



**PLANNING AND REGULATION
COMMITTEE SITE VISITS
9 MAY 2018**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR I G FLEETWOOD (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors T Ashton (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, D Brailsford, L A Cawrey, Mrs P Cooper, S R Kirk, D McNally, Mrs A Newton, N H Pepper, R A Renshaw and P A Skinner

Councillor C L Lewis was in attendance for the site visit to North Kelsey Moor, Market Rasen (Application No. N/059/00531/18) only

Officers in attendance:-

Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer) and Neil McBride (Planning Manager)

1. APOLOGIES/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

It was noted that the Chief Executive had appointed Councillors B Adams, Mrs P Cooper and R A Renshaw to the Committee, in place of Councillors R P H Reid, S P Roe and Mrs J E Killey, respectively, under the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, for the period up to 14 May 2018.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M J Overton, R P H Reid, S P Roe and H Spratt.

2. Supplementary Report - To vary Condition 1 of planning permission W97/131952/14 granted in December 2014 to extend the period of time to carry out the temporary operations to drill an exploratory bore hole for conventional hydrocarbons, production testing and evaluation at Land To The East Of Smithfield Road, North Kelsey Moor, Market Rasen -Egdon Resources Ltd - 137302

Officers reminded the Committee that consideration of this application had been deferred at the last meeting of the Committee on 9 April 2018, for a site visit.

Officers gave a brief explanation of the planning application which sought an extension of the existing planning permission so as to allow a further three years to carry out exploratory drilling for conventional oil.

The Committee were shown the following aspects in relation to the site:-

- The access to the site.
- The application site itself including the location of bunding, the drill rig (Officers stated that the height was 50 metres), the trees surrounding the site, the

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water course which ran near the application site, the nearest properties, the railway line and the historical masts in the far distance erected during the Cold War.

- Following the inspection of the site the Committee proceeded to inspect the highway network, including Smithfield Lane, the two passing places provided by the applicant on Smithfield Lane, the junction of Smithfield Lane with the B1205 and the improvements made to this junction by the applicant requested by the highway authority under the 2014 permission. The Committee travelled along the B1205 to the villages of Moortown and Holton le Moor to get some idea of the route which would be followed by the applicant's vehicles and noted the Listed Buildings and Conservation Area on route. While travelling along the B1205 the Committee was able to view the location of the site.
- Officers stated in response to a question from the Committee that the number of vehicles visiting the second phase of the development to set up the rig was 126 and during the disestablishment of the site a further 126 movements. Both these would be for a one week period followed by 7 weeks of drilling activity with period visits of traffic during this 7 week period.

- (2) To vary conditions 1 and 3 of planning permission (E)N59/2259/14 - To extend the end date for the completion of the development by 3 years and to amend approved drawings so as to allow the retention of security and welfare cabins during the production testing phase at Land off High Street, Biscathorpe, Louth - Barton Willmore - N/059/00531/18

Officers stated that this application was due to be considered at the Committee on 14 May 2018 and that it was opportune for the Committee to visit the site as this application was similar to the application by the applicant at (1) above. This application was a request to vary the conditions of permission given three years ago to extend the end date for the completion of the development by three years and to amend approved drawings so as to allow the retention of security and welfare cabins during the production testing phase.

The Committee were shown the following aspects in relation to the site:-

- Officers stated that the application was located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, explained the location of the rig in relation to the landscape and the nearby Belmont communication mast which was 350m high. The Committee noted that the location of the proposed drilling site is in a valley with trees nearby.
- The Committee then visited the access to the site on the B1225. Officers explained that a few metres of the access had been metalled to implement the planning permission and the access road to the drilling site would be constructed to a suitable condition if permission was granted on 14 May.

The site visits finished at 11.45pm with a return to the County Offices at 12.30pm