**Hynet Project**

**Notes of Public Meeting**

**Monday 30th June 2025**

**7pm**

**Sandycroft Community Centre**

Present: Councillors Mrs P. Connah (Chair), Mr. D. Wisinger (Vice-Chair), Mr. B. Connah, Mrs. C. Jones, Mrs. K. Perry, Mrs. L. Povey, Mrs. S. Salisbury

Residents x 8

Representatives from the Hynet Project x 2

Representative from United Living Infrastructure Group x 1

Clerk Mrs. C. Hughes

Introduction and Purpose of the Meeting

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair advised that questions received by email and on social media had been shared with representatives from the Hynet project prior to the meeting. Responses had been prepared, and these would be shared on the Queensferry Community Council website following the meeting.

The Chair explained that the purpose of meeting was to open lines of communication, have a point of contact and raise any questions or concerns with representatives in attendance.

Project Briefing - Presentation

A presentation was talked through at the meeting. The slides will be circulated to the Clerk and posted on the Queensferry Community Council website following the meeting.

The following points were noted:

* Principal work is building pipelines aiming to minimise disruption as much as possible.
* Site investigations started in 2024. Currently a third of the way through in Phase 2.
* Further works planned in August 2025.
* Planning restrictions are in place which dictate which roads can be worked on.
* The majority of the work on Chester Road is installation of the tunnel.
* Chester Road planning condition is that the road remains open, however there will be restrictions and down to one lane at some point for one day.
* Aiming to start August 2025 and finish end of year, then return in April 2026. Works should be completed by May 2026. Total construction time is 32 months from April 2024.
* Access will be via Glendale Avenue, no access needed via Chester Road.
* There will be a month’s preparatory works before moving on to installing the shaft which will take approximately 6 weeks. This will impact on the footpath for this period.
* Works will be continual over a 24-hour period. The changeover shift will be 7am and 7pm and will not affect school hours or school drop offs. Can adjust times forward or backwards an hour however tunnelling has to be continuous 24 hours. Tunnelling involves a crew of 6 people.
* Inside the water table balancing earth-based pressure with the ground there is pressurised slurry in the machine.

Question & Answer Session

Q. Will there be much noise / vibration?

A. There will be some noise and some light but no vibration.

Q. Can we please ensure that traffic lights are manned during rush hour period, so we don’t get a repeat of the recent Shotton situation.

A. Traffic management arrangements are to be discussed and agreed with Flintshire County Council.

Q. Effect on wildlife in the area - how is this being addressed?

A. There are baseline surveys for ecology and stringent regulations. The project includes a biodiversity net gain commitment, i.e. the project is committed to a net gain not a net loss. All creatures are being, or have been, surveyed. Typically avoid but there are 18 badger sets across the whole part of the route. With the exception of 2, they are outliers so are just monitored. 2 have to be relocated, build a new set, encourage them to move. Once the badgers are moved and settled, then works can proceed. If any nesting birds are located the works would have to stop. Ecology surveys have been undertaken in relation to trees.

Q. What about the effect on residents’ homes?

A. Very stringently regulated, complies with same regulations as gas pipelines.

Q. House values. Need guarantee we are protected as residents.

A. Any pipelines are underground – they are not visible and should not affect house values. Where concerned about risk, we would approach residents. We are working to Series 622 risk model independent structural assessment. If an unforeseen event occurs and we see settlement on the surface, works will stop and investigations would take place.

Q. Can we have this in writing, and can it be minuted that residents can be protected?

A. Project works must comply with Series 622 which demonstrates we have been stringent. If a house was structurally affected residents would need to go through insurance to the company’s insurance.

Q. What about potential decrease in value of residents’ homes?

A. Homes are built in accordance with Planning regulations. If something happened this would need to go down the planning route.

Q. Vibration in road due to traffic – water gas electric telephones, sewerage pipes constructed in 1905 / 1927. Any vibration could cause collapse of the ground?

A. We will be working down at a depth so there shouldn’t be any collapse. The soil is below the water table and pressurising to balance the ground already there 12-hour period will only bore about 5m.

Q. Sinkholes are you aware of these events?

A. Not foreseeing that the works would cause a sinkhole. We don’t want to be over pressurising or under pressurising.

Q. How long will you be tunnelling?

A. At this length 260m if we assume 5m a shift 10m in 24 hours so 4 weeks of tunnelling.

Q. What type of tunnelling – is it like the channel tunnel?

A. Micro tunnelling continuous concrete jacking pipes.

Q. Which contractor are you using?

A. Joseph Gallagher Ltd

Q. What type of pipe are you using?

A. High grade steel.

Q. How many have you done before?

A. The team have done this a lot, over 200 pipelines some double that. Half in the UK and half overseas.

Q. Have you ever encountered any problems?

A. It’s very rare to encounter issues and it is rarely due to settlement. It’s usually productivity, something in the ground has caused a problem. Three types of intervention: shut down, come back the way you came, go the opposite way.

Q. Airbus 380 building by the railway bridge. Kept falling in on them and took a lot longer than expected. 2002/2003 Dutch company?

A. United Living Infrastructure Services (ULIS) will be designing all crossings taking into account all potential settlement/heave calculation to avoid any movement that will effect any subterranean utilities and any surface infrastructure. ULIS have no relationship with the Airbus 380 building so cannot comment on this development.

Q. Where will the compound be?

A. The main compound is at Stanlow and the second one will be at off Deeside Lane. In addition, we will create a small office, parking, toilets etc.

Q. Is there any social value element in this project? Sandycroft community hub some work happening there, providing a shed to provide extra storage space and working with the Veterans Group.

A. Yes, we are working to the Environment Social Governance (ESG) Programme for the whole group, one for Eni and one for this project specifically.

Q. Will there be opportunities for local employment, e.g. are there apprenticeships etc.?

A. The work requires quite specialist roles and under supervision but general labour yes, we want to source locally.

Q. Design considerations – can you explain this more?

A. Red lined boundary shown in presentation - all works have to comply with that boundary. There are British standards for all areas e.g. noise assessment, dust, traffic management, ecology, ground and foundations. The 2 Sisters Food Group will have controls in place around area so as not to affect the birds.

Q. Maintaining pedestrian access - Footpaths – likely to be protective barriers along the road edge?

A. 5 years should be back to normal e.g. hedgerows.

Q. What about grounds and foundations?

A. A detailed ground movement assessment has been undertaken which includes a geological assessment in line with Euro Code 7 regulations.

Q. What about hydrogen?

A. We are not building a hydrogen pipeline, this project only concerns carbon.

Q. Have you liaised with the school?

A. Yes.

Q. How safe is the pipeline?

A. We work in a very heavily regulated industry built to the same standards as the high-pressure gas industry.

Q. Is it safer than the US where there was a rupture?

A. Yes, UK systems and regulations are very different compared with the US.

Q. Is it a flammable gas?

A. No, it does not ignite but it does asphyxiate.

Q. If there is an issue in the tunnel you may have to dig the road? The gas network in the UK was built in the 60s and 70s.

A. We are designing in the same way as gas, 40-50 years. It is very rare that there is an issue with the pipe at this depth.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The meeting opened at 7pm and closed at 8.15pm.