

Residents and Business Liaison Group
Tuesday 17 May 2016 – 7pm to 8.15pm
Grace Baptist Church Hall, 48-50 Park Ridings, N8 0LD

Attendees

Keith Johnston (KG) National Grid
Paul Greatorex (PG) Atkins
Paul Cooper (PC) Coleman & Company
Nick Gleave (NG) St. William
Felix Shaw (FS) Local Dialogue
Hannah Anderson (HA) Local Dialogue
Nick Garland (NGa) Four7

John Miles (JM)
Ian Robinson (IR)
Cllr Stephen Mann (SM)

Apologies

Bill Godber (BG)
Ryan King (RK)

1. Introductions and apologies

Introductions were made.

2. Planning update

NG advised that St. William's public exhibitions about the reserved matters applications have been on-going, and that the application would be submitted by the end of May/early June. He added that St. William will be announcing dates soon for the monthly residents meeting they are establishing, and are going to engage more residents on the pocket park aspect and how to memorialise the gas holders. He noted that these meetings are to be held at the Grace Baptist Church.

KJ advised that National Grid are still waiting for the paperwork for the consents for the Section 106 (S106) agreement, this had been taken to the Council to be signed yesterday, once this is done the consent for Pressure Reduction Station (PRS) will be released, and then the reserved matters application could go forward.

JM advised that Ashley Spearing agreed to provide details about the S106 agreement. **NG** agreed to have this by the next meeting. **JM** requested this to be from a layman's perspective, as it has information about the health centre and money to go to local authority for areas such as education, but that the document would be more complicated, and it needed to be simplified for the community. **NG** agreed to chase this with Ashley Spearing.

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3. Programme update

PC gave an update on Gas Holder 1 (GH1), and noted that the team had de-watered down to the base sludge level. The centrifuge and tanker that will remove the sludge are on site, this had started on Monday.

JM asked if the sludge removal was the smell that had appeared from the site this week. **PC** confirmed that it was, but that an odour suppressor is being used to reduce the impact on the surrounding neighbours. He requested that if the neighbours notice the smell getting worse, to let Coleman & Company know, and they would find a way of rectifying this.

PC advised that there was about a week and a half worth of work left on GH1. He also gave an update on Gas Holder 3 (GH3), noting that the crown structure has been dismantled. He highlighted that the sludge in GH3 is also exposed to the air, so may be adding to the smell. He added that once the sludge is taken out, the team would then start to remove the lift skins.

PC also mentioned that there would be minimal noisy or dusty work over the next few weeks, and that the last round of environmental monitoring would end on Wednesday.

4. Japanese Knotweed update

PC advised that all clearing works to the rear of properties on Hornsey Park Road has been completed, and Three Shires (contractor) had provided their price for removal. He added that after the initial cut back of the knotweed, the contractor would dig a 3 meter deep, 1ft wide trench at the back of 63-105 Hornsey Park Road with a JCB. He mentioned that work would be starting within 1-2 weeks, and would take 7-8 days with a root barrier installation and back filling done the same day to ensure safety.

JM advised that there are still residents who are unaware that the trench will be dug, and for the root barrier and Japanese Knotweed to be removed. He asked if the first process would be de-heading the knotweed.

PG confirmed that this was the first phase to be done by the fence, and that a letter would be sent ahead of the work starting.

5. Traffic management

PC mentioned that Fibre House traffic management would begin from next Monday, which would transfer pedestrians to other side of the road with push button traffic lights to assist road crossing, and that demolition will start the week after next. He added that there would be no lane narrowing, and traffic lights are far down from the blind bend. He advised that this would be for 5-7 weeks.

PG thanked **SM** for nudging Tony Casalle at Haringey Council Highways Department. He explained the plan for the Clarendon Road/Hornsey Park Road junction is that the parking bays on the corner and one lane on Clarendon Road will be closed with temporary cones before infilling begins at the end of June. He noted that these could be removed out of site hours, and that Transport for London (TfL) confirmed there was no need to change the existing traffic lights or highway system, as this would be more localised. He highlighted that traffic to the site will come from Turnpike Lane and turn right to get in to Clarendon Road. **JM** asked if temporary cones or heavy barriers were to be used. **PG** responded that the plan is to use cones, but if it is difficult to maintain the lane closure, then a barrier will be used, but only when needed. **JM** asked if there was any way to establish if the cones had not worked. **PG** advised that when traffic increases, if there have been snags on the corner, this will show that the cones have not worked.

JM asked if TfL and the Council were concerned about problems with traffic flow from the potential for lorries to block the road. **PG** responded that if a problem arises, TfL can change the traffic lights, but that there is no other way to fundamentally improve the current set up. **PC** mentioned that larger deliveries to the site are only allowed in at certain times due to the movement order in London, so blockages are unlikely to be a problem.

6. Air, dust and noise management

KJ asked if **JM** had noticed any extra noise. **JM** responded that there had been lots of noise on the day of the meeting, which sounded like something shifting. He considered this to have been the loudest noise there had been so far. **PC** advised that this was likely to be the tanker and centrifuge as it spins the sludge to remove the water to make the solid 'cake' which can then be safely removed.

PC advised that the air monitoring had been carried out, and dust monitors have been put in place. The first readings would appear in the next few days. **JM** asked if there would be dust from the demolition of Fibre House. **PC** responded that the team might generate dust but this will be controlled to minimise it going outside the boundary.

FS to upload the data from the monitors on the website. **(N.B. This has now been actioned)**

7. Communications update

FS noted that since the last meeting a letter had gone out with a general update to residents that work had started, and highlighted the data from the monitors being on the website, following this, traffic to the website doubled in the space of a week from 50 hits per day to over 100 hits per day. **JM** thanked **FS** for putting the minutes and monitoring data on the website.

FS advised that he would put up the next lot of data and minutes later this week. He also mentioned that he had been working on site history boards to be placed on the hoardings and tell the story of the site. **KJ** highlighted that these would not be a permanent fixture, and would only be up while work is going on. **FS** agreed to send these to **JM** for input, before being signed off by National Grid. **JM** requested that the boards be put behind the lime trees to prevent graffiti, but noted that there had been no further graffiti on the site signage.

FS mentioned that there had been no more communication from the lecturer from Coventry University who wanted access to the site and asked **JM** for more details about the Parkside Malvern Residents Association (PMRA) event that was held on Saturday.

JM explained that the event on Saturday invited the neighbourhood to celebrate the end of the gas holders under the lime trees, but also to discuss the Pocket Park and catch up on memorialising the gasworks. The fence was used to put up 4 displays, with the report, materials and equipment, Gary Smith attended from the Haringey Council Transport Department to discuss various areas to improve roads, and there was a selection of St. William display boards from their previous event at Wood Green Library.

JM noted that about 50 people attended over the course of the morning, and it offered the scope for informal conversation with Haringey Council and St. William in one place. He mentioned that knotweed was not discussed, but problems with lime trees overhanging the roof of houses. The event highlighted the sense of loss of something familiar, and an acknowledgement that once completed, Horney Park Road will no longer be 'on the fringe' of Knowle Park Ward. He highlighted that only one person from the east side of Hornsey Park Road attended which showed the difference of awareness on different sides of the road. He noted that residents on the west side of the road are now very aware that there is work going on.

JM asked what kind of records of birds there were for the site, as another resident had noticed crows nesting in the upper reaches of the gas holders. **PG** responded that there are former nests in GH3, and the team are regularly looking at these to see what happens. He noted that these nests are so high that they are not going to be impacted by work down below, and by the time the superstructure is taken down in November, nesting season will be over.

PG highlighted that the crows don't appear to be using the existing nests, but that birds flitter round the top of GH3. He advised that if anything is encountered, it will be dealt with correctly, and that there was nothing in GH1 or around the vegetation area that has been cleared.

JM mentioned that two weeks ago they found a hedgehog in their garden for the first time in 20 years, so it would be worth keeping an eye out for others around the site. He also noted that the song thrushes were still present in the area despite a national

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decline. He highlighted that it would be good to get through the development and for there to still be song thrushes present as the signature species for the site. He requested that some thought be put into how to keep them around.

8. Recording of recovered items

JM reiterated that the points in the report that he had circulated, predominantly about reusing recovered materials on the new development, as the Council had made a firm decision about maintaining the history of the site, and re-use of recovered materials. He added that the report included comments by four local historians, including Colin Marr, who had been trying to get the Gas Holder 'Number 1 sign' preserved for some time. He noted that some of the ideas brought forward included: storyboards, plaques on buildings, and ladders with platforms to be used for hanging gardens. He highlighted that Colin Marr would like to see the recovered materials displayed with reference to engineering and how the design of the gas holders reappears in new buildings – i.e. the Gherkin. He mentioned that this would be seen as a mark of respect for the neighbourhood, and its connections with engineering in Millwall.

KJ noted that the nameplates had already been taken down, saved and stored. **PC** confirmed 7 had been recovered. **KJ** added that there needed to be a quick decision on what needs to be kept, to take forward for the pocket park or the development, and that the community would lose the opportunity if these decisions aren't made.

A conversation took place about retaining the guide wheel for the pocket park or the development, and how this had been done on other National Grid gas holder sites.

NG agreed to that there needed to be a conversation about what could be stored, and advise the residents as to what could be kept.

JM mentioned that he felt the Council element was missing, as he has provided the heritage report and support for preservation, despite this normally being the Council's role. **SM** agreed to try to encourage more council participation.

KJ and **NG** agreed to have a telecon to discuss the heritage assets to be saved.

9. Update from St. William

NG gave an update on behalf of St. William, explaining that they would be holding a Development Management Forum on 23 May between 7-9pm at Heartlands High School with the Council. **NGa** advised that there is now a live website about the Haringey Heartlands development which outlines the details of the scheme and where the exhibition materials can be downloaded. The link is: www.stwilliam.haringeyheartlands.com

FS and **NGa** agreed to put hyperlinks on both websites (for the demolition and for the regeneration) to avoid confusion.

10. RBLG/Council liaison

JM mentioned to **SM** about the conversation emerging between St. William and Fluid about Wood Green Futures, but still feels underpowered by the Council. **SM** agreed to encourage the Councillors to be more involved, and noted that he was due to have a meeting with Cllr Goldberg – Cabinet Member for Wood Green Regeneration. **JM** highlighted that 2-3 months ago, those in the east of the ward didn't acknowledge the Heartlands site, and that there is a big issue between east/west communications, with those in the middle being underrepresented.

11. Any other business

FS noted that the dates for the next three meetings had been set:

- Tuesday 14 June 2016
- Thursday 14 July 2016
- Tuesday 9 August 2016

and that the team had all agreed they were available on these dates. **IR** advised he is not available on 9 August, and **JM** is unable to do 14 June, but was happy for Marcus Ballard and Kate Glensman to represent the PMRA.

PG also apologised about the litter pick, due to a miscommunication, only small litter had been removed rather than the heavier rubbish that had been dumped there. **JM** stated he was happy with the apology, and that the rubbish was now clear.

Ends.