

First meeting of local residents of Kinnaird Village and The Inches to discuss Dart Energy's Coal Bed Methane planning application

Date and time of meeting: 7.15pm on 22 November 2012

Venue: Kinnaird Primary School's dinner hall

Minutes taken by: Mark Williams

Number of attendees: Approximately 250, including 199 who signed the register on entry

Dart Energy representatives in attendance: Douglas Bain (Asset Manager) and Claudius Völker (Planning & Environmental Operator)

Meeting organisers in attendance (all local residents): Alison Doyle, Jim Doyle, Karen Hannah, Cathie Hunter, Rob Lowe, Kirsty Lowe, Chris Miller, Billy Thomson, Fiona Williams and Mark Williams

Version note: This is the second version of these minutes – see the **Addendum** for details. The first release of these minutes included a 'Disclaimer' in place of this 'Version note' but that Disclaimer is no longer required as a Dart Energy representative has now corrected and commented on these minutes.

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Background – Video (courtesy of Dart Energy)
- 3) Concerns
- 4) Presentation by Maria Montinaro (Community Councillor, Shieldhill & California)
- 5) Actions/Outcomes
- 6) Discussion
- 7) Close

Further information provided on the printed agenda:

- "Kinnaird Village Community" Facebook page
- "Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council" Facebook page (email list lst-cc@virginmedia.com)
- Link to Falkirk Council planning website to leave comments or to object is
- <http://eplanning.falkirk.gov.uk> – search for application: P/12/0521/FUL
- Planning Officer – john.milne@falkirk.gov.uk for questions or comments
- Next Community Council meeting Monday 26th November @ 7.15pm in The Rennie Lounge of Larbert Old Church

If you can help or wish to become involved then email aldoyle@btinternet.com or fiona.k.williams@googlemail.com – your input will be appreciated

1. Welcome and introductions

Alison Doyle began the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and saying that there were 50 copies of the Agenda (see above) to be found on seats around the room – we had greatly underestimated the number of attendees! Alison stated that the plan for the meeting was to follow the Agenda with questions and answers at the end. She then went on to introduce the organisers of the meeting (see also above) who had come together through email connections in the past couple of weeks to discuss the planning application and the lack of local awareness. The organisers, she said, had also worked together to draft a leaflet and distribute copies of it to hundreds of local residents, with the intention of raising awareness and bringing residents together to discuss local concerns in this public meeting.

Alison made it clear that the organisers were all local residents, not experts, and not members of any environmental groups. She apologised for any technical glitches that might occur and said that the aim of this meeting was simply to **share** information, not give information, and she invited the attendees to help or join the growing group of concerned residents by emailing herself or Fiona Williams (see the email addresses listed under the agenda above).

Alison also introduced Maria Montinaro, a Community Councillor from Shieldhill and California, who had agreed to talk about her own concerns, along with two representatives from Dart Energy Europe who had kindly agreed to take part in the meeting at the “eleventh hour” after initially declining the invitation, which was, Alison admitted, at very short notice.

2. Background – Video (courtesy of Dart Energy)

Alison Doyle recalled that she was one of the few local residents who had been informed by letter about the planning application in September. She noted that her neighbour on the opposite side of her street did not receive a letter, and she said that she now assumes that this was because her neighbour, unlike Alison, lives more than 20 metres away from the relevant part of the proposed development – 20 metres being Falkirk Council’s standard minimum distance for informing residents of any planning application. Noting that the letter she received stated that the deadline for comments and/or objections was to be only weeks away Alison and her husband quickly found out more. They discovered that Dart had held five public consultations in June and July – months before letters to residents were sent out – and that they had been advertised in the Falkirk Herald and on the community council notice board. Only 43 people (in total) attended these five public consultations, and it is only in the past couple of weeks, thanks to the organisers of this meeting, that awareness has spread to a larger number of local residents of Kinnaird Village and The Inches.

Alison then introduced the Dart Energy video, which the company had kindly permitted us to show, and she also provided a bit of background to their plans. She said that back in the mid 1990s a predecessor of Dart had performed exploratory drilling in Airth, and they were followed by Composite Energy in the mid 2000s who took it one stage further by extracting methane from the test site and using it for small-scale electricity production. Now Dart Energy, who acquired Composite Energy last year, have submitted a planning application for their ‘flagship’ development, which comprises 14 drill points, covering approximately one acre each, along with pipelines and trajectories, one of which goes under Kinnaird Village.

[See reference (1) for a link to the video and a description]

3. Concerns

Alison then handed the meeting over to her husband, Jim, who gave a presentation sharing some of his concerns regarding the proposed development. Jim focussed on where the well trajectories go and where SEPA currently monitor. He began by showing a large scale map of the area with Letham Moss in Airth circled. He then used Google Earth to zoom into our local area and pointed out a line he had drawn to illustrate where a planned drill trajectory would begin at Letham Moss and terminate under housing developments in Kinnaird Village. He zoomed in further to show the suds pond that lies above the proposed trajectory and remarked on the proximity of the trajectory to Kinnaird Primary School. He then zoomed out again to show the wider area covered by the planning application, saying that Kinnaird Village is not the only housing development that will be near to drill trajectories, and he pointed to other housing areas on the unmarked map.

Jim went on to say that as an engineer he has a technical background, and on receiving 21 days notice of the planning application, he had decided to investigate the plans, noting quickly that there seemed to be no mention of external monitoring. He then showed to those in attendance a map of SEPA’s monitoring activities in the central belt, and pointed out that no monitoring is being performed near the proposed drilling point in Letham Moss, nor the current drilling site in Airth, nor the water outlet in to the River Forth estuary. The lack of monitoring by SEPA worries him, Jim said, and he suggested that there is more he could say on the matter.

Alison Doyle then stepped in to say that SEPA, as one of the named consultees for the planning application, this week **approved** the plans on the condition that a 'site management plan' is put in place; but John Milne, on being asked the question by Alison, did not know what this site management plan will entail, Alison reported. Alison also revealed that she has asked SEPA about their plans for water and soil quality monitoring and SEPA have said they will get back to her with answers, and Alison invited those in attendance to send her an email if they also would like to find out the answers to these questions. She reiterated her 'huge concerns' for local water and the local environment before handing over the microphone to Maria Montinaro.

4. Presentation by Maria Montinaro

Maria has been a Community Councillor for Shieldhill and California for 11 years. She reminded the audience that this is to be the first full-scale coal bed methane gas drilling operation in the UK and will set a precedent; it is a major planning application, and, in her opinion, the whole of Falkirk should have been consulted about the proposed development at this planning stage. "This is the time to get worried," she said, "not later". And, she went on to say, "We are in a coal mining area so it will affect us all", and there are similar plans to do the same thing in other coal mining areas in the UK, including Wales and the Midlands, she asserted.

Maria recalled that she first found out about the proposed development after attending an advertised meeting of Friends of the Earth (FoE) in Stirling, at which residents were advised to 'keep an eye out' for upcoming planning applications for coal bed methane production. She then attended a FoE meeting in Falkirk on September the 24th after discovering a planning application had been submitted in the Falkirk area. She raised the issue at her local community council meeting on September the 27th. Shieldhill and California Community Council agreed at the meeting that Maria should raise an objection to the planning application on their behalf, which she did, just in time to meet the original deadline for comments on October 4th. It was also agreed that since only three community councils had been consulted she would make sure all 18 local community councils were informed. The deadline for objections has since been extended. As far as Maria is aware, her community council is the only one to raise an objection to the planning application thus far.

With regards to informing the public, "Dart fulfilled the letter of the law", Maria said, "but not the spirit of the law".

Maria reported that she has prepared a presentation, contacted all the community councils and offered to brief them. She acknowledged community councils needed to be better informed before they could make any decision. She has since briefed 12 of the 18 community councils.

Maria also said that she and the community council she represents have been involved in the consultation stage of the latest Falkirk Local Development Plan (LDP) and, she pointed out that only the following two sentences, which appeared in the LDP's 'Main Issues Report' from November 2011, mentioned coal bed methane, which, in her opinion, was insufficient information:

'A number of consents for coalbed methane exploration and production have been granted in the northern rural area. The exploitation of this resource has been consistent with existing mineral policies.'

[See reference (2) and note (3) for the source of this quote]

Maria further explained that her community council had objected to the part of the LDP that mentioned further house building around Shieldhill because of the expansion to the village already and wanting to keep its village identity in a countryside setting; but, she asserted, had the community council been aware of this proposed development it would not have been further housing they would have been worried about but this drilling application.

Maria stated her conviction that the proposed development would be "detrimental to ourselves and the environment", but she would save her questions for Dart Energy until later.

First meeting of local residents of Kinnaird Village and The Inches to discuss P/12/0521/FUL

She said that through her work as a community councillor she knows just how much it takes for communities in Australia, Canada and the USA to “cry out” for these industries to stop. Especially knowing what busy lives people lead and the level of apathy to most issues.

She then went on to show a video by Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith, a Senior Advisor to the National Toxics Network in Australia, interrupting it momentarily to make it clear that “coal bed methane” is the same as “coal seam gas”, the Australian term, and to state that this meeting in Kinnaird Primary School was a “big” one, just like the one shown in the video from Australia, and just like in Australia “there is no smoke without fire”.

[See reference (4) for a link to the video, along with a description]

5. Actions/Outcomes

The planned presentation by Fiona Williams did not take place as Maria was keen for her and others to ask questions of the Dart Energy representatives. See the ‘Further Information’ section towards the end of this document for an edited transcript of Fiona’s presentation.

6. Discussion

The original plan for this meeting was for an open discussion to take place between local residents, but with the attendance of Dart Energy representatives at the meeting, which was unexpected as they had initially declined the invitation, the opportunity was taken to ask them questions instead.

The two Dart Energy representatives introduced themselves and there then followed a series of questions and answers which have been reproduced approximately below.

Douglas Bain introduced himself as Asset Manager for Dart Energy Europe. He said he had joined Composite Energy (now called Dart Energy Europe) in 2008 and had been active in Airth since then.

Claudius Völker said that he joined Composite/Dart Energy’s Service Management Team in 2008, after working with them as a consultant prior to that, and he was involved in the environmental specification for the planning application.

[See reference (5)].

Q: What experience do Dart have?

A: Composite/Dart Energy (Europe) was formed in 2004 and now has 25 employees based in Stirling, including drilling engineers and geologists. In the past 8 years Composite/Dart Energy (Europe) have gained experience of extracting methane coal from thin coal bed layers and since being acquired in 2011 they have been making good use of the technology provided by their parent company, Dart Energy.

Q: Will there be any fracking at local drilling sites in the future?

A: Dart Energy (Europe) don’t frack and don’t intend to frack, and it is technically infeasible here because fracking requires thick coal seams, which we don’t have.

Q: What is in the water being pumped into the drilling holes?

A: Water is not being pumped in, it is being taken out.

Q: Given that Dart’s public consultations were so poorly advertised and poorly attended, should the consultation process start again?

A: The consultation process started in April and is still open. Anyone can arrange to visit the drilling site and ask questions, but large meetings like this tend to be overtaken by the loudest speakers.

Douglas’s suggestion that poor weather could explain the poor attendance at previous public consultations was ridiculed by various audience members, given that those consultations took place in the summer and the fact that there was a great turnout at this residents meeting on a rainy evening.

First meeting of local residents of Kinnaird Village and The Inches to discuss P/12/0521/FUL

During this exchange someone in the audience asserted that **Falkirk Council** is to blame for the lack of local awareness of this planning application – not Dart Energy, and not community councils. This comment drew a round of applause from many other audience members.

Q: What assurances can we have that Dart can extract gas safely and what will SEPA's role be?

A: Dart has a strong relationship with SEPA, going back to 2004, and we will fulfil all our environmental responsibilities under the law.

Claudius made the following points about Dart Energy and their operations:

- They are already generating electricity from extracted gas
- They treat water extracted from the drilling holes, which is mostly saline in content, and water that passes the required tests is discharged into the River Forth
- They pay a third party to perform the tests of the water
- 'Non-compliant water', which does not pass tests, is sent for disposal
- They send samples to SEPA on a weekly basis; and they have a strict CAR (Controlled Activity Regulations) license for discharges *[see reference (6)]*

Maria interjected at this point saying that she had cited the Freedom of Information Act and asked SEPA how often the water is analysed before discharge and they replied that they do not undertake sampling or require sampling by this operator (i.e. Dart Energy), and that any analysis of the discharged water is carried out by the operator itself.

Q: When will the planning application consultation process end?

A: Alison stepped up to answer that the consultation period has been extended and is still open for objections and comments; it will then go to a planning committee, possibly as early as January the 7th. The audience member who had asked this question then stated that given this was a live planning application, one could write to the Council in the normal way, and there was no need to panic.

Q: Why is Dart self-regulating?

A: We are not self-regulated but we do our own monitoring.

Q: Why is this project being considered with "minimum due diligence"?

A: That is a question for the council or the government.

Q: Would you buy a house here?

A: "Yes I would", answered Douglas Bain, "There is nothing to worry about".

Q: Who is the 'Planning Supervisor', required by CDM regulations *[see reference (7)]*?

A: The questioner, a resident of Hamilton Road, said that he had yet to receive an answer to this question from Falkirk Council so Alison stepped in to suggest that we might get an answer to this question if we ask it as a group. *[Following the meeting, Cllr Carleschi informed Alison that Ian Dryden is the Planning Supervisor at Falkirk Council charged with overseeing this application.]*

Q: What's in it for us?

A: The UK started importing gas from Norway last year for the first time so we need to find new local gas resources, and coal bed methane gas could provide between 3 and 10% of Scotland's gas supply in the next few decades. Dart will also be employing 20 more permanent staff, swelling their numbers to 45; they have provided enough work to Clark Eriksson to hire 16 staff for 6 months *[see reference (8)]*. And they estimate that they will spend £250,000 per well head development in each area, at local shops etc.

Q: Given that the coal seams are like ripples rather than straight lines how will drilling sand/fluid be injected into the drill trajectories without pumping under pressure, and if pumping is involved how is this different from fracking? *[This is a much simplified version of a very detailed question from Rob*

First meeting of local residents of Kinnaird Village and The Inches to discuss P/12/0521/FUL

Lowe, and a more accurate recollection of his question can be found in note (9).]

A: We are not pumping drilling sand into the wells, and we are not fracking. Fracking would only be needed if we were drilling for **shale** gas.

Q: Do you have a fracking license for Canonbie in Dumfries and Galloway? *[See reference (10).]*

A: Yes we do have that license, which we inherited, but we don't intend to do any fracking.

[See reference (11) for details of Dart Energy's acquisition of Greenpark Energy's unconventional gas business and the recent formation of Dart Energy International Shale Pte Ltd ("Dart Shale").]

Q: What about the scary stories from the USA?

A: Only 2 US drilling wells have been deemed unacceptable, the rest were a success.

Q: Can you confirm the stories of historical fracking in the Airth drilling well?

A: There has not been any fracking performed by Composite/Dart Energy since they took over the site in 2004, claimed Douglas, but he had heard that fracking did take place before then.

Q: What happens to waste?

A: If waste does not pass regulations it is taken away as 'trade waste' and is not discharged into the River Forth.

Q: What is in the water that comes from the coal seams?

A: It is mostly salt and iron and does not need treating.

Q: Is there anything else?

A: Yes, clean methane gas.

Q: Your license is for discharging 300,000 cubic litres of water per day, but how much do you expect to discharge and for how long?

A: We plan to apply to extend the license to 800,000 cubic litres per day over 25 years, but this daily rate is equivalent to 1 second of the river's flow.

Q: There are 14 sites in this planning application, but where will it end? More than 200? And will fracking ever happen at these sites?

A: At least another 20 wells. We have no intention of fracking.

[See reference (12) for a Dart Energy statement that relates to this planning application]

Q: Will the countryside be 'desecrated'?

Q: What about traffic management?

No answers were given to the preceding two questions, which came thick and fast as the meeting drew to a close, but see the answer to the following question.

Q: Will you agree to a public consultation with a large group of residents?

A: Small groups are better because you can get feedback and ask questions; but go to the Dart website and make up your own mind.

Q: What about Dart's fracking operations in Australia?

A: We are Dart Energy Europe. We don't frack.

7. Close

The meeting overran its allotted time and had to be cut short. Fiona Williams thanked everyone for coming and quickly reminded residents how to comment on or object to the planning application, saying that a template objection letter was available for anyone who wanted one.

8. Notes and references

(1) Dart Energy CBM Pilot Cluster, Gas Distribution & Water Treatment Facility

Description: "The animation shows a proposed CBM pilot well development situated in Dart Energy's PEDL 133 licence in Scotland. The animation is for illustration of techniques that will be used in a wider development planned for the area."

YouTube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0NNa8ErpcA>

(2) Falkirk Local Development Plan: Main Issues Report, November 2012

The Main Issues Report is "the main focus for public engagement on the Falkirk Local Development Plan. It identifies the key development and land use issues facing the area, and sets out the Council's preferred options for future development."

Source:

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/falkirk_local_development_plan/docs/MainIssuesReportDraft.pdf

(3) Falkirk Local Development Plan: Report of Consultation on Main Issues Report, August 2012

On Page 10, under the heading 'Main Issue 10: Climate Change', the following sentence shows that others have noted a lack of detailed information on coal bed methane gas extraction plans in the LDP:

"The need for the LDP to recognise the importance of unconventional gas was noted, as was also the requirement for an explicit policy framework for onshore oil and gas extraction, including coal bed methane and abandoned mine methane."

Source:

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/development/planning_and_environment/falkirk_local_development_plan/docs/MainIssuesReport-ConsultationReport.pdf

(4) Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith speaking about toxic risks of CSG at Lismore, NSW, 1 March 2012

Description: "Dr Lloyd-Smith is Senior Advisor to the National Toxics Network and an expert on the toxic risks of coal seam gas mining to human and animal health. In this presentation at the Lismore Community Information evening concerning CSG mining in the Northern Rivers, Dr Lloyd-Smith presents a detailed and devastating analysis of the poisonous effects of this destructive industry."

YouTube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz2mq5GYnR0>

(5) COMPOSITE ENERGY IS NOW DART ENERGY

In February 2011 Composite Energy Limited became a wholly owned subsidiary of Dart Energy Limited. On 23 June 2011 (CEL) was renamed Dart Energy (Europe) Ltd.

Dart Energy is an Australian S&P/ASX 200 listed company focussed on the development of coal bed methane.

Source: <http://www.composite-energy.co.uk/>

(6) Controlled Activity Regulations (SEPA)

See: http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/car_application_forms.aspx

(7) **Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 FAQ**

See: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/faq/>

(8) **Clark Eriksson and Dart Energy multi-million pound deal a boost for Falkirk employment**

See: <http://www.clark-eriksson.co.uk/clark-eriksson-and-dart-energy-multi-million-pound-deal-a-boost-for-falkirk-employment>

(9) **A more detailed recollection of the drilling/fracking question by the questioner himself**

The following note was written by Rob Lowe and edited by Mark Williams who had witnessed this part of the meeting but only recorded the basic points raised:

"I asked everyone to take a step back on the current discussion topics as I had been waiting quite a while, and to readdress the statement that Dart never frack and their claim that the geology in Larbert is unsuitable for the process as the coal seams are not of great enough coal depth.

"I described to the room and Dart the process of drilling in a CBM drill line, likening it to drilling a hole in a piece of wood. You create a hole, and all the gas and coal in that hole is either removed or escapes. As the water is drawn out the gas in the surrounding coal that is connected to the drill line by crevices will escape. However, I asserted, the description of fracking only being useful in deep coal seams is not entirely genuine, as you need to think 3D. The distance between the adjacent drill lines, not the height. The gas trapped between the lines will only escape if there are crevices to join the pockets of gas to the drill line. So there will be an initial release of gas that will die off, as the existing crevices are used up. Then you need to create new crevices and hold them open, fracturing the rock – fracking – to allow the gas to flow. You can then flush more out by pumping fluids down, similar to the fluid described by Dart to the Community Council last month (apparently Brine containing only Sand and Iron Oxide to hold open the crevices).

"Whilst conceding that I was quite willing to believe Dart Europe themselves had never fracked, I mentioned that at last month's Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council meeting a member of the audience stated that he knew a local drill engineer who claimed he had personally fracked the Dart installation at Airth before it was owned by Dart. This means that Dart are operating that installation as a previously fracked drill line, and if the geology was suitable for fracking at Airth at that time, then what makes the geology at Larbert different? Rob also pointed out that there were persistent rumours that Dart own a fracking license in Dumfries and Galloway.

"In answer to these questions the Dart representatives denied they would pump any fluids down the drill line, and I countered that this was not what was indicated in their description to the Community Council. And after being pressed on the matter by another audience member, the Dart representatives also confirmed that Dart Energy Europe has inherited licenses for Dumfries and Galloway from a previous company (Green Park Energy), but that they have no intention of fracking.

"I also explained that coal does not go in a straight line, it's sandwiched between two layers of rock, and I asked the Dart representatives if they would be drilling straight, punching in and out of the coal, or following it to avoid compromising the non-porous rock. Dart indicated that they would be following the rock."

(10) **Fracking for gas given the green light, Scotland on Sunday, November 5 2011**

See: http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/fracking_for_gas_given_the_green_light_1_1950654

(11) **CREATION OF DART INTERNATIONAL SHALE, January 16 2012**

Dart Energy has created a wholly-owned subsidiary and business unit named Dart Energy

First meeting of local residents of Kinnaird Village and The Inches to discuss P/12/0521/FUL

International Shale Pte Ltd to 'manage, grow and monetise' its growing European shale gas resources.

See: <http://clients.weblink.com.au/clients/dartenergy/article.asp?asx=DTE&view=4238897>

(12)Scotland: Dart Announces First Electricity from Gas Sales, July 2012

"Longer term, the first and second phase of the Airth project encompasses less than 20 per cent of the 2C resource within the project area, and thus there is considerable scope to increase the project over time, both in terms of size and gas sales," a Dart statement said.

See: <http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/dart-announces-first-cbm-electricity>

9. Further information on Actions/Outcomes by Fiona Williams

This section is an edited transcript of the presentation Fiona Williams planned to give – see section 5.

There are actions you can take, if you have concerns about the proposal.

This is the link to the Falkirk Council planning website: <http://eplanning.falkirk.gov.uk>

For the Planning Application we are concerned with search for P/12/0521/FUL.

There are many documents that you can study here, including maps, the environmental statement and a summary of the representations already made. If you wish to comment on the plans, or submit an objection, click on 'Make a public comment', then enter your details. You can support or object the proposal, or make a neutral comment. If objecting, type your grounds for objection in the comments box. These need to be **valid grounds** for objection – for example perceived impact on house prices is not considered a valid reason. There is some guidance on the Falkirk council website.

If you prefer you can write to the Case Officer at the following address: John Milne, Planning Officer, Falkirk Council, Municipal Building, West Bridge Street, Falkirk FK1 5RS – or email him at john.milne@falkirk.gov.uk.

Note that if you have already submitted a representation to Falkirk Council, and would like to add to it based on knowledge that you have gained, then you can add further comments to your representation by contacting John Milne.

It is also very important that you contact your local councillors, to raise your concerns:

- Cllr Bird – stephen.bird@falkirk.gov.uk
- Cllr Carleschi – steven.carleschi@falkirk.gov.uk
- Cllr MacDonald – charles.macdonald@falkirk.gov.uk
- Cllr Martin – craig.martin@falkirk.gov.uk
- Cllr Buchanan – william.buchanan@falkirk.gov.uk
- Cllr Coleman – thomas.coleman@falkirk.gov.uk
- Cllr Gow – linda.gow@falkirk.gov.uk

as well as your MSPs and your MP:

- Michael Matheson MSP
- Angus MacDonald, MSP
- Eric Joyce MP

You can also contact Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood (LST) Community Council with any comments by email lst-cc@virginmedia.com and/or add a comment to the LST Facebook page.

The next Community Council meeting is on Monday 26th November at 7.15pm in Larbert Old Church. There will be a discussion on the Coal Bed Methane proposal at this meeting.

The bigger picture

This proposal has a huge significance since it is the first major production of unconventional gas in the UK, and so it will set a precedent for others.

Given the importance to the whole of the area, and to the rest of the UK we feel that there has been a lack of public consultation. As local residents we have had very little time to study the proposal and try and understand the impact it could have. This is a new industry for the UK and there appear to be lots of unknowns.

As such we wish to request a further open period of public consultation, followed by an extended period to enable members of the public to send in representations if they wish to do so.

To give some idea of what is going on in the bigger picture. There is growing concern about unconventional gas throughout the UK, especially after the earthquakes in Blackpool. As a result of this there are events taking place nationwide on Saturday 1st December to raise awareness of the risks of unconventional gas. Various groups around the country are marching, walking and cycling in a simultaneous show of resistance.

As part of these events, a petition and an open letter is being delivered to 10 Downing Street by representatives from around the UK. Maria Montinaro will be delivering a petition on behalf of the people of Scotland. This petition calls for a **moratorium on all unconventional gas extraction**. Contact Fiona at fiona.k.williams@googlemail.com if you would like a copy to give friends and family the chance to sign. Maria will need these back before 29th November so there is very little time.

There is also an e-petition in the process of being set up, this will call on the Scottish Government to take the lead in placing a moratorium on unconventional gas extraction, until a thorough review of the full impact has been completed, and regulations have been updated and put in place to protect us. We will make details of this e-petition available as soon as possible.

If anyone wishes to be involved in any way with any future activities then please let us know.

10. Addendum

The 'original' version of these minutes, which was released to meeting attendees on 26 November, contained a 'Disclaimer' noting that it did not include any comments or corrections from the Dart Energy Europe representatives (Claudius Völker and Douglas Bain) who attended the meeting. This second version incorporates Douglas Bain's corrections and comments which were received by Mark Williams on 28 November. It will be emailed to everyone who received the first, 'original', version, noting the removal of the Disclaimer and the addition of this Addendum.

Douglas Bain requested the following corrections to the minutes, which have now been applied to this document:

1. Douglas's job title is "Asset Manager", not "Europe Country Manager"
2. Douglas joined Composite Energy in 2008, not 2004
3. Remind readers at the beginning of section 9 that it is an edited transcript of the presentation Fiona Williams had planned to give

Douglas's job title was listed as 'Europe Country Manager' in the original version of the minutes as that is the title given for him on the relevant 'Executive Leader' page on the Dart Energy website at http://www.dartenergy.com.au/page/Our_Company/Executive_Leaders/Douglas_Bain.

Regarding section 6, the 'Discussion' or Q&A section, Douglas made the following request to add a relevant comment he recalls being made by an audience member, and because this minute taker recalls this comment, too, it has been added at the relevant point above:

First meeting of local residents of Kinnaird Village and The Inches to discuss P/12/0521/FUL

- “A gentleman came in halfway through the meeting and asked whether we had discussed the planning process at the outset. When advised that hadn’t been done, the gentleman advised that, given this was a live planning application, one could write to the Council in the normal way, and therefore there wasn’t a need to panic.”

Douglas also made the following comment about section 6 and note 9:

- “I note you gave Rob Lowe the unique opportunity to have another go at his question after the event, perhaps because it was complex. I think as written the question is far more extensive than the discussion in the meeting, and actually has a number of inaccuracies but in any event to be clear I explained in the meeting directly to Rob that we drill in the coal seam and not the rock (the very last sentence of note 9).”

“Lastly”, Douglas wrote, “I would like to put on record my thanks to a number of residents who stood up in the meeting to ask that Dart be allowed to respond to questions given we had been invited and also to those who came up at the end to ask further questions.”

The first sentence of section 6 has been amended to make it clear that Dart Europe had been invited to the meeting, but had initially declined the invitation, which is why their attendance was “unexpected” by the meeting organisers.