



SCA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FORUM

PRUDHOE MILL

MEETING 3 – 19 APRIL 2007

Present:	Andy Woodburn, Dee Fawcett Peter Nevin Dorothy Pilmer Tony Mitcham Amy Davison Alan Steedman Darren Nelson	Factory & Site Manager, SCA Prudhoe Mill HR Manager, SCA Prudhoe Mill Prudhoe Town Council (co –opted) Horsley Parish Council Wylam Parish Council Bradley O'Mahoney PR, representing SCA NCC Business Development Team. Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service
In attendance:	Tony Richards Jim Smith	SCA Branded Business Manager SCA Environment and Energy leader
Apologies:	Tony Bradley,	Bradley O'Mahoney PR, representing SCA. Paul Macdonald Ovingham Parish Council Dave Anderson Northumberland Fire & Rescue

Andy Woodburn opened the meeting with the introduction of Tony Richards and Jim Smith.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 17 JANUARY

Correction to the minutes paragraph two, headed 'noise' should read D. Pilmer not T. Mitcham.

Tree planting: it was confirmed that the site was open to ideas about options.

CCF Constitution: There were no issues raised, and the constitution was adopted and signed by all present.

The minutes were then agreed as correct.

AGENDA

1. Website Progress

D Fawcett updated the meeting on actions related to establishing a Website for the CCF. She confirmed, following a communication with IT colleagues in the UK and Sweden that the site could go ahead and confirmed the address to be www.prudhoe.sca.com. However, it was not yet operational. DF expressed her disappointment that she was not able to show the meeting the Website but was certain that this would progress in the next few weeks to be up and running for the next meeting.

A. Davison said the website would be a good communication tool and a good opportunity to positively raise awareness of the CCF in the local press and with the local Councils when the website was live.

2. Prudhoe Mill Updates

Crisis Management Procedures

J. Smith briefed the meeting with Crisis Management procedures outlining the process of 'on call', and the Crisis Management Manual.

P. Nevin asked if temperatures had been considered in a crisis situation as there had in the past been severe weather problems that could have an impact on business.

J. Smith replied that Prudhoe mill have not experienced 'very low' temperatures for a number of years. Should low temperatures arise, the process is kept running to ensure that pipes and pumps do not freeze. Low temperatures are normally forecast in advance and steps are taken at that point to ensure that operations remain in control and safe.

Fire Procedures

The fire procedure was discussed in detail and how dry paper dust has a high potential to cause fire, J. Smith explained that fire systems have been developed to minimise the affects of fire with trained personnel and the fire brigade. He also pointed out that as soon as the alarms go off the Fire Brigade are automatically called in on every occasion. T. Mitcham asked if the brigade have 'specific procedures' for the paper mill. D. Nelson said that due to regular attendance, the brigade at both Prudhoe and Hexham have an excellent working relationship with SCA and great knowledge of their buildings and layout which enables them to react swiftly and affectively.

P. Nevin asked about the impact dust has with regard to fires and what fire fighting procedures were in place to deal with the risk of explosion. A. Woodburn replied that SCA know the key risk areas, and these are predominantly in the dust extraction systems. He confirmed that SCA are continually pro-active with heat/spark monitoring and steam showers were also in place to cope with this type of fire. Fire awareness is paramount within the mill.

Pollution Control

J. Smith informed the meeting that because of the size of the site Prudhoe Mill is IPPC Controlled (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) which is issued by the Environment Agency (EA). He explained that this is powerful legislation with the aim of 'minimising risks', regular inspections and prosecution for non-compliance. He also explained that if the site does not operate within the terms of the permit, it would be open to prosecution, with the ultimate sanction of shutting down the site. The EA have the legal right to visit the site at any time.

Environmental Impacts

J. Smith explained some of the wide-ranging environmental impacts – visual, noise, discharges, energy, raw materials, waste disposal, fugitive emissions (litter) continual monitoring, analysis and actions were ongoing to address environmental impacts that SCA recognise as their responsibility towards the environment. The mill is audited by Environmental Management System ISO 14001 and these set out objectives and

responsibility in reporting any incidents. AW confirmed that at the next meeting he would share further plans regarding site developments in this regard, and would aim to achieve consensus within the CCF before applying for further planning permission. AW

Noise Survey

J. Smith outlined that this was perceived to be a major issue. He showed detailed graphs (2000-2006) showing the reduction level achieved with noise and AW said that there had been occasions in the past when exhaustive work had been done to identify noise which then was attributed to another company near in location. He went on to say that the age of the mill and the fact that there was no residential site anticipated at that time meant that noise insulation was not necessary when the plant was built, unlike any new build today which would have 'noise insulation' taken into planning consideration. It was confirmed that the objective is to drive down the dBa pressure. P. Nevin, on behalf of the people of Prudhoe, welcomed what had been done, and praised SCA's efforts and the results achieved.

Effluent Discharge

T. Mitchell asked about discharges to air and water. AW said that the effluent discharge-count was as good as any in the country. JS confirmed that the discharge to water was pretty constant, and the biggest issue was the risk of the culvert running dry, eg. in the summer and a paper machine shut. The culvert is full of fish and SCA does not wish to put them at risk. In addition, this is also a good biological indicator that it is clean.

P. Nevin asked Jim if SCA monitored the temperatures of water going back into the river, J. Smith replied that we do monitor and report on temperatures continually. The objective is to keep this as cool as possible as this is a more effective use of energy. JS also confirmed that the site would continue to reduce discharge volume in order to save energy.

Energy Consumption

JS confirmed this was a major issue, but was pleased to report that utilisation was trending downwards. The more tonnes produced, the less energy used. T. Mitcham asked if energy had now become our biggest concern and focus. A. Woodburn replied that papermaking is very energy intensive and energy costs are always a concern for SCA. Furthermore, there are CO2/Climate Change targets which the business now has to meet.

Environmental Management System

JS confirmed this was aligned to ISO4001, and that there is a major recertification every three years, with the most recent taking place in March 2007. With regard to sourcing raw materials, wood, water etc. it was confirmed that SCA source these in the right way, and have the ability to build up a full footprint of the cost of raw materials.

ERP

A. Woodburn said that the outline planning permission achieved in August 2006 meant that more work on a BAT (Best Available Technique) detailed designs were being carried out. This was necessary in order to get the IPPC permit. In addition, the proposal was being reviewed against other options in Europe by senior corporate SCA personnel, and an investigation within SCA had revealed that a plant in Holland have good technical advantages. It is important to get the 'right' technical solution, and the site will not commit until it is satisfied with this. SCA are working with the vendors (designers) and it was anticipated that the Environment Agency would review these plans

TM asked about the relationship between the replacement boiler and the ERP. JS confirmed this was running slightly behind. The boilers raise steam for the plant, and must be replaced as they are old and inefficient. The paper machine boilers will be replaced and a steam main installed from there to the de-inking plant. This will supply steam to the site. JS explained that whatever the outcome for the ERP, the new boilers were needed for the site as there was not sufficient capacity in the proposed ERP to supply the site. The new boilers will be more efficient and environmentally friendly.

Site Development

A. Woodburn explained to the meeting that although SCA has looked to move forward with regard to new investment, there were no actual plans at the moment. AW also outlined the recent proposed purchase of the Proctor & Gamble's Tissue Europe operation, which will include the addition of a paper mill in Trafford Park, Manchester. This acquisition was currently subject to review by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. AW explained that SCA have grown through acquisitions but also consolidated where appropriate. .

Canopies - AW informed the meeting that following a recent planning application, the canopy was currently being build in the IDC. The main purpose was to achieve some noise reduction. It was also anticipated that later in 2007 a further application would be made to build an additional canopy to enclose wagons.

AW showed the forum a site plan and revealed that plans were now underway to screen the site with evergreen trees to achieve factory blending. It was hoped this would commence by end 2007. It was agreed that a map illustrating the proposed planting would be included on the website with a magnifying glass option. AW

P Nevin expressed his pleasure that something was being done about traffic movements at night. T. Mitcham asked if the Company have any plans to release the positive/good news regarding noise reduction (canopies) and the tree planting (factory blending) as he felt 2006 had been a difficult year.. A. Davison agreed that this information would provide more scope to promote how SCA was working hard to in a progressive way to respond to the concerns of the local community, and was reasonable in its response to people's concerns. P. Nevin added that the information should be given in 'plain English' to enable understanding. AW informed the meeting that SCA valued the comments of the members, and thanked the Forum on behalf of SCA for their advice. TM stated that the CCF enabled him to keep people informed regarding what the Company was doing, and as a means to address any complaints raised. He felt the Company should use the opportunity to raise the public profile of the Company.

DF confirmed that SCA would work with Bradley O'Mahoney to ensure the most effective external communication.

PN commented that the colour of the buildings was a challenge due to the location of the site, and AW said SCA would continue to review this situation.

Any Other Business

1. P. Nevin advised SCA that local elections were about to be held and he would not be standing for election. Therefore, he may not be co-opted going forward, but was open to being involved, and there may be other representatives from Prudhoe.
2. Fawcett told the Forum that with effect from 1st July 2007, the site was would be 'Smoke Free'. This was in order to comply with new legislation and to improve the risk management. This was welcomed by members of the Forum.
3. DF also confirmed that SCA would be advertising for more apprentices this month. The requirement would be for further technical apprentices, and the Company was introducing a new 'Process Apprentice' programme which would provide the opportunity and training for an individual to achieve the skills to become a member of an operating team. This development was welcomed by members of the CCF.
4. AW advised members of SCA's involvement in the local 'Playing it Safe' campaign and provided a copy of a feature in a local publication explaining the initiative.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 18th October 2007 at 2.30pm at Prudhoe Mill.

