
REPORT OF THE STRATFORD COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 2nd AUGUST 2007

PRESENT: Cllr J Henderson (Chairperson), Cllr G Slack, Mr R Clarke, Mr K Latham, Mr J Benson, Mr W Tomb, Mr N Bignell, Mr T Dwyer, Mr J Sonnberg, B Roberts (Environmental Health Officer) & G Wilcox (Director of Planning & Environment).

APOLOGIES: Mr W Williams.

The meeting commenced at 4:00 pm with an inspection of the mine site and inspection of the proposed location of a new road to connect from Bowens Road to Wenham Cox Road.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting held 3 May 2007 were confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING:

No matters arising.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Environmental Monitoring

The Committee reviewed the results of environmental monitoring for the previous period.

- Water quality remained relatively unchanged to previous results.
- Variations in recorded dust depositions due to contamination.

2. Complaints

Four complaints were received during the reporting period.

One related to intersection visibility and the other three related to noise from mining operations. T Dwyer advised that independent noise level monitoring has been undertaken at the Healy and Lowrey residences.

T Dwyer advised that stop line markings will be reinstated at the crossings to help improve safety and visibility.

R Clarke expressed concern that the crossings on Bowens Road are maintained to a standard that does not comply with Australian road rules or Auspec standards.

J Sonnberg advised that standards are satisfactory, however due to nature of roads and crossings this is the reason to close Bowens Road and open a road joining Wenham Cox Road.

3. Blasting

A total of seven blasts were conducted during the reporting period. All blasting activities were in accordance with licence conditions.

3. Noise Assessment Report

T Dwyer advised that the Stratford Coal Mine and Bowens Road North Mine noise emissions were below the daytime, evening and night time noise criteria at all monitoring locations under the prevailing weather conditions, during the Environmental Noise Level Survey that took place from 5th to 7th and 13th to 14th June 2007.

4. Independent Noise Investigation – Lowrey

T Dwyer advised that noise investigations revealed that the Stratford Coal Mine noise emissions were above the evening and night noise criteria at the Lowrey residence under the prevailing weather conditions, during the independent noise investigation conducted between the 22nd and 25th May 2007. T Dwyer explained that the noise impact was specifically due to the Caterpillar D10R Dozer operating on the product stockpiles during noise enhancing atmospheric weather conditions.

5. Independent Noise Investigation - Healy

T Dwyer advised that noise investigations revealed that the Stratford Coal Mine noise emissions were below the relevant noise criteria at the Healy residence under the prevailing weather conditions, during the independent noise investigation conducted between the 22nd and 25th May 2007.

T Dwyer advised that both residents have been provided with the reports.

6. Proposed Bowens Road Diversion

J Sonnberg advised that as per the provided plan it is proposed to close part of Bowens Road and construct a diversion road via Wenham Cox Road. He advised that the diversion would eliminate safety concerns at the crossings.

J Sonnberg advised that he has initially approached all landowners that will be affected by the proposal and is inviting all comments.

R Clarke expressed his concerns over the proposed road diversion and tabled a letter to the committee detailing these concerns.

W Tomb advised that even if the haul road intersections were perfect the road diversion would eliminate any current safety concerns at the intersections.

G Wilcox advised that the proposal requires approval from Council during which all concerned persons have the opportunity to comment. These comments and any other relevant factors will be considered by Council in their decision.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6:15pm.

NEXT MEETING: To be held 1st November 2007, 4:00pm at Stratford office.