

# PROTOS

## Protos Community Forum Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 7 February 2023

### Forum members:

Cllr Graham Heatley, Elton Ward (Chair)  
Cllr Sarah Temple, Helsby Parish Council  
Cllr Mark Parry, Little Stanney Parish Council  
Cllr Andy Canham, Elton Parish Council  
Cllr Andrew Eardley, Ince Parish Council

### Advisers:

Richard Barker, Peel NRE  
Andy Smith, Encyclis  
Lewis Jones, Font

<u>Item</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<b>1. Apologies and introductions</b>	<p>Apologies were noted from: Cllr Tim Lloyd, Ince Parish Council Cllr Lizzie Wiffen, Thornton Le Moors Parish Council Cllr Chris Copeman, Helsby Ward Cllr Christine Jackson, Ince Parish Council</p> <p>Brief introductions were carried out, noting Lewis Jones will be chairing the meeting on behalf of Graham Heatley, and the additional attendee of Emma King, Peel NRE to support administration of meetings going forward.</p>
<b>2. Approval of minutes from last meeting</b>	<p>No comments we received on the minutes from the previous meeting in November.</p>
<b>3. Reports circulated: Encyclis</b>	<p>Andy Smith provided a summary of the report circulated to members (attached to minutes), detailing key updates on the construction of the Protos Energy Recovery Facility. A video of the works also circulated to members.</p> <p>Cllr Temple commented to liking the video and asked if works are now back on track after the safety issues. Andy Smith explained that work has now resumed, and they are pressing ahead across civil and technical works. He explained that some wider issues had impacted the supply chain and therefore they are a bit behind, but work is moving ahead.</p>

# PROTOS

	<p>Cllr Temple commented that she was aware of key operations personnel being appointed.</p> <p>Andy Smith explained key personnel were in place when the last meeting took place and that recruitment for further jobs has now ramped up. Cllr Sarah Temple asked which recruitment events would be attended.</p> <p>Andy Smith responded that Protos site will be attending and participating at the Chester jobs event at DWP Chester on 14 February 10am – 12 noon, Paula Teasdale HR Business Partner has promoted the event across the <a href="#">LI platform</a></p> <p>Cllr Canham mentioned that Goldfinch Meadows drainage had improved and looks to be in good condition which is promising to see. A great improvement since Christmas / New Year was noted. He asked would it be possible to have a bench(s) installed for people to sit and rest while they visit the site. Andy Smith referred this to Richard Barker and mentioned Goldfinch Meadows is the responsibility of Peel NRE.</p> <p>Richard Barker confirmed that drainage works have been happening and the site which has led to the improvements. He noted that, whilst dates have not yet been set, it is the intention to have a rolling programme of drainage works over the coming years. He mentioned support of the bench installation.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Richard Barker to follow up on bench installation request at Goldfinch Meadows</p>
<p><b>3. Reports circulated: Peel NRE</b></p>	<p>Richard Barker provided a summary of the report circulated to members (attached to minutes). It provided an overview on various operational and strategic matters at the Protos site.</p> <p>Richard explained that design works on the relocation of Area E and Area B2 has now been completed and therefore a plan (shown on screen) outlines the relocation of these areas.</p> <p>He mentioned in terms of enquires, Protos is receiving good interest with enquiries currently being fielded which are linked to circular economy and alternative fuel production. He confirmed as these develop further he will be able to share more detailed information publicly and with forum members.</p> <p>Encyclis have been developing their proposals for a CCS capture plant, and the work on design is now completed. Following the assessment, the planning application has been submitted and now validated by Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>

# PROTOS

He updated that ENI (the engineering company behind Liverpool Bay carbon capture company) are working to design the Spur Pipeline Connection and that they could be invited to provide an update to the forum when the time comes.

He explained the planning application to remove the rail requirement at Protos is being developed and Peel NRE have started engaging with parties. He said that engagement with Cheshire West and Chester Council on the application has started. He suggested a specific meeting/briefing be arranged for forum members to talk through and communicate the proposal ahead of submission once more detail is available. This would happen at an appropriate time.

Cllr Eardley responded that the application for the removal of rail requirement is nothing short of a disgrace. He further said Peel NRE previously outlined the site as a multimodal facility, but that nothing has happened with the berth either.

Richard Barker responded that Peel NRE had invested in the berth and Peel NRE have been talking to several parties that were exploring the use of the berth to bring construction materials into the site. He provided the context that Peel NRE had explored the use of the rail facility with many potential operators over the years, but the demand requirement was not there in the market. He outlined that originally this was developed to take the residual waste in, however the types of contracts for residual waste has since changed.

Cllr Eardley responded that the site had been consented as multi modal, the rail is a big thing. He further commented Peel NRE are now backtracking. Richard Barker responded that it was not feasible to build a facility that nobody would use, with 15 years of marketing not managing to secure tenant interest.

Cllr Eardley responded that Peel NRE committed to it, and now it's not going to be a rail facility its going to be 90% road.

Richard Barker explained the scheme was assessed on the worst case that HGVs would bring materials into site, and they are working within that cap. He explained that Protos and its tenants have adapted to the market changes – for example with the reduction in capacity of the ERF.

In addition, the planning permission does not allow the rail facility to be operated independently of the approved waste activities. He further confirmed no substantive inquires will substantiate the rail requirement.

Cllr Eardley asked if Peel would request the HGV cap to be raised with the council. Richard Barker responded that the existing Protos

development is operating within the approved HGV numbers and as part of the consented site did not intend to change this.

Cllr Temple agreed with Cllr Eardley sentiments. She commented that the community feels let down and that this comes down to a financial decision not to build it. She added that the HGV numbers were intended to be a worst case scenario, rather than a cap. She further agreed to have a sperate meeting to discuss details of application when available

Richard Barker agreed to welcome a meeting and walk through proposals.

Cllr Parry said he sympathised with the position due to his experience working with rail, that whilst Peel could deliver the rail head, they cannot deliver the trains. It may be easier if there was a large, single entity on site, but would likely be very challenging with a multi-occupancy site.

**Action** - Confirm date and meeting to be arranged to discuss rail removal application.

#### **Fly tipping**

Cllr Eardley mentioned that Grimsome Road is the responsibility of Peel NRE and asked whether, as a private road, the Council should be involved in addressing fly tipping instances. Richard Barker mentioned that this was an arrangement that a previous colleague had put in place and the Council had responded, but as they do on other sites, Peel address instances on their private sites.

**Action** - Further investigation needed here

#### **Plot 13 – Enviroo**

Richard Barker confirmed things were progressing and that it was hoped that works would start on site in the summer. He said he would provide a further update at the next meeting.

#### **Substations**

Richard Barker mentioned they are complete and waiting for Encyclis to connect. Nothing to report on materials management, activity will continue in early Spring / summer and repair works.

#### **Newsletter**

Richard Barker confirmed the community newsletter was sent out in January.

#### **Security**

Richard Barker confirmed there has been no resurgence of bikes and quad bikes. He mentioned that it could reoccur as the weather gets nice, but that additional CCTV cameras have been installed by the wind farm to help matters.

# PROTOS

## **Wayfinding**

Richard Barker confirmed that he has been in touch with council. He said he has yet to receive a scope for the proposed signage or a programme of the works, but that he would continue engagement with the council on the matter.

**Action** - Richard Barker to continue communication with highways.

## **Postcode Royal Mail**

Richard Barker mentioned nothing further has happened with this action.

**Action** - Richard Barker to follow up on choosing of road names and register with Royal Mail

## **Air Quality**

Richard Barker confirmed the new report should be ready for publication in April/May. Timings might change but work is happening on the report. He mentioned this will be uploaded to the website when complete. Cllr Temple asked to be kept updated on this and involved with the team carrying out the work, as she's previously had direct contact with the team and received a draft report to review..

**Action** - Richard Barker agreed to share report developments with Cllr Temple

## **Nature areas**

Richard Barker confirmed the contract will be renewed with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust in March/April to manage the sites for the year ahead.

Cllr Canham asked where will the ecology areas be relocating?  
Richard Barker referred to previous illustration to explain the relocation.

Cllr Eardley asked if there was anything happening to the actual Woodland. Richard Barker responded no. Forum members requested for the plan to be circulated following the meeting, showing current locations and the new, relocated areas, so it is clear to see the changes. Cllr Eardly requested the drawing to be sent by Monday 12 February ahead of Ince Parish council meeting on Tuesday 13 February. Richard Barker responded he will issue new plan via email.

**Action** - Richard Barker to supply new relocation plan.

Cllr Temple mentioned she had been working Lois Kay on the lease arrangement for the monitoring station with Peel as it is at the final stages this needs to be resolved.

# PROTOS

	<p><b>Action</b> - Richard Barker to follow up on the lease arrangement.</p> <p><b>Community Benefit Fund</b> Richard Barker expressed apologies for the delay in CBF payment being paid. Richard Barker reassured this will be actioned and sent across.</p> <p>Cllr Canham mentioned that they have had some good applications submitted at this stage and that the next decisions would be at a meeting in March. Richard Baker confirmed the payment will be sent in advance of the March date.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Richard Barker will ensure payment is sent across as soon as possible without further delay.</p>
<p><b>4. Any other business</b></p>	<p>With regards to the Community Benefit Fund Cllr Temple asked Cllr Canham if the accounts for the previous year have been finalised. Cllr Canham mentioned a colleague had prepared accounts for the accountant and hasn't heard further on figures but will share an update.</p>
<p><b>5. Date of next meeting</b></p>	<p>It was agreed that the next Community Forum meeting would take place in May 2024, with proposed dates to be circulated on email to members alongside the minutes.</p> <p>It was agreed separate meetings in the diary for the proposed planning applications once progressed and have further details.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Peel NRE to confirm forum meeting date and planning application meetings</p>