

Residents and Business Liaison Group
Tuesday 23rd May 2017 – 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Grace Baptist Church Hall, 48-50 Park Ridings, N8 0LD

Attendees

Keith Johnston (KJ) National Grid
Phil Harrison (PH) Atkins
Ashley Spearing (AS) St. William
Nick Gleave (NG) St. William
Felix Shaw (FS) Local Dialogue
Chris Cooper-Davies (CCD) Local Dialogue
Bryony Jennings (BJ) Austringer Capital
Dan Taylor (DT) tRIIO
Andrew Haughey (AH) Capital & Regional

John Miles (JM)
Marcus Ballard (MB)
Ryan King (RK)

1. Introductions and apologies

Introductions were made.

2. tRIIO works on Hornsey Park Road and Mary Neuner Road

DT gave an update on tRIIO gas mains replacement work in the area. He said that temporary traffic lights had been installed on Mary Neuner Road to allow tRIIO to make trial holes ahead of submitting a final design for the new gas mains corridor.

AS said that this work necessary was to establish where the gas mains will run underneath the Moselle Brook. tRIIO need to prove that they can get the new gas pipes through.

DT said the main issue encountered so far was that Haringey Council does not have a detailed design of the ground around the Moselle Brook. He mentioned that tRIIO will continue to liaise with the local authority and that completion of the current works should be mid June 2017, when the final designs for the gas mains relocation will be released.

JM asked about the holes in the road. **DT** said these are to prove that there is a route through for the new high-pressure gas mains. If a route cannot be found, the mains will have to sit deeper in the ground. He will be meeting with Haringey Council on Thursday 25th May to discuss the final project designs. He said that tRIIO

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will probably be securing a traffic order to close Mary Neuner Road for 12 months but that they will schedule work so that the road is only closed at certain times during this period. tRIIO will advertise in advance of any planned road closures. The work, beginning in July, should last for nine months and by March 2018 the PRS should be connected.

JM asked what the site would be like during this period. **DT** said there would be the same machinery on site as there is currently on Turnpike Lane and Hornsey Park Road, as well as a special machine, which will be used to push the steel pipes along the new gas mains route.

KJ said that the route of the mains and some of the PRS footprint had already been excavated but that no foundation work had been completed yet.

DT said the gas mains relocation work would be quiet compared with knocking down gasholders. Noise would further be reduced by the fact that most work will take place in a tent. He said that working hours on site would probably be similar to those for the Haringey Heartlands site (8am-6pm in the week and until 12pm on Saturday). This would speed up the overall timetable for the work and be unlikely affect residents because there are no houses immediately adjacent to Mary Neuner Road. **AS** said this might be something to discuss at the next RBLG.

JM said that there had been a high degree of stability at the Haringey site up to this point and he would like to see this continue. **DT** said he did not want to cause any upset and would, of course, adhere to Haringey Council's planning conditions.

3. Site remediation update

KJ said that remediation work on site had stopped because the stockpile of material removed from Gas Holder No. 2 (GH2) contained asbestos. Stopping work was necessary so that National Grid could formulate a plan for dealing with the stockpile and send samples off for testing. He said that there is absolutely no risk to residents' health and that monitoring work is continuing on the boundaries of the site on a daily basis. A 24-hour security guard has also been stationed on the site to prevent trespassers. The stockpile is covered with a plastic sheet to prevent fibres getting into the air. Haringey Council and the Environment Agency have been informed. National Grid's plan for dealing with the asbestos is to remove the stockpile from the site but leave the rest of the contaminated material in GH2 and cap it off.

MB asked whether the asbestos had been fly tipped. **KJ** said that it had not, but had been used to fill the void left by GH2 when the site was demolished in 1959.

PH said that three types of asbestos fibres have been found in GH2. He pointed out that the asbestos was bound up in the soil, so it is impossible to see asbestos debris in the gas holder or the stockpile. **KJ** said that National Grid was surprised by the amount of asbestos in GH2. He said that it would be 4-6 weeks before the stockpile was removed. This period included a week to sort out the paperwork, a further 1 or 2 weeks to get licensing in place and another week to mobilise. Removing the stockpile should only take a week.

AS said that the contaminated material in GH2 would be removed to such a level as to remove any need for future contractors to come into contact with it.

KJ said National Grid's final plan for dealing GH2 needed to be agreed with Haringey Council but that the main principle was not to disturb the asbestos further. Haringey has already agreed to the removal of the stockpile.

FS said a letter would be sent to residents informing them about the asbestos. **KJ** said that the letter should be upfront. **FS** said he would share with the group before sending it out.

JM said that he was pleased and impressed that National Grid had informed the group about the asbestos and handled the situation with such care and attention. He suggested that these sentiments be included in the letter to residents. He added that that there had been some curiosity among the residents about the stockpile, especially those who remembered the original demolition of the site in 1959.

MB said that this was an important issue because when the demolition debris had been used to fill GH2 originally there would have been airborne asbestos. Because the harmful side effects of inhalation can take ten, twenty or thirty years to come through this could mean that current residents who lived nearby during the original demolition are at risk. **AS** and **KJ** pointed out that, as the original demolition occurred almost 60 years ago, it was unlikely any current residents who had not already developed illnesses could have been affected.

KJ said that National Grid will check the bottom of GH2 for any other contaminated material, such as tar, before capping off the asbestos. He did not expect that anything would be found in the tank, however, because water samples taken from it had been relatively clean.

JM asked what National Grid would do if they discovered tar like material at the bottom of the gasholder tank. **KJ** said that he was not sure but reiterated his expectation that nothing would be found.

RK asked what impact the discovery of asbestos would have on the timetable for the site. **KJ** said that it would not slow down the overall timetable because St. William's phasing plan will allow them to begin construction on the east side of Mary Neuner Road while remediation work continues on the west side. He reiterated that residents' health was the most important consideration for National Grid.

PH said that all the other remediation work on site had been completed apart from around GH2.

6. Communications update

PH mentioned that he had located some historical photos of the gas works site and some archival records about their history. He offered to post these on the project website.

8. Any other business

The next meeting was set for **Tuesday 26th June at 6.30pm.**

ENDS