

BROCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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At an informal meeting this Feb 2019, Mr.McKie gave the following report of recent events at the Angus Energy site in Brockham:

The appraisal process continues, but should have gone more easily. Charges in the well were let off without fuss and drilling began. But there was a great deal of water. A linear rod pump was considered, but in the end, it was decided not to use this, although there is (now) a permit to use this. Instead, a smaller, more efficient rig was employed. An attempt was made to jet the water and 'other fluids' out. This worked initially, but then an unexpected water layer was encountered, and work came to a stop. During this period of drilling he stated that lights were left on (on a couple of occasions) after permitted hours 'for staff safety'.

A scheme is now needed to isolate the water. They will see what can be done under existing consents and hope for a smoother appraisal period from now on. If the work cannot be carried out under current permission a new application might be needed. (It should be noted that the existing consents are for a three-year period by the end of which if there is no progress then the wellhead would have to be closed down and restored).

Angus are reported to be still financially solvent with a new loan of £3M, although their share price is falling.

We enquired about the setting up of a local liaison group, as discussed previously with Mr. McKie. His opinion was that the recent delays in progress would push back the date of setting this up but promised to talk it over with Lord Lucan (the new Angus M.D.) when he meets him soon.

We mentioned the export of electricity generated on site by using the by-product gas. The reply was that once the volume of gas present had been identified it should be possible to 'do a deal and export electricity'. But before that, it is clearly necessary to know how much gas there is, how long it might last and what quality it is.

Now a firm and costed plan is needed to overcome the flooding difficulties encountered, and then they can move forward and (at last) talk to a liaison committee. We await an update on Angus Energy's plan for overcoming the flooding issues, obtaining oil for production and proving gas quantities exist in order for the site to be viable.

Assurances were given that should Angus leave the site, a restoration agreement is in plan with AE and the landowner.

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