p><b>LK</b> advised that due to JG being on maternity it may be difficult to commit this far in advance to specific dates. The Forum acknowledged this point and agreed there could be some flexibility nearer the date of each meeting depending on Protos availability.</p> <p><b>TL</b> pointed out he had seen Cheshire fire service at the biomass facility and enquired what this was.</p> <p><b>LK:</b> no incidents that we are aware of. The timber facility is not under our operation/management. RG noted the fire service also undertake routine meetings with industrial facilities.</p>	<p><b>ST</b> to distribute the benefit fund meeting dates and <b>LK</b> to see what can be arranged</p>



	<p><b>TL:</b> concerned about potential for fire at the timber facility  <b>LK</b> confirmed that they have significant fire water stored on site with the plot 3 boundary and processes in place.</p> <p><b>TL</b> asked if Peel have any security patrols who could provide support in ongoing Ince PC and Cheshire Police work to deal with anti-social motorbike activity in the area  <b>LK</b> confirmed that we have Securitas undertaking minimum of 3 patrols per week (2 on weekdays and 1 on the weekend). <b>LK</b> to pick up with <b>TL</b> separately to discuss how we can work together on this.</p> <p><b>ST</b> asked for some more detail on the location of the plastics park</p> <p><b>LK</b> told the good news that Jane Gaston had her baby in late August. A girl called Ellie.</p>	<p><b>LK</b> to contact <b>TL</b> to discuss further</p> <p><b>LK</b> to see what can be shared in due course</p>
<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed date Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7pm</b></p>	