

Chester World Development Forum



Minutes of the Forum Meeting held on

Tuesday 15 January 2019 in The Unity Centre

Prior to our regular agenda we welcomed **Helen Tandy**, giving a talk on the theme
“Ethical Investment/ Divestment”
Note of Helen’s talk and discussion to follow

Before the main Forum agenda, John Tacon gave the following update on the I Gas Public Inquiry, leading to the Forum agreeing that he could speak on CWDF’s behalf at the inquiry.

By the end of the second week of the Inquiry, CW&C and the ‘Rule 6 Party’ (i.e. the Frack Free grouping) had presented all of their expert witnesses who have been questioned by the QC acting for IGas. On Thursday, IGas presented their first expert witness who was questioned by CW&C’s QC and by barrister [Estelle Dehon](#) for Frack Free. The hearing ended around 4pm, and will resume with the evidence of IGas’ remaining witness(es) being presented and tested from 26 February to 01 March. This break is because the legal teams have other commitments and are not available; the Inspector is also off to another case. JT previously reported that IGas’ case relies on a narrow interpretation of the planning rules, and the other parties seek to bring in wider interpretations relating to: Climate Change and the ‘direction of travel’ of carbon budgets driving a tightening of policy; air quality impacts on health/amenity/quality of community life; plus geological evidence not made available to the Planning Authorities at the time of the applications by IGas. JT saw no reason to change his assessment from the more recent evidence presented. Colin Watson (for Frack Free) is also arguing that the amount of acid IGas proposes to use is seven times larger than required for an ‘acid wash’ of the borehole (standard practice and allowed by the Environmental Permit) and so effectively amounts to ‘matrix acidisation’ to stimulate release of shale gas from the strata (not within the scope of the Permit *and therefore not allowed*). It is possible – likely even – that IGas may submit proposals to the parties to apply or vary some elements of their proposal. For example, they might agree to reduce the amount of acid to be used to ‘wash’ the borehole (currently up to a maximum of 95 tonnes of 7% hydrochloric acid). They might agree to reduce the amount of Greenhouse Gases their proposal will generate, e.g. by trapping the gas rather than burning it. No doubt Frack Free will keep supporters up-to-date on developments, and JT will forward any information he receives.

1 **Welcome:** TG chaired the meeting

Present: Terry Green, Terry Walsh (Chester CND), Mark Rideal (Chester CND and Chester Friends of the Earth), Katy Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine and Christian Aid), Brian Turner, Mark Starkey, Joseph O’Neill and Brian Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine), Vicki Jenner, Bernard Payne, Ann McCarthy (CAFOD), John Tacon, Lindsay Cussons (Baha’i Community of Chester), Linda and Stewart Shuttleworth, Gill Miller (University of Chester), Gerald Grant, Tony Walsh and Tom Ormiston (Ellesmere Port RC Churches Justice and Peace Group), Mike Johnson (Amnesty International), Elizabeth Bott (CAMCC), Catherine Green, Helen Tandy (Chester Friends of the Earth)

Apologies: Prior apologies from Margaret Lord, Heather Swainston, Sue Bownas

Update on members: *Heather Lannin has now been transferred to the Rehabilitation Unit at Clatterbridge and is continuing to make progress. She welcomes visitors please.*

Margaret Lord is on Priory Ward at COCH and is also making progress. She was due to have an assessment today. She also wants people to visit.

2 Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:

- Forum Meeting of 13th November 2018: There were no matters arising
- Update on Committee meetings held on 3rd December 2018 and 7th January 2019. Committee concentrated mainly on discussing climate change and the Forum's future programme in response to COP24

3 Admin matters:

- Treasurer's report, including current balance and position with 2019 subscriptions:
JT had been waiting for a new bank statement ... in vain, it turns out, as there were no transactions recorded/processed during December 2018. Therefore the position remains as it was at the end of November 2018: £196.71 in the bank plus cash-in-hand of £28.80 = £225.51.
Subscriptions coming in steadily and these been paid into the bank account along with £10 cash. £30 needs to be paid out for room hire

4 Arrangements for forthcoming events/ relevant activities, including:

- Consideration of CWDF Diary listings:
 - CWDF is planning to work closely with other Chester organisations such as Chester Friends of the Earth, Chester Sustainability Forum and Transition Chester on the issue of climate change. An extra meeting has been planned for 19th Feb in the Unity Centre when Catherine Green will give an account of her experiences at the COP24 conference in Katowice.
 - Tuesday 12th Feb – “Eritrea and Human Rights” 7.30 – 9.00pm in Best Building, University of Chester. Speaker from Eritrea for Amnesty International
 - Fairtrade Fortnight from 25th Feb – 10th March. Chester Fairtrade Steering Committee have secured a prime location for a stall in the market. Stall will run from 9.15 – 16.30 every day except Sunday and until 20.00 on Fridays. Volunteers needed please.
 - Christian Aid Lent Lunches starting on 11th March in Quaker Meeting House for 4 weeks. Time: 12 noon – 1.30. Final lunch will be on Monday 8th April in the Community Hall, St Mary's, Handbridge.
- Consideration of events/ activities from “around the table”
GM: Meeting at University in April on “Diseases” – further details to follow.
TO: Sent Christmas cards to Christians in Holy Land
TerryW: Vigil “Stop Arming Saudi Arabia” now taking place every 2 months
TonyW: CAFOD quizzes in Ellesmere Port, Our Lady Star of the Sea – supporting new project in Colombia
HT: Chester Friends of the Earth “Show the Love” craft event on Sat 9th Feb from 10.00 -1.00pm at Just Footprints, Forum Shopping Centre. Make green hearts to highlight the issue of climate change.
Just Footprints is a Zero Waste shop. Idea is to not to throw anything away. Similar scheme runs in Ellesmere Port – called “Wasteless”.
10th Feb CFoE - Hoole litter pick.
MJ: Chester is now officially a City of Sanctuary. Contact MJ for further information

5 Date of next Forum meeting:

Tuesday 12th March, 6.45 for 7.00pm at The Unity Centre.

Open session on local responses to climate change, plus update on Christian Aid “Big Shift” campaign (overall arrangements to be confirmed).