



## Protos Community Forum

### Minutes of the meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

7.00pm Zoom meeting

#### Present:

##### Voting Members:

Cllr. Sarah Temple, Helsby Parish Council  
 Cllr. Andrew Eardley, Ince Parish Council  
 Cllr. Tim Lloyd, Ince Parish Council  
 Cllr. Mark Parry, Little Stanney and District Parish Council

##### Advisers:

Lois Kay, Peel NRE  
 Jane Gaston, Peel NRE  
 Richard Bates, Peel NRE  
 Tony Smith, Peel NRE  
 Joe Harper, Sisk  
 Andy Smith, Covanta  
 Phil Bridges, Environment Agency

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Apologies	Cllr. Chris Basey, Frodsham Ward Cllr. Graham Heatley, Gowy Rural Ward Cllr. Margaret Parker, Gowy Rural Ward Cllr. Pauline O'Reilly, Elton Parish Council	
Absences	Cllr. Clare Wright, Thornton Le Moors Parish Council Cllr. Felicity Davies, Frodsham Town Council Cllr. Martin Dickinson, Elton Parish Council Cllr. Paul Bowers, Helsby Ward Justin Madders MP Ellesmere Port & Neston	
Presentation on Hydrogen from Tony Smith, Peel NRE	Copy of the presentation attached to the minutes. Tony explained he was a consultant with 40 years experience of gas molecules and had been an advisor to Peel for several years on hydrogen and carbon dioxide abatement opportunities.  MP - Do you use steam for reformation? TS - Fundamentally no, hydrogen production uses an autothermal reformation process. With new technology, this can capture 98% of the carbon dioxide.	



	<p>MP - Does the process use much electricity? Does it produce more energy that it uses in its production TS – Confirmed that electricity is used. Explained that in energy transformation, energy is lost, i.e. you have to expend energy to produce energy - broadly around 20%.</p> <p>ST – how will the hydrogen and carbon dioxide get moved around?          TS explained that hydrogen will use new pipelines which will be installed and operated by the local distribution network, Cadent. Hydrogen will be moved around by compression in gas form. To put this into homes and businesses, it will initially comprise a blend of 30% hydrogen with 70% gas and there is currently understood to be no need for changes in home appliances (this is all subject to ongoing studies)</p> <p>Carbon Dioxide will move in gas form using a new pipeline between the Stanlow area and Connah’s Quay. This will then join to an existing pipeline out to the Point of Ayrand then be moved to the East Irish sea. The existing pipeline is currently delivering gas to Connah’s Quay power station. When that facility comes to the end of economic life, the intention is to reverse flow this pipeline. Carbon Dioxide in gaseous form will go back into the same reservoir into pore spaces in rocks in the East Irish Sea. Work is ongoing to ensure reservoir models are capable of receiving the Carbon Dioxide and ensuring it can be effectively sealed.</p> <p>MP – could the carbon dioxide be cleaned and used in the food industry. TS confirmed that yes it can, but there will be far higher quantity that could be used for that purpose alone. Advised that scientists and innovators are always seeking ways to use the carbon dioxide.</p> <p>ST – are there plans to link renewable schemes on Peel owned land to produce green hydrogen?</p> <p>JG – Peel NRE have ongoing dialogue with Progressive Energy the organisation who are bringing together all the jigsaw pieces to bring forward the Hynet project. There are a number of opportunities for Peel to work with them on this as landowner and also to help occupiers at Protos link into the infrastructure.</p>	<p>LK to share presentation and Tony’s email address with forum members</p>
<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were accepted as a true record subject to addition of comment regarding objection by y Ince PC to any future increase in HGV movements.</p>	<p>LK - Additional text to be agreed with AE and final</p>

		minutes to replace draft minutes on the website
Matters Arising	<p>Discussion around the Station Road drainage matter.</p> <p>RB confirmed that Peel have undertaken a legal review. Peel NRE doesn't believe it is their responsibility. The water lands on public highway and then the highway drains onto private land. However, Peel do want to support in getting the matter resolved.</p> <p>Peel had been advised that there was a flow restrictor which needs to be investigated to see if any failures. Peel arranged for Sisk operatives to locate it. But couldn't locate in the location advised by CWaC.</p> <p>Subsequently Peel are in conversations with Chris Whittaker (CWaC) who are going to put a tracker down the drain to locate where the chamber is. Peel awaiting update from Chris Whittaker.</p> <p>Update requested on the MSBG community liaison group. AS confirmed that they are still planning to hold a separate liaison group and more information should be available shortly.</p> <p>Actions for other matters arising had been completed.</p>	<p>RB and LK to keep the forum updated on this matter</p> <p>AS to keep members updated on this</p>
Protos update	<p>Update note circulated in advance of the meeting (copy attached)</p> <p>ST – Plot 1, Plastic re-processing facility, not pre-processing facility *typo to be corrected in issued update note*</p> <p>What is the interface between this and the plastic park?</p> <p>JG – This would complement what is happening at the plastic park. Waste will be separated out in the plastic park and then could be used by another operator to produce a fuel at the Plot 1 facility. Access to ship canal and pipework and existing infrastructure is of interest in this location.</p> <p>ST - Any further detail than 'later this year' available on the start of plot 13 development (Enviroo)? LK – nothing further available at this point.</p>	
Phase 2 Infrastructure works presentation	<p>Update note circulated in advance of the meeting (copy attached)</p> <p>Discussion around the piling underway at Tang Bridge</p>	



<p>from Joe Harper</p>	<p>JH confirmed that Sisk commenced piling on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> with 28 of the 104 piles to be installed having been completed. Sisk's current programme is for these to be complete by 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb (subject to know unexpected issues) This will be followed by reinforced concrete works and then bridge installation. With bridge completion in August.</p> <p>AE – queried change in number of piles and completion date as he hasn't been made aware of any change to these. RB – explained reason for increase in piling being issues with poor ground and detailed design resulting in additional piles required.</p> <p>AE – will piling be required on future plots?          JG - Depends on nature of development. Has been required so far on biomass, efw, and supporting infrastructure.          RB - We have mitigated requirement for piles where possible through use of surcharging.</p> <p>ST - What is CCS? JH - Considerate Constructors Scheme</p> <p>ST – liked video link and requested some drone footage of plot 8 also? AS – confirmed that some specialist videography is underway of plot 8 including time lapse and drone footage. At some point in next month, a video will be available and then 6 monthly thereafter.</p>	<p>LK – to coordinate informing forum members via email in between meetings when changes in dates of piling works at Protos.</p>
<p>Energy from Waste Facility, Plot 8, Protos from Andy Smith Covanta</p>	<p>Update note circulated in advance of the meeting (copy attached)</p> <p>ST - Will continuation in piling to end Feb cause delay in other timings in the programme?          AS explained that in certain areas of the site, detailed design has led to the requirement for extra piling. Areas still being piled are ancillary areas, road hardstanding and as such this isn't impacting on wider construction work or the forward programme.</p> <p>ST - How many piles in total for the project? AS advised that the latest estimate is 7000. Over 6000 have already been installed.</p> <p>ST – The website states that recruitment will be starting late 2022, is this correct?          AS advised that the MSBG webpage is for the construction phase and is active and relevant now. The reference to late 2022 is for Covanta's recruitment activity, e.g. facility manager, which will start towards the end of 2022. Covanta will do publication of this in due course. Covanta are still working towards an operational facility early 2024.</p>	<p>AS to update in due course</p>



	<p>They will be looking for specific skills in their sector, and will be looking both internally and externally to fill this post. They recognise the strong industrial expertise in the area and hope to be recruiting from this existing skill base.</p> <p>AS also explained that Covanta has submitted an application to the Environment Agency for a Variation to the existing Environmental Permit for the operation of the facility. The Variation covers a number of proposed changes including an increase in the maximum permitted throughput of the plant, confirming the location of the stack and water discharge points, confirming the plant configuration (two boiler lines) and inclusion of a second emergency diesel generator. The Environment Agency confirmed that it is likely to be a few months before a case officer is assigned to progress Covanta's application, following which there will be an opportunity for comments from local stakeholders and the public. It was agreed that the Community Forum will be notified of the commencement of any such consultation period.</p> <p>[Further detail - Covanta confirmed that it will not be seeking any changes to the limit on the number of HGV movements allowed under the Planning Permission as a result of the changes included in the Permit Variation application. Covanta also advised that the revised air quality assessments submitted with the application show that there will be no significant environmental or health impacts as a result of the changes].</p>	
Benefit fund update from Sarah Temple	<p>Confidential update note circulated in advance of the meeting</p> <p>ST advised that the benefit fund committee are going to increase the maximum amount to be granted to one project from £4,000 to £5,000. No objections were raised to this</p>	ST to confirm to benefit fund committee that the update to the application guidelines can be made
Date of next meeting	Provisional date of <b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> proposed for the next meeting. 7PM on Zoom	

## **Plastics Park**

The plastic park planning application has been validated. It is the subject of statutory consultation and is still with CWaC for consideration. Core planning documents are on the website along with a link to the CWaC planning portal.

### **Plot 13 – Enviroo, Plastic Recycling Facility**

Subject to agreements, currently expect to start on site later this year.

### **10b – Plastic to hydrogen facility**

The Plot 10b S73 app has been validated. It is the subject of statutory consultation and is still with CWaC for consideration. Planning documents are available on the Protos website.

The NMA for the reallocation of traffic movements between plots has been approved which relates to both the plastic park and the plot 10b applications.

### **Plot 1**

Peel NRE are in discussions with a couple of occupiers interested in taking plot 1 for use as a plastics re-processing facility

## **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 a culmination of contributory factors including Covid and ways of working, delivery delays, obtaining kit and materials. The construction is split into 2 Projects both with the same main contractor; Smith Brothers:

1. Contestable Works: This includes a Substation and connection to the 132 KV supply from the newly installed pylon which connects into the Overhead line. This part of the build shall be fully adopted by SPEN upon completion. Commissioning of all internal HV control and switching systems is now complete. The site is now fully secured, SPEN has now taken over technical control of the building in readiness of connection to the 132KV supply that is due to happen imminently upon completion of legal documentation.
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 still ongoing.

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 with provision into plot 10B (Plastic to Hydrogen) in time for their connection.

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 at Frodsham and Capenhurst) 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.

**Protos Progress Update – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022****Materials Management**

No further update. Ongoing activities as previously advised: We continue to carry out preparatory work with pre-development clearance and stabilisation of development plots to facilitate their availability for potential developers. This involves the creation of working platforms through the importation of naturally occurring construction fill materials (in accordance with Environmental regulations and planning requirements under the outline consent.)

**Newsletter**

We will produce the next edition of the community update newsletter ready to circulate end of February 2022

**Estate Management**

We continue to report fly tipping to CWaC. We ask users of the area who notice flytipping to please let us know by sending photos and description to [community@peel.co.uk](mailto:community@peel.co.uk)

Tree safety works are ongoing along Grinsome Road and in Goldfinch Meadows/Marsh Lane where some were impacted by the storms late last year.

Gritting contract in place Protos estate roads.

Ongoing security patrols by Securitas.

**Air Quality**

No further update - The first annual Air Quality (AQ) monitoring report for the Helsby AQ monitoring station was published in July 2021. This is available on the dedicated community page on the Protos website. This has also been shared with CWaC.

**Nature Areas**

Water vole fencing is in place in Snipe Haven around one of the ditches to which water voles identified on other parts of the development site can be translocated when/as needed. This would be subject to Natural England licencing.

Working with Cheshire Wildlife Trust to plan for management and monitoring of phase 2 ecology areas following their completion later this year.

Management and monitoring of Goldfinch meadows and Snipe Haven ongoing.

**Community Benefit Fund**

Peel NRE's £50,000 contribution to the Protos Community Benefit Fund for the year Jan 2022 – December 2022 was transferred in late December 2021.



## ***John Sisk – Protos Phase 2 – 19/01/2022***

### **Progress and Updates Since Last Meeting**

- Road construction is 90% completed and the initial layers of asphalt have been installed.
- Works on Tang Bridge have commenced and are currently due to be complete in Summer 2022.
- The ecology areas are making good progress. The planting and seeding is planned to commence in February 2022 to create new habitats.
- The west central drain bridge is complete providing an additional crossing over the West Central Drian.
- 66 000 hours worked without any reportable lost time incidents.
- Achieved 'Excellent' Status from Considerate Constructors Scheme during their audit in September 2021.

### **Lookahead**

- Wearing course to be installed in Spring 2022
- Completion of Ecology Areas Planned for Spring 2022
- Construction of Tang Bridge is ongoing and will be completed in Summer 2022
- All works to be completed in Summer 2022



***Image 01: Showing Road 3B and Ecology Area B***



***Image 02: Showing Ecology Area C***



***Image 03: Showing TANG Bridge Construction***



***Image 04: Showing West Central Drian Bridge and Rd 4***

### **Other:**

Video Link of progress: <https://youtu.be/JZjRf7f-Q9g>



## **Protos Energy Recovery Facility Project**

### **Project Update for Protos Community Forum – January 2022**

#### Site Progress Since Last Meeting

- Continuation of piling works across the site – mainly for roads & hard-standings; and ancillary equipment areas – c.5,900 piles installed;
- Continuation of fuel storage bunker construction, incl. 1,950m<sup>3</sup> concrete pour for foundation slab;
- Completion of the boiler hall foundation and commencement of several other building foundations - c.6,500m<sup>3</sup> of concrete poured to date;
- Commencement of erection of structural steel and precast concrete structures;
- Average site workforce of around 100 persons per day; and
- Over 170,000 hours worked without a single lost-time accident.



#### Look-ahead

- Completion of piling works – this has unfortunately slipped to end of February due to additional piles identified during detailed design;
- Continuation of reinforced concrete works to main building foundations;
- Continuation of erection of steel & pre-cast concrete structures;
- Commencement of installation of mechanical equipment; and
- Commencement of erection of Line 1 boiler.

#### Other Items of Interest

- Local “Meet the Buyer” event held on 9th November attended by over 80 people from 67 companies interested in potential future supply-chain opportunities during the construction phase;
- The EA has approved the discharge of a Pre-Operational Condition (PO6) related to the detailed design of the furnace and combustion chamber in accordance with the Industrial Emissions Directive; and
- An application for a Variation to the Environmental Permit for the operation of the facility has been submitted to the EA to align the Permit with certain details of the proposed plant design.

#### Further information

- Supply-chain opportunities: <https://protoserf.com/supplier/>
- Employment enquires: <https://protoserf.com/jobs/>
- Project Newsletter: <https://protoserf.com/e-newsletter/>