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Yaxley Synchronous Condenser Community Forum Minutes

Date: 30th May 2023

Time: 6.30pm – 8pm

Location: Yaxley Village Hall

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Role	Initial
Cllr Jessica Fleming	Suffolk County Council	Hartismere Division Councillor	JF
Clare Dickson	Suffolk County Council	Rights of Way Manager	CD
Cllr Sam Bracebridge	Yaxley Parish Council	Councillor	SB
Cllr John Hawes	Yaxley Parish Council	Councillor	JH
Philip Freeman	Yaxley Parish Council / Thrandeston Parish Council	Clerks	PF
Cllr Tim Weller	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council	Palgrave Ward Councillor	TW
Cllr Charlie Wright	Yaxley Parish Council	Councillor	CW
Philip Silk	Conrad Energy	Development Director	PS
Jonathan Cooper	Conrad Energy	Development Manager	JC
Nikki Berry	NB Creative Communications	Communications Manager	NB

Apologies

British Horse Society
Mellis Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

Item	Notes	Action
Terms of Reference review and agreement	<p>Meeting timing and regularity – suggested that the meeting is held at 6.30pm to 8pm on a quarterly basis. Suggestion that during construction we may want to meet more frequently to talk about things like construction traffic. Conrad Energy agreed that if there is a need to meet more often in line with the construction programme we will do so.</p> <p>Meeting venue – proposed as Yaxley Village Hall. All commented that they were happy.</p> <p>Membership – current members and suggested additional members. Additional suggestions of the Ramblers Association, The Bat Preservation Society (due to bat corridors in this area) and The Wildlife Trust. Conrad Energy agreed to reach out to invite to the forum.</p> <p>Also suggested two local farmers / landowners that have good knowledge of local wildlife etc and would be good representatives of the most rural area and farmers.</p> <p>Conrad Energy to be added to members list and request for consistency between meetings from at least one attendee.</p> <p>Question around whether general members of the public are allowed to attend the forum. Conrad Energy confirmed that the forum members are representatives of the local community, i.e. the parish council is in turn representing local residents. If there was a particular reason for someone wanting to attend, that can be raised beforehand with the relevant representatives of the parish council. This ensures that meetings are as effective and valuable as possible for everyone.</p> <p>The meetings will be minuted and will be shared on Conrad Energy's website and with forum members to share further as needed.</p> <p>Contributing to the agenda. Conrad Energy confirmed that if members want to raise anything in a meeting this can be provided to Conrad Energy beforehand and included within the agenda. Or raised within the 'Any Other Business' section on the day.</p>	<p>CD – to obtain contact for the Ramblers Ass</p> <p>PF – to speak to landowners to see if either of them would be interested in joining the forum</p> <p>NB – to contact others to invite to the forum and add Conrad details</p>

Yaxley Synchronous Condenser and consented design	<p>What is the likelihood of the synchronous condenser having a major fail and requiring a large equipment replacement during the life of the site? How would we get the part there once the access road is removed?</p> <p>Conrad Energy confirmed that this is a very unlikely situation due to the limited number of core components and having a design life of 50 years. If this situation arose throughout the lifespan of the equipment, access options would be reviewed at that time. Currently the access track will be removed on completion of the construction of this and the National Grid substation. It is the associated parts which are more prone to maintenance repairs over time. These are smaller and a regular van can transport these using Leys Lane as required.</p> <p>What access track would be used at the time of decommissioning?</p> <p>Conrad Energy confirmed that options would have to be assessed at that time. No decommissioning plan has been included with the original application as that isn't a requirement as part of the Town and Country planning process.</p> <p>Where would the water supply come from?</p> <p>A domestic supply is required which would be run from the connection that National Grid have running up to their site.</p>	
Updates to the consented design – S. 73	<p>Why has the site equipment been reduced from two to one synchronous condenser unit?</p> <p>Conrad Energy initially applied for two units to support National Grid's objectives. National Grid had stated what was required in East Anglia, however have managed to meet this with multiple substations/contract awards, including Walpole (also a Conrad Energy site) and Necton which have scaled up to meet the shortfall and therefore we could reduce the Yaxley site.</p> <p>The red line boundary now does not include Leys Lane at the top of the site?</p> <p>Conrad Energy confirmed that initially the red line was wider incase additional landscaping was required, but have been able to meet this within the footprint of the site.</p> <p>The landscaping plan has been submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council and is available to view in the planning application area on their website.</p>	
Minimising impact on the community	<p>Concern about where the cooling fans are positioned and any noise from these affecting the Bridleway and horses using this route.</p> <p>Conrad Energy confirmed that they have spoken to the equestrian centre about putting screening up during</p>	

	<p>construction, and are working with them about any other mitigation they would minimise disturbance to horses.</p> <p>If there is a problem with noise once it is operational are there additional measures that you can install if it turns out to be a nuisance? Assurance is needed that if there is an issue with noise, even if it is what is deemed under what would be breach of noise levels, that you would listen and deal with this.</p> <p>Once operational there will be an obligation on the plant around meeting the set noise levels, which will be monitored through performance testing during the commissioning phase at the end of construction.</p> <p>There will be direct phone numbers and emails throughout this phase and once operational where you can reach the project should any issues arise. There will be processes and channels in place to respond to issues immediately and this forum will also be a place to review issues and how they have been dealt with and to listen and feedback. We can share a process around complaints handling and our commitments around this.</p> <p>What is the noise attenuation plan as the proposed landscaping won't be mature for a few years?</p> <p>The noisiest piece of equipment - the synchronous condenser unit - will be within an acoustically clad building to mitigate noise from this. The external fans are ground mounted, and will be sheltered by existing and new hedges and trees which some of won't be mature when we start, however the acoustic consultant we appointed have taken into consideration any impact from those fans without the proposed landscaping. There will also be a 1-1.5m bund around the site with the landscaping on top.</p> <p>Conrad Energy stated that they will continue to look at this further, as the fans are the most flexible in design i.e. larger footprint and slower spinning blade therefore producing less noise, with options for location on site.</p> <p>Can you clarify what the lighting will consist of?</p> <p>There will be low level bulkhead lighting on doors and motion sensitive security lighting around the perimeter. Details of how the lighting has been designed considering impacts on wildlife and biodiversity is provided within the submitted Preliminary Ecological Appraisal submitted with planning application ref: DC/23/01494.</p>	<p>JC – confirm complaints handling process and ensuring direct communication channels should issues arise</p> <p>JC / PS – continue to review noise monitoring and mitigation</p>
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Project timeline	<p>When you bring the equipment on and start to test it can you please notify the members of this forum.</p> <p>We would continue to hold meetings throughout the construction works and ensure that you are notified of key activity, such as when the site is run at full capacity to test all elements.</p>	
Conrad Energy Community Fund	<p>What amounts of Community Fund have previously you awarded?</p> <p>Previous funds have been around the £1,000 - £2,000 amount but this does vary depending on the community and local needs. This would be something that we would be looking at getting in place before operation.</p> <p>Comments that the fund could be pooled with other community funds in the area to support something bigger.</p> <p>Agreed to provide information with you to share with communities to obtain thoughts on what funding opportunities are of interest.</p> <p>Could this fund speed cameras?</p> <p>Not typically something that Conrad Energy would do and is normally something for the council highways department.</p> <p>Schools might also be interested in doing a trip to the site during construction.</p> <p>This is definitely something that we can consider.</p>	Conrad Energy to provide fund information
Keeping Updated	<p>Request for information about how people can register online for email updates to share with communities.</p> <p>Request to provide content that easily translates the email updates into something shorter for social media.</p> <p>Conrad Energy agreed to provide a short summary which points to the full article on the website to forum members alongside the email update.</p>	Conrad Energy to provide information