



**SCA Community Consultation Forum**  
**Prudhoe Mill**

**Meeting 7**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009**

<b>Present:</b>	Tony Richards Alison Rishworth Bob Conlin Jim Smith	Factory & Site Manager, SCA Human Resources Manager, SCA Engineering Manager, SCA Environment and Energy leader, SCA
<b>Minutes:</b>	Hazel Noble	PA to Tony Richards, SCA
	Tony Bradley, Anna Graham Tony Mitcham Peter Nevin Paul MacDonald Alan Steedman	Bradley O'Mahoney PR, representing SCA Bradley O'Mahoney PR, representing SCA Wylam Parish Council Prudhoe Town Council (co -opted) Ovingham Parish Council Northumberland County Council Business Development Team
<b>Apologies:</b>	Louise Minshull Mike Senior Ian Hall Les Embleton Keith Laidler Amy Davison	Assistant Brand Manager, SCA Horsley Parish Council Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council Northumberland Fire & Rescue Northumberland Fire & Rescue Bradley O'Mahoney PR, representing SCA

Tony Richards opened the meeting and welcomed everyone once more to Prudhoe Mill. Meeting apologies were read out and the minutes from October 2008 were agreed and accepted.

**Agenda**

**Apprentice Update**

David Walker introduced himself to the CCF members and presented Prudhoe Mill Apprentice Programme which is aligned to the SCA vision of World-Class recognition. The programme provides a framework through which young people are recruited to embark upon skill based learning which is also aligned to the nationally recognised NVQ route. The 4-year programme for operation technicians and 2-year programme for process apprentices shown by David raised the following question by Tony Mitcham "had there been many applications from females?". Alison Rishworth replied that there were very few female applications and a discussion followed regarding this being a cultural prejudice as it is a known fact that in general, there are more female engineers in Europe.

Tony Richards added that the apprentices were a very valued asset to the company showing quickness in learning, older apprentices passing on their enthusiasm to the more recent recruits and this was notably appreciated by the management team.

Peter Nevin asked if SCA included language skills into their programme, David replied that we had not yet done this, Tony Richards said the SCA 'company language' was English and again, it was known that our culture was a little laid back with regard to language skills.

David went on to update the meeting with SCA's networking with local schools. The annual work experience programme was developed in 2003 with Prudhoe High School and Thomas Moore School (working partners) the following projects were completed:

- TV Stand
- Machine Vice
- Pneumatics Trolley
- Electronic Shift Indicator

One of the work experience students has now gone on to become an operations technician apprentice with SCA

SCA plan to work in conjunction with Prudhoe Community High School to deliver one unit from the Engineering Diploma on site at Prudhoe Mill. This unit, '*Maintenance Techniques in Engineering*' will be attended by two groups of ten students.

### **Environmental Update-**

#### **Energy**

Jim Smith updated the committee on the following energy topics:

- EUETS target met for 2008
- Climate Change Agreement target tightened by 5% for 2009 – 20012
- SCA corporate commitment to reduce CO2 emissions from all sites by 20% from 2005 value by 2020
- Energy Reduction Key Programme improvements for efficiency and investments

Jim reported that the SCA have committed to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020 per year and SCA were looking at various initiatives one of which was a wind farm in Sweden and other bio-fuel options. SCA were also encouraging employees to suggest ideas for energy savings within their working areas.

#### **Noise**

Jim's presentation included the following items:

- Paper Machine No. 2 Main Fan – new quiet technology to be fitted in Qtr 2
- Roof to be removed from vacuum discharge to reduce vibration
- Enclosure around waste paper loading has been increased
- Environmental Noise Survey – planned for July 09

Jim said that most noise complaints came from people living in the Castlefields area and it was expected that the new fan technology to be installed in Qtr 2, would make a significant improvement for the tonal noises attributed to most of the complaints.

Paul McDonald asked if SCA had ever counted costs with regard to resolving some of the noise complaints, Jim answered that the improvements were part of an ongoing programme to reduce year-on-year noise and SCA are '*where we expected to be*' taking into account BS

Standards. However, the ongoing noise reduction program did cost the company tens of thousands of pounds per year.

### **Waste**

- Waste Awareness Campaign
- Water Reduction Programme

Jim informed the meeting that the waste awareness campaign was aimed at reduction, segregation and recycling of waste streams.

It was decided to look into random bins across the site and surprising to find that about 90% of the material content could be recycled.

Tony Mitcham said that he had noticed on land east towards Gateshead what appeared to be a waste paper product. Jim explained that this was very likely to be from Prudhoe Mill, the recycling of waste paper for tissue production gives rise to a waste comprising Calcium Carbonate (chalk) and small paper fibres. The chalk is present in the raw waste paper as "filler" and cannot be used in tissue production, this is a useful material that could be used by farmers replacing the traditional practice of spreading lime and the fibre content is a good soil conditioner. This "paper crumble" is the raw material for the Energy Recovery Plant that SCA plan to install.

The water reduction program was about reduced abstraction and discharge, our corporate commitment was to reduce water discharge by 15% and organic pollutants (BOD) by 30% 2008-2010.

### **Site Development**

#### **Risk Management Audit**

Bob Conlin gave a presentation and showed slides on the Risk Management audit which had taken place in January by SCA's insurance company. Prudhoe mill are the highest achieving mill for risk management and loss prevention standards in Europe. The budget-spend over the previous three years = €350 K. The auditor had said in his overview that he believed the plant to be in a better condition now than he had ever see in the past, with as good a level of management as seen anywhere within the group and housekeeping standards above what he had found in the group.

#### **Site Facility Management**

Bob informed the meeting that SCA have a continual programme to sustain and upgrade the site, this ensures the site grounds and buildings are well maintained and have good presentation. We are also rolling out plans to refurbish all our wash rooms/toilet facilities, plant rooms and medical facilities.

Peter Nevin commented that he had noticed that the front elevation of the site kept on improving over recent years and he passed his compliments on for the excellent ongoing standards achieved.

#### **Community PR Activity**

Tony Bradley gave an update of Community Relations which included:

- Velvet Junior Bike Race – this event raised money for the Penguin Fund at Newcastle Freeman's Hospital's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)
- £2000 SCA Sponsorship Deal for local boy William Smith to boost his badminton ambitions for 2012 Paralympic Games.

- SCA's Apprentice Scheme – a total commitment to strategic, long-term investment in young people.

Tony gave the CCF members a detailed booklet covering the above activities.

### **Local Community**

Peter Nevin said that he had received a request from Mickley residents to enquire if SCA haulage had increased in recent months as it had been noted that there seemed to be more vehicles going through the village. Tony R replied that he did not think so but he would enquire on their behalf.

Tony R asked the local community members if there were any other items they wished to raise, Peter N said that Prudhoe Council have a committee to raise awareness of Prudhoe both as a town and the local businesses therein to the wider community, Tony M pointed out that Prudhoe is the largest town in Tynedale area. Tony R replied that wherever he could he would support the local area and Prudhoe town itself.

### **Date of Next Meeting Date**

2.30 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October