**Romsley Community Liaison Group**

**Minutes of meeting – 26/4/16**

Attendees:

Lois Swift – Community

Jayne Holloway – Parish Council

Sarah-Jayne O’Kane – STW

Sean Bowler – Parish Council

Dominic Moore – STW

Steve MacKellar – Jacobs (STW consultant)

Nigel Stead – Community

Mike Buckley – Community

* Lois opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introductions followed
* All parties agreed to be open and honest about the plans so that we can work out how to get the work done in the best way for the community.
* Nominations were made and agreed by the group for Chair (Jayne Holloway) and Vice-Chair (Sarah-Jayne O’Kane).
* It was agreed that all meetings should be no longer than 2 hours long
* The group went through the draft Terms of Reference and following a few minor changes, they were agreed. The final version will be sent out with the minutes.
* The group agreed the rolling agenda items:
	+ Planning process update
	+ Construction & schedule
	+ Design impact
	+ Environmental issues
	+ Commissioning and operation
	+ Reinstatement
	+ Community Legacy
	+ Communications from the meeting
* It was announced that the contract for the raw water part of the project (the pipeline and break pressure tank) has been awarded to Barhale and a representative from the company would attend future meetings.
* SJOK gave an update on the wider project on the Elan Valley Aqueduct to explain how the two parts of the project join together.
* Planning timescales
	+ STW are responding to objections via Bromsgrove District Council
	+ STW are also responding to various queries from the community via SJOK
	+ A report from Bromsgrove DC is due in the next four weeks and the application is currently pencilled in to go before the planning committee on 6 June ‘16.
	+ There is a meeting next week to confirm all of the above timescales
	+ STW are speaking to the Planning Officer regarding and conditions that may be imposed. STW hope to see the conditions before the meeting, but it may be afterwards.
	+ On the whole the planning process is going reasonably well
	+ There has only been one response from a statutory consultee – the Environment Agency – because the flood planning rules have changed since the application was submitted and they want STW to look at it again
* The community asked for clarification on pile driving – will there be any? Severn Trent confirmed that there are no plans to do any at the moment – the current designs and plans have no need to do this.
* The community asked what the retaining structure for the cut out bank will be. Severn Trent confirmed that the plan is that the break pressure tank itself will be the retainer, but the finalised design will be done with the contractor now that they’re on board. The contractor should hopefully be able to confirm at the next meeting.
* The community expressed concerns around dust and air quality.
	+ The application states that the prevailing winds are “likely to remain from the SW” and that this is classified as medium risk. However it may be minimal for the closest receptors and not effective. What does this mean for the community?
	**ACTION – response needed from STW at next meeting**
	+ The site yard is stated to be at Dayhouse bank, but it has moved to Putney Lane – will this change the effects?
	**ACTION – response needed from STW at next meeting**
	+ The community also raised concerns about the health of animals too – the llamas and the horse in the adjoining fields.
	**ACTION – response needed from STW at next meeting**
* Noise surveys
	+ Mike Buckley told the group that he had hired some noise measurement kit and done his own surveys which were consistent with STWs figures, which is good news.
	+ The community asked for clarification of charts 17.5 and 17.6 as they don’t seem to add up or make sense.
	**ACTION – response needed from STW at next meeting**
	+ The community asked if STW could do surveys at certain properties to establish a baseline datum. Severn Trent confirmed that can be done.
* Working hours
	+ Severn Trent have asked for the working hours to be 7am – 7pm, Monday to Friday and 7am – 1pm on Saturday.
	+ This seems to be the biggest issue for the community
	+ 8am – 6pm may be better, but what does this mean? Does that mean on site at 7:30and starting work at 8am or on site at 8am?
	+ Severn Trent stated they are happy to work 8am – 6pm if they understand what the community want, they are happy to oblige.
	**ACTION – Community reps to canvas opinion and bring suggested working hours to next meeting**
	+ The community asked how many people would be working on the site and when
	**ACTION – response needed from STW at next meeting**
* The break pressure tank site
	+ The community expressed concern over the location of the site and the fears of it “industrialising” the entrance to Putney Lane.
	+ Nigel Stead brought a plan of the site and the question was asked if it was possible to change the access point to further up Bromsgrove Road, therefore using Putney Lane as a one-way system?
	+ The costs of upgrading Putney Lane may be more than building a temporary road from further along Bromsgrove Rd
	+ The entrance for houses opposite the junction with Putney Lane is already very tight and getting in and out is very difficult due to the visuals and safety of the main road and traffic.
	+ Could it mean that the entrance to Putney Lane won’t need to be widened?
	+ Benefits include moving HGVs away from houses, which would also have a positive impact on the amount of noise and dust experienced by these residents.
	+ Could it also have an impact on hedgerows and local residents want to keep as much hedgerow as possible
	+ Severn Trent agreed to look at the options, speak to Barhale (the contractor) and bring an outline plan of what is possible to the next meeting
	**ACTION – outline possibilities needed from STW/Barhale at next meeting**
	+ What will the operational traffic look like? **ACTION – response needed from STW at a future meeting**
* Lighting
	+ The community were told that the lighting would be no taller than 6m, however the plan suggests 8m high poles – what is true?
	+ Severn Trent said that their understanding was also that it was 6m at the highest.
	**ACTION – STW will investigate and report back at next meeting**
	+ **ACTION – STW will forward the lux plan to the group**
* Hoppers
	+ The community stressed that there was no mention of the hoppers at the early community meetings
	+ There are concerns over the visual impact of the hoppers and the noise etc during construction
	+ Severn Trent confirmed that the hoppers weren’t part of the original plan for the break pressure tank
	+ The community asked if the hoppers needed to be there at all.
	+ Severn Trent explained that the PAC dosing does need to be done at Romsley so that the water has a long enough contact time with the carbon (40 mins). So unfortunately it is a necessary evil. Severn Trent will work hard to do as much as they can to hide the hoppers though, and more work is going on to see what options there are for what else can be done.
	+ The community asked that once there is a final design, can better visuals be produced? On the Severn Trent visuals, the surrounding area isn’t rea and so it’s difficult to see what it will actually be like. For example, there is a very tall house that doesn’t appear on the visuals.
	+ Severn Trent agreed to produce more visuals based on what the community wanted to see
	**ACTION – Nigel Stead to produce a list of three angles that the community would like to see, in order of preference**
* Tree planting was briefly discussed, with the community asking for mixed planting. Severn Trent stated that they are in talks with the “tree officer” from Bromsgrove DC.
**ACTION – for further discussion at a future meeting**
* The community want to know what would happen in the event of a catastrophic failure. Does the local brook have the capacity to take the flood water as it has a history of flooding when there is a lot of rain.
**ACTION – for further discussion at a future meeting**
* Sarah-Jayne updated the group on community events
	+ Severn Trent have been in touch with the local school and have offered the services of the Severn Trent education team.
	**ACTION – Sarah-Jayne to forward info to Lois**
	+ Severn Trent have agreed to sponsor Romstock 2016.
	**ACTION – Sarah-Jayne to meet with organisers and see what will need to be done**

Next meeting – 24 May, 7:30 pm. Function Room at The Bell has been booked.