

Yaxley Synchronous Condenser Community Forum Minutes

Date: 31st January 2024
Time: 6.30pm – 8pm
Location: Yaxley Village Hall

Meeting Minutes

Item	Notes	Action
New Conrad Energy branding	Conrad Energy introduced their new branding which is more reflective of where they are now as a company. The new branding brings a more modern, electrified feel to the brand, but the company ethos and people have remained the same.	
Review of previous meeting	Terms of Reference Updates The terms of reference have been updated and is now available on the project website. Colour of Synchronous Condenser Building After this was raised at the previous meeting, Conrad Energy have explored the option of painting the building black. However, due to the increased heat this would absorb, the cooling fans would have to work harder, producing more noise to the area. Green was selected to better blend into the surrounding trees and plants. Additionally, Conrad Energy highlighted the need to be consistent with National Grid's substation which will also be green. Promotion of community fund and registering for email updates Graphics and supporting content were provided to promote the community fund and how to register for email updates.	
Site Overview	Welfare Cabins and Car Park Currently not set up in long-term position, Conrad Energy waiting on National Grid to progress with their construction before they can move into the southwest corner of the site. Anticipating this move in July/August.	

	Landscaping Planting and maintenance of landscaping / screening was questioned, including planting schedules and water usage. Conrad Energy explained that they will appoint a landscaping contractor closer to the end of construction when they can start the landscaping, and that they are currently liaising with Anglia Water over water usage and possibility of collecting water onsite. Issues highlighted from other projects in the area claiming to have a landscaping plan, but not following through with it once construction is complete and they are off-site. Conrad Energy assured stakeholders that they have no intention of dropping their landscaping plans, and unlike other construction companies, Conrad Energy have a minimum ten-year operational contract with National Grid once construction is completed, meaning they will be active at the site for at least ten years to operate the project and oversee landscaping works.	Conrad to share landscaping plan with stakeholders.
Project Timeline	Construction is currently in the groundworks phase, which will continue for the next few months. Mechanical and electrical phases to start towards the end of summer 2024.	
Drainage	Questions over the filtration system being used on site being fit for purpose. Others in the nearby area are not and there are concerns given the recent amount of rainfall and flooding in the area. Filtration System In terms of sediment in the water, Conrad Energy assured everyone that their site has a filtration system in place, but the sediment found is likely from the adjacent National Grid site. Site Manager has been trying to get in touch with National Grid to resolve this. Attenuation Pond and Drainage Concerns raised about the amount of water the proposed attenuation pond can hold, considering the vast amounts of rainfall the area has seen in recent months and the pre-existing flood risk in the area. While the project is supposed to help environmental issues in terms of renewable energy, there were concerns it would exacerbate the flooding issues.	Site Manager to speak to National Grid about this. Also to be raised at the next construction coordination meeting with National Grid Conrad Energy to circulate a breakdown of the drainage plan in place for the site.

	There was also the concern of cumulative effect from developments at the old airfield to the east of the site, across the A140, some of which have not constructed adequate drainage measures, leading to an increased flooding risk. Conrad Energy explained that through their choice of construction materials, attenuation pond, filtration system and other drainage measures, the site itself should actually retain more water than it did as a greenfield site. Conrad cannot speak to or solve the local drainage systems and other projects at the airfield, but they do have an awareness of the local problem	
Supporting the Community	Conrad Energy Community Fund Conrad is funding three local projects after receiving nine applications to the fund.	
AOB	Site Visit Question asked if there will be a site visit as this meeting was originally meant to be on-site. Conrad Energy will schedule the next meeting for May/June, when the construction will be further along, and the weather will be better and hope to invite everyone for an update meeting and tour of the site. Lighting Concerns raised over the level of light on site at the moment, especially with outward facing lights at night, although they were unsure whether this was Conrad Energy's site or National Grid's. Conrad Energy assured everyone that the permanent lighting plan will only feature security lights outside that would face downwards.	Conrad to circulate lighting and noise plans, and to provide update on this at the next meeting.