



SCA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FORUM

PRUDHOE MILL

MEETING 1 – 22 NOVEMBER 2006.

Present:

Andy Woodburn,	Factory & Site Manager, SCA Prudhoe Mill.
Tony Bradley,	Bradley O'Mahoney PR, representing SCA.
Amy Davison	Bradley O'Mahoney PR, representing SCA.
Dee Fawcett	HR Manager, SCA Prudhoe Mill
Dorothy Pilmer	Horsley Parish Council
Ian Hall	Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council
Paul Macdonald	Ovingham Parish Council and District Councillor.
Tony Mitcham	Wylam Parish Council
Dave Anderson	Group Manager, Northumberland Fire & Rescue
Alan Steedman	Northumberland County Council, Business Development Team.
Peter Nevin	Prudhoe Town Council

Apologies: None.

INTRODUCTIONS

AW opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the site to this inaugural meeting of the 'SCA Community Consultation Forum'.

Everyone present introduced themselves and stated who they represented. T Bradley explained his role as PR adviser to the Company, and emphasised the desire of SCA to develop effective two-way communication with local residents and key stakeholders. D Anderson informed the meeting that the Fire and Rescue Services had a very good working relationship with the site, and he was able to confirm that the Company worked proactively with the service to reduce and prevent the incidences of fire.

A Steedman explained that his role was to work with business to support them develop and grow.

A Woodburn informed the meeting of his wish to develop a constructive and effective discussion forum. It was confirmed that SCA does focus on its corporate social responsibility, and wishes to be a 'good neighbour' to the local community. Further it was confirmed that there is no requirement to establish such a Forum; rather that SCA Prudhoe Mill *wanted* to develop this facility, and was looking to those present to shape how the Forum will develop.

SITE OVERVIEW

A Woodburn gave a presentation outlining the background and history of the site, recent investment, and the operating environment in which the consumer tissue business operates. His emphasised that SCA Prudhoe Mill was here 'for the long term', and explained that the current and future focus will be on addressing environmental issues including energy, waste and noise reduction.

A Woodburn also outlined SCA's current involvement in the local community and stated that there was a small budget which was distributed to a range of causes and individuals. The Company was also involved in local schools and educational initiatives, and supported ex-SCA Pensioners and Prudhoe pensioners through its activities.

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK/TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FORUM

Everyone present was provided with a copy of a draft constitution for the Forum. A Woodburn stated that this was a proposal at this stage, and was looking to those present to review, amend and agree acceptable terms of reference. The document was then reviewed.

P Macdonald asked about the name of the SCA Website. This was confirmed as www.sca.com. P Macdonald expressed concern that this could be 'one-sided', and hoped this would be an 'open' forum in which the Community Representatives would have the option to call upon independent 'experts' if required rather than rely on consultants engaged by SCA. A Woodburn emphasised that SCA was open to alternative views, and was required to obtain opinion from consultants and government bodies, e.g. Environment Agency. P Macdonald stated he wished to obtain informed viewpoints to enable constructive comment/criticism to be feedback to Ovingham Parish Council. P Nevin commented that consultants live by their name and the information they provide, and he would accept a body such as the Environment Agency as being competent.

Some discussion took place regarding the recent planning application for the ERP and surrounding publicity. The conclusion was that there was a need for honesty and transparency within this Forum. T Bradley confirmed that there had been a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation and that was why SCA now wished to ensure it could have effective two-way dialogue which would be fed back through the Representatives channels. It was also reinforced that all the Representatives invited today were elected – voted into their position, with the authority to represent their community. It was agreed that this group was in a position of being able to shape the membership and composition of the Forum.

A Woodburn explained that SCA hoped to develop an external web page on which minutes of this meeting would be published, and through which the dialogue could continue. The Company was currently working with colleagues in Sweden to facilitate this.

Regarding the position of 'Chair', no final decision had been made and the question was asked as to whether this should be independent. T Bradley explained this was also indicative of SCA wanting transparency from the outset – not 'window dressing'. He also raised the point regarding media involvement, and informed the meeting that he had spoken with the Editors of both the 'Hexham Courant' and 'The Journal'. They would not be part of the Forum but would be willing to send representatives. After discussion it was agreed that it would be inhibiting to any discussions if members of the press were present, and it was agreed that the minutes would be available to them after the meeting.

P Macdonald asked about SCA employee representatives being part of the Forum to obtain a different perspective. T Mitcham commented that as Councillors there was legitimacy to the fact that the current Representatives were elected, and would be reluctant initially to extend the Forum to others. A Woodburn confirmed that the preference was to involve elected members, and based on the discussion proposed that the current membership be retained. This was agreed.

The question of 'declared interests' was also raised. P Macdonald informed the Forum that he was a member of the Development Control Committee for Tynedale Council, and must be able to attend those meetings with an open mind. He also informed the Forum that if there was a discussion relating to planning applications he would be required to declare his interest, request to be excused, and would leave the meeting. This proposal was accepted.

Concluding this discussion it was identified that there was a typographical error in Point 4.5, to remove 'l'. This will be addressed.

It was agreed that this item would be the main agenda item for the next two or three meetings to ensure that the terms of reference were appropriate and acceptable to all.

It was agreed that the minutes of this meeting would be circulated via e-mail to all present. These will be reviewed and signed off at the next meeting.

SITE TOUR

Everyone present had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour across the site including the new Warehouse.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17th January 2007 at 2.30pm at Prudhoe Mill.