

## Minutes of the 71st AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 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 Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish
Cllr Michael Broad	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Penee Chopping	Ufton Nervet Parish
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Cllr Patricia Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Marian Livingston	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Royce Longton	West Berkshire
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Woking Borough Council
Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Brett Dyson	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Dave Shirt	Aldermaston Parish
Cllr Chris Souden	Sulhamstead Parish
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council
Paul Cooper	AWE
Jo Golding	AWE
Dave Pawley	AWE/MDP

### Regulators:

John Lindsay	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Anna Mayor	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency
Stewart Kerry-Hodges	Environment Agency

### Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bisset, Cllr Gilbert, Julie James, Cllr Jackson-Doerge, Cllr Leighton-Jones, Cllr Moss, Cllr Payne, Cllr Robertson, Cllr Round, Cllr Tucker, Cllr Williams & Cllr Willis

### Actions from the last meeting

No outstanding actions

### Minutes of the 70th Meeting

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

## Chairman's remarks

Dr Andrew Jupp, MD, AWE.

### People News

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the **death of two AWE luminaries** – Clive Marsh and Peter Marshall.

- Former AWE Director and Chief Scientist, **Clive Marsh** had a remarkable career at AWE that spanned four decades. Throughout his time at AWE, Clive made a pioneering contribution to science and technology in support of the UK's nuclear deterrence programme for which he was recognised in 2008 with a CBE. His work had a huge impact on AWE's laser programme and our international and academic relationships.
- **Peter Marshall** was our former head of the Forensic Seismology team and authored over 100 peer-reviewed papers. He was an inspirational scientist and played a key role, over nearly five decades, in developing AWE's current capabilities to provide authoritative advice to the UK Government on issues related to the detection, location and identification of nuclear explosions.

### Community relationships

- **Richard Benyon MP** visited Aldermaston mid-October - his first since 2005 – and received a thorough update on a broad range of organisational activity. Richard has been strongly supportive of AWE, and continues to publically acknowledge our value-add to the local economy, our outstanding apprenticeship scheme and on-going commitment to STEM education.
- We were delighted to be part of the **official opening of the cycleway and footpath** between Aldermaston Village and Aldermaston Wharf a couple of Sunday's ago (Nov 25<sup>th</sup>). My personal thanks to Dave Shirt for all his hard work in overseeing this project over a number of years, and to Wasing Estate owner, Josh Dugdale, who donated the land for the pathway. We have no doubt that the improved access and safety benefits will make a real difference to local residents and we are proud to have helped make these a reality.

### Business achievements

- In November **AWE's business resilience team won 'Team of the Year'** title at the BCI Gifted Grades and Global Awards 2012. Our team was praised for implementing a cross-organizational resilience programme that includes threat planning; horizon scanning; as well as an incident response. To be recognised as true thought leaders by our sector peers is a tremendous achievement and proof of the progress we have made in this area - an essential part of supporting our core mission.
- Our Major Project group (DMP) have achieved the **British Safety Council 5 Star Award** for a recent Environmental Management Audit. This was the first time the teams have been audited against the BSC standard. The audit findings provide valuable input to our approach in Environmental Management across the wider AWE business.
- **Project Mensa** continues to deliver an outstanding safety record achieving an impressive milestone of 3 million hours with no lost time accidents over a period of approximately 630 working days. This is a major feat considering the complexity of the project.
- AWE has been **recognised in the second Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers list**, announced at National Apprenticeship Awards at The Skills Show in Birmingham. The Top 100 list, compiled by the National Apprenticeship Service and City & Guilds, recognises excellence in businesses that employ apprentices. This accolade tops a wonderful 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for the AWE Skills Academy which included winning the BAE Systems Award for Large Apprenticeship Employer of the Year for the Thames Valley Region at the National Training Awards 2012.

### Industry relationships

- AWE scientists were praised for their work in counter terrorism and nuclear non-proliferation by Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt at the **Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)** international conference in London last month. Our experts have been instrumental in helping develop techniques that can detect attempts to smuggle nuclear material into the UK to prevent illicit trafficking. This is part of the Home Office and MOD sponsored development of enhanced nuclear detection techniques.

- We have signed a **memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)** to explore areas of interest and realise mutual benefits in research, postgraduate training and knowledge exchange. As one of EPSRC's strategic partners, AWE advises EPSRC on the direction of UK university research, ensuring alignment with AWE's Outreach programme and the joint commitment to UK academia.

#### Site issues

- For those disturbed by the **site alarm on the evening of the 20th November**, our sincere apologies once again. The alarm was sounded as a precautionary measure, as part of AWE's standard response procedures to an automatic alarm which had been triggered in one of our buildings near the centre of site. An investigation quickly established it was a false alarm. The exact cause is being investigated.
- We can confirm that on November 9 AWE received an **ONR improvement notice** concerning one of its older manufacturing facilities at Aldermaston. During a routine inspection earlier this year, the Company reported corrosion on structural steelwork. Further inspections found incidence of degradation of some of the other structural components. At that time, AWE immediately suspended routine operations to enable us to carry out essential maintenance prior to the resumption of normal operations. ONR has been kept fully informed throughout this period. The improvement notice formalises much of inspection and review activity that has already been carried out and provides a target date for completion of the required remedial work.

***Councillor Vale** asked whether ONR was directly involved in the inspections. John Lindsay (ONR) confirmed that the regulator's civil engineering specialists are working closely with AWE on this project and this work has involved direct observation and evaluation of the circumstances.*

- AWE appeared in Reading Magistrates Court on Thursday 29th November to hear charges under Health and Safety legislation brought by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Hazardous Installations Directorate relating to the **fire in 2010**. Discussions between AWE and HSE legal counsels are continuing. The next hearing has been listed for Reading Crown Court on March 11, 2013. As the legal process is still on going, it would be inappropriate for us to comment further at this time

#### Environment, Safety, Health Report

**Julie Taylor, Director Environment, Safety, Health & Quality**

Julie Taylor presented on Overview of Safety and Quality Performance.

***Councillor Leeks** asked if there was a dedicated complaints line. Julie Taylor confirmed that yes there was a dedicated number and that she would ensure that it was included in the minutes.*

**To Note: AWE complaints number is 0118 985 0897**

***Councillor Chishick** queried why the dose data for October and November was not included in the ESH&Q Director's presentation.*

**Action1/71: Julie Taylor apologised for this omission and confirmed the data would be issued with the minutes of the meeting.**

***Councillor Shirt** raised a concern about the increase in Corporate Complaints over the past month. Julie Taylor gave a summary of the five in question.*

- Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Site noise subsequently traced to plant on the boundary of AWE
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> Repeat complaint. Noise surveys are showing levels are well within tolerance; further investigations are ongoing
- 27<sup>th</sup> Nov Inappropriate use of pedestrian pathway by AWE cyclist who was challenged by a local resident. AWE takes all complaints about its staff seriously and whilst not responsible for their actions off site, actively reinforces the importance of safe and considerate behaviour when travelling to and from work each day.

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**Councillor Shirt** asked whether complaints data could be a regular feature in the ESH&Q update.

**Action 2/71: Data will be presented in future meetings and the Corporate Complaints procedure circulated for information.**

**Councillor Chishick** enquired as to the cause of the other two complaints earlier complaints. Julie Taylor confirmed that the complaints were about the same thing, the West Gate gate 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.

**Councillor Vare** questioned why the Perfect Day statistics were not covered.

**Action:** Julie Taylor confirmed a cross company working group is currently reviewing the scope of this initiative. Any amendments to the scheme results will be shared with the LLC on completion of this review.

**Councillor Garrett** asked if work had been stopped in the facility where corrosion had been identified. Andrew Jupp confirmed operations have been suspended.

## Infrastructure Report

**Steve Fussey, Director Site**

Steve Fussey's presentation focused on the progress to date on **AWE's Major Projects Programme** which includes over the next 12-15 months some significant decommissioning of some of AWE's older facilities. This will make an important contribution to reducing hazard risk and our overall site operating costs.

**Councillor Shirt** asked if there were any external alterations as a consequence of the Boiler House Refurbishment. Steve Fussey confirmed the major physical change is the disappearance of both chimneys.

**Councillor Shirt** made an observation about the increase in lightning protection arrays on site and queried the requirements for planning applications and regulatory compliance. Steve Fussey replied that the Lightning Standards at AWE are compliant with the appropriate protection requirements and are regularly tested to ensure correct operation. New facilities or facilities subject to major refurbishment have lightning protection systems which accord with the latest guidance and meet or exceed requirements.

**Councillor Longton** asked whether the investment in the AWE facilities was direct from UK Government. Andrew Jupp confirmed this was the case. It is part of the ongoing commitment to secure the UK's nuclear capability. For all new investment, AWE is required to submit a detailed business case.

**Councillor Wood** queried whether any historic buildings were being preserved. Andrew Jupp stated there is some protection associated with the Gravel Gerties in Burghfield and Grimm's Bank at Aldermaston. The Education Collection is a further example of investment in preserving our heritage.

## Emergency Arrangements

**Paul Cooper, Manager Emergency Response**

### Aldermaston Emergency Planning Zone

ONR consultations in conjunction with West Berkshire Emergency Response authorities have now concluded with the decision not to change the current size of the Aldermaston Emergency Planning Zone. WBC has taken the output from the ONR consultation through corporate governance and will be formally notifying ONR of its position shortly. ONR has taken the output of the consultation through its regulatory strategy group and, upon receipt of the letter from WBC, will prepare its own report and will write to WBC specifying the size of the DEPZ. It is anticipated that this will be completed early in 2013.

### AWE Burghfield Site Exercise

A highly successful and unique exercise, designed to test AWE's arrangements with the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading for the management of patients potentially exposed to radiation, took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October. The exercise was assessed as an adequate demonstration of AWE's emergency arrangements for the Burghfield site with some particularly strong areas of performance.

**Councillor McGarvie** queried why Basingstoke Hospital was not used? Paul Cooper confirmed the North Hants Hospital is primarily used for all routine onsite emergency cases from AWE Aldermaston. Royal Berkshire is the normal receiving hospital for any case from AWE Burghfield. It also has specific plans and facilities in place to handle cases involving RA contamination from either site.

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**Petroleum Storage Depot, Padworth Common**

As part of its emergency warning arrangements required under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (CoMAH), an on site siren has been installed at the depot and will be tested at 3pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month starting in February 2013. AWE is aware that this could cause confusion among local residents as to where this alarm is coming from.

**Action 3/71: Full details of the Depot alarm test regime will be sent to all LLC members before the test regime goes live to disseminate to their local communities. West Berkshire Council is also planning to provide information.**

**Land Use Planning**

The ONR is reviewing their policy on the assessment of land use planning applications around nuclear sites with a view to providing advice on the viability and impact of planning applications within emergency planning zones. They are working closely with WBC, AWE and the relevant emergency services to develop guidelines that set out a consistent approach to assessing and consulting on such applications.

Carolyn Richardson confirmed a number of key stakeholders have met to discuss a draft proposal which will be tested formally before final approval by West Berkshire.

*Councillor Gardiner asked whether the LLC could have sight of the final document.*

**Action 4/71: John Lindsay (ONR) will confirm when the proposal will be available. Carolyn Richardson (WBC) also offered to provide an update at the next LLC meeting.**

**The role of the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) at AWE          Superintendent Dave Pawley**

Superintendent Dave Pawley gave a comprehensive overview of the role of the MDP at AWE including appearances by representatives (two and four legged) of the highly trained on-site teams. In the general question and answer session that followed, Supt Pawley reminded LLC members of the ongoing support his teams on both sites provide to the Thames Valley Police including attending incidents on their behalf if requested.

**Update on the LLC Joint Steering Group (JSG)****Councillor George McGarvie & Fiona Rogers, Head of Corporate Communications**

Fiona Rogers gave a detailed update from the LLC Joint Steering Group with focus on the results from the LLC Questionnaire, key finding from the benchmarking exercise and potential areas for improvement (within the confines of security and Site Licence).

Possible next steps, to be discussed and confirmed at the next JSG meeting in January included follow-up interviews with benchmarked sites, canvassing opinion and views from local MPs, local authorities and local businesses and distributing a community wide questionnaire.

The following general points were raised:

*Councillor Whitaker queried whether the benchmarking had looked at comparable sites in France or America. Steve Fussey confirmed the review had included feedback from contacts in the States.*

*Councillor McGarvie asked all LLC members to consider the current Terms of Reference for the LLC and contact him with any thoughts they may have.*

*Councillor Shirt offered to 'trail' the questionnaire in his parish.*

*Councillor McGarvie asked whether members, subject to their formal agreement, were willing for their contact details to be made publicly available. There was general consensus to this idea*

*Councillor Lock stated that Connect would be a good place to publish these contact detail as residents do read this publication.*

*Councillor Gardiner stated that if the idea of an LLC hosted public forum was being considered, then location and frequency needed to be considered carefully. Cllr McGarvie acknowledged this whilst reminding the*

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*Committee of time and resources that would be required from LLC members to plan and stage a successful forum.*

## **Ask the Regulator**

### **Intermediate Level Waste Disposal**

In response to **Councillors Longton and Chishick** requests for status report on this issue, John Lindsay confirmed that ONR have requested proposals from AWE on the safe handling and disposal of intermediate waste stocks. This issue is not confined to AWE and conversations are ongoing with other operators across the UK to find a safe, secure, effective and efficient solution that is appropriately funded. The amount of ILW generated today at AWE is a fraction of the volume generated in the past and current methods of storage are robust and under constant surveillance.

## **Any Other Business**

**Councillor Broad** asked if there were any further developments on the Falcon site. Steve Fussey confirmed none at present.

**Councillor Leeks** thanked AWE for its support with the Tadley Christmas Lights.

Andrew Jupp closed the last meeting of the year by offering his thanks to the LLC members for their support to AWE in 2012. He wished them a very happy Christmas and looked forward to working with them in 2013

## **2013 Meeting Dates**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**Linda Llewellyn**  
**LLC Secretary**