

## Minutes of the 70th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 19th September 2012 at AWE Aldermaston

### Present:

|                             |                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Dr Andrew Jupp              | MD, AWE Chairman LLC                                |
| Julie Taylor                | Director Environment, Safety, Health & Quality, AWE |
| Steve Fussey                | Director, Site                                      |
| Fiona Rogers                | Head of Corporate Communications                    |
| Linda Llewellyn             | External Comms & Marketing – LLC Secretary          |
| Michele Maidment            | External Comms & Marketing – LLC Administrator      |
| Cllr Marjory Bisset         | Shinfield Parish                                    |
| Cllr Michael Broad          | Tadley Town Council                                 |
| Cllr Keith Gilbert          | Padworth Parish Council                             |
| Cllr Jonathan Chishick      | Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council                 |
| Cllr Roger Gardiner         | Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council                 |
| Cllr Patricia Garrett       | Baughurst Parish Council                            |
| Cllr David Leeks            | Tadley Town Council                                 |
| Cllr Heather Leighton-Jones | Pangbourne Parish Council                           |
| Cllr Mollie Lock            | Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council                  |
| Cllr Marian Livingston      | Reading Borough Council                             |
| Cllr George McGarvie        | Pamber Parish                                       |
| Cllr Jeff Moss              | Swallowfield Parish Council                         |
| Cllr Susan Mullan           | Tadley Town Council                                 |
| Cllr Irene Neill            | West Berkshire Council                              |
| Cllr Barrie Patman          | Woking Borough Council                              |
| Carolyn Richardson          | West Berkshire Council                              |
| Cllr John Robertson         | Mortimer West End Parish Council                    |
| Cllr Dave Shirt             | Aldermaston Parish                                  |
| Cllr Tim Whitaker           | Mapledurham Parish                                  |
| Cllr Richard Willis         | Reading Borough Council                             |
| Cllr Jenny Williams         | Silchester Parish Council                           |
| Cllr David Wood             | Theale Parish Council                               |
| Paul Cooper                 | AWE                                                 |
| Jo Golding                  | AWE                                                 |
| Dave Pawley                 | AWE/MDP                                             |
| Kate Pyne                   | AWE                                                 |

### Regulators:

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| John Lindsay | Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) |
| Stuart Parr  | Environment Agency                  |

### Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Penee Chopping, Cllr Philip Bassil, Julie James, Cllr John Chapman, Cllr Carol Jackson-Doerge, Cllr Royce Longton, Cllr Graham Round, Cllr Chris Souden, Cllr Marilyn Tucker, and Cllr Clive Vare

### Actions from the last meeting

#### Action 66/4

Steve Fussey undertook to present the findings of the Habits Survey in 2012 at a future LLC meeting.

**Briefing note issued to attendees in meeting pack**

**Action Closed**

#### Action 69/1

Andrew Jupp suggested that a special site visit to the Pump House (Pangbourne Sewage Plant) could be arranged for LLC members who are interested. LLC members to liaise with Linda Llewellyn direct

**No members have asked for a visit to date, the action will be closed but the offer still stands**

**Action Closed**

### Minutes of the 69th Meeting

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

## Chairman's remarks – Dr Andrew Jupp, MD, AWE.

- **LLC membership**

We received the sad news last month that John Heggadon, former LLC member representing Shinfield Parish Council, died on the 10<sup>th</sup> July after a long illness and hospitalisation. John served on the Committee for a significant number of years.

- **A look back over the last three months – a few highlights:**

At the end of July we were able to announce the **formal contract award** of the management of the Royal Naval Armament Depot at **Coulport** to the **ABL Alliance**, (AWE, Babcock Marine and Lockheed Martin UK Strategic Systems Ltd). Led by AWE, the Alliance will develop and enhance the existing expertise at Coulport to manage the stockpile and support CASD. Coulport and its integration is a key milestone for AWE, enabling us to work more closely with the warhead during its lifecycle. We anticipate taking full responsibility for the Strategic Weapon System services in January 2013 after a six months transition phase.

Also in July we **hosted a major international conference on plutonium** at Cambridge University. The event brought together 230 scientists from over 18 countries, including over 20 materials scientists and chemists from AWE. The week-long event was opened by our own Chief Technologist and welcome address by Prof Sir Mark Welland.

We appointed our **first two Distinguished Specialists in Engineering**, recognising exceptional expertise in this discipline alongside those who hold this accolade in our science and technology community. This reinforces our commitment to providing provides clear and rewarding career paths for all of our technical specialists

### **Construction Programme:**

- **Mensa, Circinus, Pegasus and the Teutates TDC** major projects remain on track and on budget. The first to move into commissioning phase with handover on target for 2014 is Circinus. Mensa continues to deliver an excellent safety record with 600 working days with no lost time accidents.

Our **Skills Academy welcomed 39 new apprentices** at the beginning of August and **recognised 26** who have successfully completed the scheme at last week's Annual Prize day. Eight of these received special awards in recognition of their commitment and achievement during their training from guest of honour Commodore John Fulford who was making a return visit to AWE after attending the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in June. With the August intake, we now have **117** apprentices undertaking the scheme, recognised nationally as an outstanding example of work-based training.

*In response to **Councillor Broad's** question of whether AWE is still taking on older apprentices and promoting this aspect of their scheme, the Chairman confirmed this is still the case.*

On the **Fire Prosecution**, we are continuing to review information from the HSE received in July. A decision on the response to the charges will be taken only after full consideration and receipt of legal advice on the case against AWE. In light of this, AWE and the HSE agreed to request an **adjournment of the date of the court hearing** from 6th August to a date in November, to allow for proper review of the case and a decision on AWE's response. The Court approved this request. Any further comment at this time would be inappropriate.

Our **VIP agenda has continued apace** over the summer with no less than three visits by the recently appointed Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Vernon Gibson as part of an intensive familiarisation programme and most recently – just last week - we welcomed Vice Admiral Mathews, Chief of Materiel (Fleet) to Aldermaston.

We're keeping close to the changes underway at the MoD and the recent announcement by **DE&S** to consider moving to a **GOCO** model to support the future defence material strategy.

- **Looking ahead:**

Next month is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our **Celebrating Success Awards** that recognise outstanding contributions by teams and individuals right across the organisation. The ten awards are selected from over 150 bronze and silver awards granted during the course of the year – recognising everything from leadership to science, technology and engineering excellence.

Finally, the **LLC Review** has made a good start and my thanks to those of you who have kindly volunteered your time as a member of the Joint Steering Group. We'll hear more on progress to date later on in today's agenda and – without putting George on the spot – would hope when we next meet in December, the group should be in a position to present the findings and recommendations.

### **Environment, Health & Safety Report – Julie Taylor, Director Environment, Health, and Safety & Quality**

Julie Taylor presented on Overview of Safety and Quality Performance, Fukushima Update and Next Steps which included ongoing communications of "What Great Looks Like" and continuing our journey to Incident and Injury Free.

- **Community Complaints**

Two complaints were received in August (Nil for 247 days prior to that):

1. A noise complaint from an Aldermaston resident was identified as a reverse warning signal on a road roller working at the Aldermaston Gate. The resident was contacted
2. A noise complaint from a Tadley resident relating to traffic passing over the West Gate metal blockers. The noise was investigated and a maintenance activity carried out to dampen the metal vibration noise. The resident received a personal visit to check noise levels both pre and post the maintenance operation.

- **Safety culture**

As part of AWE's ongoing programme to achieving an Incident and Injury free performance, sixty senior managers attended an intensive two-day workshop focused on leadership behaviour and around 3000 staff are attending the ESH Culture Workshops taking place over the autumn.

**Councillor Willis** asked if contractor safety performance is including in AWE statistics. This was confirmed.

**Councillor McGarvie** asked if AWE's strong performance in construction safety standards was recognised outside the organization. In response, Andrew Jupp confirmed this was the case and that some contractors have won further work on the back of their track record on AWE projects.

**Councillor Shirt** asked if AWE has any concerns over their current maximum radiation dose figures. Julie Taylor explained our target figure is a stretch target that is deliberately set well below industry standards and the legal limit dose. Although there is a slight upward trend, the organization is still expecting to achieve this year's target.

Julie Taylor referenced a recent IOSH presentation at Reading University where the recent John Large REPPiR report was presented to an IOSH members' audience. AWE will be taking this up with IOSH direct.

**Councillor Willis** requested the LLC are kept informed on AWE's response to this report. Andrew Jupp commented that AWE's primary focus must remain on responding to and complying with customer, regulators and shareholders statutory requirements. There will always be instances where third parties disagree with this view.

## **Infrastructure Report – Steve Fussey, Director Site**

- **NIS**

Steve Fussey and Fiona Rogers met with Peter Burt (NIS) for a general discussion on areas of mutual interest. Topics covered included the LLC Review, NIS research projects currently in hand, the John Large REPIR report, NIS plans to upgrade their website. Peter Burt offered to meet with the LLC JSG and this was noted by the JSG Chairman. Steve and Fiona have agreed to have another meeting with Peter Burt in January.

- **Security**

An update was given on security matters and the importance of security at AWE and our Review, Learn and Improve Culture

- **Pangbourne Pipeline**

After a series of extensive onsite trials to determine the potential challenges surrounding the options for PPL, the next stage will be to undertake offsite trials to explore the practicalities and implications of removing, leaving untouched or part-removal of the pipeline. This is a complex and lengthy task that needs to factor in the many different environmental and infrastructure conditions and will take time. It is unlikely AWE will be in a position to provide firm recommendations for consultation with stakeholders before the end of 2013.

- **Detailed Emergency Planning Zones (see accompanying presentation by Paul Cooper, Manager Emergency Response)**

AWE's technical review for the Aldermaston site has concluded the REPIR 5mSv dose contour extends to somewhat less than the present 3km from the centre of the current DEPZ. The reduction in the radius of this contour reflects the use of refined analysis tools and also reflects the ongoing hazard and risk reduction programme on the Aldermaston site. ONR's technical assessors concur with AWE's conclusion citing AWE's technical assessment was thorough and sound.

John Lindsay (ONR) followed on from Paul's presentation outlining the process of consultation underway with key external stakeholders. He confirmed

- ONR has independently verified the reasonably foreseeable radiation emergency and its implications
- An assessment report has been written.
- The outcome has been discussed with West Berks as duty holder in REPIR

The radius of the 5 mSv contour and the implications of reducing the extent of the current DEPZ have been discussed at a meeting that West Berks arranged with key members of the Offsite Plan Group and the ONR. This meeting focussed upon the practical aspects of delivery of the off site emergency plan in the area around AWE Aldermaston, should a reduction in the DEPZ occur. The consensus at this meeting was that a reduction in the size of the current DEPZ would have a number of practical impacts on the ability to effectively implement the off site emergency plan and that the DEPZ should not change at this time, but should remain under review pending any changes to requirements following the Fukushima incident or AWE's next routine REPIR assessment, whichever is sooner. West Berks is putting the outcome through its own processes before formally feeding back to ONR. ONR will then make recommendations to its decision maker regarding the AWE Aldermaston DEPZ and related emergency planning issues in a further internal report.

As this will be the first time that a DEPZ has been determined, after Fukushima the final recommendations will be taken through the ONR Regulatory Strategy Group for peer review prior to ONR's formal determination of the zone. This process will challenge the underpinning work and will give assurance that the recommendations are soundly based.

The ONR decision will be communicated to the duty holders by formal letter and their final report will be published on the ONR website. ONR will provide a further update at the next LLC Meeting in December.

**Councillor Lock and Councillor Bisset** asked if there was to be any change in the Burghfield contour?

**Paul Cooper** confirmed this will stay unchanged for the time being but will be looked at again as part of the formal three year review process.

**Councillor Robertson** referred to the recent Tadley meeting hosted by John Large Associates where the lack of trained offsite personnel was called into question. He stated that it was important for the LLC members to have all the relevant information relating to the DEPZ and offsite response, in order to respond quickly and accurately to resident questions or concerns.

**Steve Fussey** confirmed LLC members will be resent AWE's response to the John Large report and reiterated AWE's offer to attend local council meetings if members would welcome further discussion on the DEPZ/REPPPIR issue.

**Councillor Shirt** stated there was an urgent need to review the current DEPZ arrangements as this is impacting negatively on Aldermaston land use planning. **Councillor Gardiner** supported Cllr Shirt's comment.

**John Lindsay** commented that whilst there is no legislative link between DEPZ and Land Use Planning, ONR recognised the need to move towards more 'intelligent considerations' of the impact of the DEPZ on this issue.

**Carolyn Richardson, West Berkshire Council** offered to update Councillor Shirt on the WBC approach to land planning outside of the meeting.

**Councillor Bisset** stated the NIS has raised concerns over the implications of an offsite accident involving vehicles carrying nuclear materials.

**Paul Cooper** advised transport regulations for this type of material are under the jurisdiction of the MOD and there is different planning approach for on nuclear site and off site and of course for different types events.

**John Lindsay** commented that the uncertainties involved in planning for a moving convoy versus the well-defined environment around fixed sites also needed to be taken into consideration and was also a contributing factor when setting emergency response zones

### **Update on the LLC Joint Steering Group (JSG) Councillor George McGarvie**

Councillor McGarvie updated the LLC on the start-up and progress of the JSG since June. Membership comprises seven LLC volunteers (John Chapman, David Leeks, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Royce Longton, Dave Shirt and Richard Willis and George McGarvie as Chair) and seven AWE representatives (Steve Fussey, Heather Young, Graham Day, Paul Cooper, Gareth Beard, Fiona Rogers and Linda Llewellyn as Secretary.

The JSG has met twice (26<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> September). Terms of reference have been agreed and work has started on the review comprising

- o Desk research into of comparable high-hazard/high security /non-nuclear/petrol chemical sites
- o An LLC members questionnaire (14 responses received so far)
- o Profiling of the local stakeholder landscape.

**Councillor Bisset** raised her concerns over the low attendance by LLC representatives at the first JSG meeting. **The JSG Chair** confirmed five representatives attended the second session but highlighted that this membership was on a volunteer basis. He confirmed Unitary Authorities are represented.

**Councillor Irene Neill** offered to be a reserve member of the JSG; the offer was kindly accepted.

The JSG Chair set out the next steps on the Review which include the analysis of the returned LLC questionnaire, the completion of the desk research and updating the AWE website (in response to a common plea from all members). A further update on the Review's progress will be provided at the LLC December meeting. He welcome inputs from the wider LLC membership at any time either directly or via his colleagues on the Steering Group.

The next JSG meeting will be at the end of October (date to be confirmed). LLC members will be advised of all future JSG meeting dates.

### **Ask the Regulator**

- **Councillor Shirt** queried the statement in the Environment Agency report relating to the recent survey on Habits which cited difficulty in recruiting sufficient members of the public in the local area to take part. He found this disappointing and rather unusual. **Stuart Parr, Environment Agency** responded that the researchers reported back that people were reluctant to take part in a door-step interview even though field workers called at different times of the day. Councillor Shirt recommended the support of LLC members could be used to encourage a better response rate in future surveys of this type. Stuart Parr stated the EA would be carrying out a review of the approach and methodology.

### **Any Other Business**

- **Councillor Leeks** requested an update on the Falcon Garage Site. Steve Fussey confirmed work has taken place to tidy up the site; longer term the area may be used for revised site access arrangements and increased parking facilities.
- **Councillor Shirt** requested clear guidelines on the use and dissemination of updates and information from the AWE Corporate Communications team. Fiona Rogers confirmed guidelines will be issued.
- **Councillor Shirt**, in relation to information issued to local LLC members on site incidents, requested LLC members are provided with key messages quickly to enable them to respond authoritatively and promptly to local resident queries. Fiona Rogers acknowledged the delays Cllr Shirt experienced. Corporate Communications evaluate each situation carefully including the impact on local stakeholders and members of the public.

### **Presentation on and Tour of the AWE Educational Collection (previously the AWE Historical Collection) – Kate Pyne**

Kate Pyne, AWE's Technical Historian gave a presentation including video clips on the UK Nuclear Weapons Programme over the years. This was followed by tour of the AWE Historical Collection

### **Date of the next meeting**

**Wednesday 5th December 2012**

**Linda Llewellyn  
LLC Secretary**