



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 101st meeting held at The Satellite Applications Catapult Centre, Harwell on Thursday 30th March 2023

ATTENDEES:

Chair	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Deputy Chair	John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
Secretary	Emma Burwood, Magnox, communications lead
Minutes	Zoe Mare, Magnox
Paul Barty	Oxford City Council
Mark Pledger	Jacobs
Andy Beynon	Magnox
Neil Doggett	ONR
Bill Hanks	Member of the public
Andy Brett	UKHSA
Stuart Watson	Magnox
Stuart Clark	Magnox
Laura Street	Magnox
Duncan Rogers	Harwell campus
Andy Beynon	Magnox
Stephen Druce	Chilton Parish Council
Christine Williamson	MLC at MRC Harwell
Simon Napper	NDA
Joe Kelleher	ISIS/STFC
Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Rebecca Cleverly	Environment Agency
Michael Fox-Davies	Harwell Parish Council

- **Apologies for absence –**

John Wilkins - Member of the Public, Jon Blackmore - Senior Project Manager Magnox, Bill Hamilton - Director of External Affairs Magnox, Dik Third – Prospect Magnox

- **Chair's Remarks – Chris Broad**

- Chris Broad welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - Chris confirmed changes at Harwell including Andy Munro having moved on.
 - The chair / deputy had a tour of Harwell, which was valuable and useful, this included a tour of B150.
 - Chris holds regular meetings with John and the campus. It is clear 23/24 will be very busy years on the campus.
 - A review of the memberships and attendance for the SSG meetings has been completed. Please let Chris or Emma know if you need to change any details.
 - A meeting was held 29/3 with Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero (used to be called BEIS), a consultation has been launched for decommissioning on waste policy. Closing date 24th May. We will be following any implications for Harwell and are considering setting up a subgroup to follow this consultation, please let Chris know if you are interested in joining this subgroup.
- The debate continues as to whether the SSG continues as a physical or online meeting, however the next meeting will involve the election of the chair and vice chair and will be a physical meeting.

- **Minutes of 101st meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

- **Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

- **Magnox Harwell Licenced Site Matters**

Director's Site Report – presented by Site Integration Manager Laura Street.

- Laura confirmed she is giving the presentation as Andy Munro has moved on and we are in the process of identifying his successor.
- There has been one minor injury at site since the last SSG.
- Site Improvement plan 22/23 consists of Human Performance Training/ Psychological safety, control and supervision, project safety reviews and hand safety.
- No significant regulatory issues raised since last SSG. All inspections rated adequate/ no non-compliances. Learning points raised and being actioned.

Programme Update

- Nuclear Materials Transfer (NMT) Consignment target – 80% shipped offsite.
- B351 demolition complete.
- Continued preparation for remediation and delicensing of West Meashill.
- Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) – completion of survey and sampling to support delicensing.
- Offsite Discharge Pipeline - sent for treatment with approx. 99% recycling rate.
- Legacy waste reduction by approx. 1000 cubic m.
- BEPO and concept design for decommissioning completed.
- B418 contract awarded for Post Operational Clean Up (POCO) and characterisation.

- Great progress on Remote Handled Intermediate level waste (RHILW) retrievals.
- Waste Encapsulation Plant active commissioning complete.

Nuclear Materials Transfer (NMT)/Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste/Legacy Waste

- 5361 (5123) drums shipped to date.
- 80.8% (7.71%) of total drums.
- 39.6% (31.2%) of activity removed.
- Forecast 86% drums complete by Mar/Apr2024.
- Project completion stable in 2025.
- Gemini active moves making great progress.
- Rate independent on receiving plant availability.
- Offsite discharge Pipeline commenced in June 21 due to complete Mar 23.
- Material is being recycled back into the metal market with a current recycling rate of 99.2%.
- 97.6% 1611 sections of the total number of pipes consigned from site for ultra-high pressure washing.
- 24 other low/ very low-level waste consignments made this FY.
- Waste route opened for redundant site vehicles.

Compliance and End States Programme

LETP and Land remediation

- Enabling works completed for minor remediation work – fencing works and electrical cable diversions.
- Survey and sampling in and around (Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) – Summer 23.
- Minor remediation works in the (Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) – Autumn 23.
- SUDS lagoon Construction and (Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) reinstatement – Summer & Autumn 202.

Downs Way East Area

- New gate installed for access from within Magnox site.
- Ecological surveys underway.
- Possible ecological mitigation work later in 2023.

West Measehill

- Characterisation identified three areas requiring minor remediation.
- Minor remediation works – Summer 23.
- Drain and other minor surveys – Spring 23.

Decommissioning (Plant & Structures) Programmes

B220 – Radiological characterisation and asbestos survey documentation prepared (expect award of contract Dec 23). Strategic outline business case complete. Strategic outline business case complete. Internal governance reviews complete. Presentation to NDA board in April. Opportunity for early start of works has been incorporated into the strategic outline business case.

B459 - Research facility project commenced Apr 21. Concept design for decommissioning and characterisation plan – complete Sept 22. Current phase – updating knowledge of building through engineering and ecology surveys. Opportunities 23-24 – dispose of non-active plant & equipment; isolate n/r services. 26/27 – main contractor lead decommissioning and demolition.

B418 - Post Operational Clean Up (POCO) and characterisation contract placed June 22. Contractor mobilised Aug 22. Non-intrusive works commenced Sept 22. Intrusive works delayed due to presence of protected species.

B351.15/.28 – Contract placed Jun 22. Contractor mobilised Sept 22. Asbestos and soft strip commenced Sept 22, completed Nov 22. Demolition commenced Nov 22, completed Dec 22. Contractor reinstated and demobilised Feb 23.

Other

- Various visits hosted on site.
- Various land clearance surveys and delicensing activities underway on-site.
- Recruitment: 8 roles have been filled since January 2023 (3 Internal and 4 External Currently 5 candidates onboarding process).
- 3 apprentice vacancies for September 23 intake.

Socio-economic Funding

- 4 successful applications for Harwell £304,184 including Hendred Environment Group. Community Larder (£638), East Hendred Parish Council (£1927), Harwell Community Primary School (£900) and South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance (SOFEA) (£608,952 over 3 years)
- Good neighbourhood funding up to £2000 per application, however £6000 allocation per site remains unchanged.

Questions

Q1: What is the latest update on the diversion of the Bridleway?

A1: The diversion will stay in place for now, completion is estimated end of 2024.

REPORTS

NDA Report – Simon Napper

- Whole team of civil servants concerned with nuclear in BEIS have moved into the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).
- Secretary of State is Grant Shapps, who was SoS at BEIS.
- New minister for nuclear has been announced. He is Andrew Bowie who has been appointed Minister for Nuclear and Networks.
- Perm Secs Clive Maxwell (previously in BEIS) and Jeremy Pocklington (previously DCMS but before that DECC).
- NDA commissions an independent organisation to survey stakeholders every two years
- 800 people took part, 200 more than the last survey. Mix of key stakeholders and those on our mailing list to receive updates electronically.
- Key indicators all up since last time –trust, transparency, and openness.
- We also asked people where we could improve: one of the key findings was that they wanted to know more about mission delivery and how we solve technical challenges, so we will address that.

- After the event in Edinburgh last September, NDA has decided that the next in-person Stakeholder Summit will be held in Cumbria in 2024.
- There will be an online, virtual summit this year, likely to be October.
- During the year, we will be holding a series of in-person, regional meetings for stakeholders. It is planned these will be linked to universities with a nuclear science department, to showcase the links between NDA, research, and innovation.

Government consultation on decommissioning and waste management has been published. This updates, consolidates and introduces new options.

- This is a full 12-week consultation, closing on 24 May. Government is leading engagement. Requests for meetings about the consultation can be made by email to: RSNDPolConsult@beis.gov.uk

The challenge of ensuring NDA and its operating companies have sufficient highly skilled and motivated personnel over several generations as it fulfils its mission is one of its priorities. In January it launched a new group-wide graduate programme to help ensure a continued flow of young people into the business.

- Applications are now open for roles in around 20 different professional disciplines at various locations in all corners of Britain.
- The new programme, supported by NDA subsidiary Energus, will offer three placements in different parts of the group. It will operate alongside the graduate schemes run by other operating companies.

NDA update from around the estate

- As an alternative to the established steel boxes, the first concrete to be filled with radioactive waste has now been transferred into the purpose-built waste store at Berkeley site.
- The project involved the development of a brand-new waste storage package and innovative waste retrieval techniques.
- A robot designed with help from Dounreay to safely inspect hazardous environments is in Time Magazine's top 200 innovations of 2022.

Questions

- Q1: You mentioned the innovation of the concrete boxes, concrete is permeable to water, how do you overcome that?
- A1: Simon advised he would have to get back to the group on this but added that when it goes into the vaults, they would be sealed and back filled and they will use some sealants and clays that expand when exposed to water, anything being used for the GDF will have to go through the safety case to make sure it will last.
- Q2: But would the concrete boxes be used on the near surface disposal?
- A2: At the moment the consultation is just starting so this is up for debate but clearly it will not if it is going to be permeable or any radiological waves could escape. There will be a range of solutions.
- Q3: Several of the sites you mentioned that will be coming into NDA ownership are also big identifiers on sites for small and medium reactors, how will this work with the NDA?
- A3: We are a government agency, we follow government policy if someone were to come along and say they would like to put a new reactor here, that would be a decision for government and not for us. We are just decommissioning the current site. If there is land available and

the government wants something built there and the community wants it, it makes sense then that may well go ahead however this is in terms of when the land becomes available.

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Neil Doggett

The ONR Report had been issued before the meeting.

- Neil Doggett introduced himself as the Site inspector for Harwell and Winfrith.
- There were three inspections in the last quarter, two in August and one in November, there were some minor areas for improvement.

Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley

- A report had been issued before the meeting.
- Over the last year the EA has been reviewing and trending discharge returns from the site and environmental monitoring it is noted there were no non-compliances with the permit and discharges remain.
- Keep in touch meetings held every week with Magnox, these are done jointly with Winfrith as the team covers both sites.
- Quarterly meetings are held with all the project leads across the site so we can keep in touch with progress and planning, they also attend nuclear materials project performance meetings.
- Meetings have been attended to do with looking at aspects of the West Meashill de-licencing project.
- 4 inspections have been completed on site, no non compliances identified.
- All the projects, consideration for waste and environment are built in early at the site, pleased to see this.
- Focus for the coming year – West Meashill is going ahead, we will be reviewing assessments as required and are on hand to discuss any permitting requirements, how to upload forms, what forms need to accompany the application to ensure a good application straight away to eliminate hold ups.
- There will be a focus on environmental culture and leadership across the Magnox fleet next year, inspection will be conducted at Harwell.
- We are expecting sites across Magnox to produce site wide environmental safety cases and waste management plans which will assist with future decommissioning and planning for end states. Harwell is due to submit these documents in December 2023.

Q1: Going back to the public consultation on the decommissioning and waste management, surely the Environmental Agency policy department has had a significant input into this.

A1: We will have, responding to the consultation is key and the environment business team are working on it.

6 Magnox Update (Read out on behalf of Bill Hamilton)

- We have launched a new website for SSGs. It contains details of all SSG meetings, agendas, reports, and presentations along with information about each site and details of the chair and vice Chair. There is a feedback form for people to get in touch and ask questions. We hope this new communication channel will help in reaching out to the wider community around our sites who do not come to SSG meetings and encourage them to attend.
- Since the last meeting, the NDA have published their Draft Business Plan which, for the first time in several years, contains target dates in the form of decades when we aim to achieve final site clearance. For Harwell that is the 2050's. The ILW store would remain until such time as the geological disposal facility is able to receive the material.

- As was reported at the last meeting, Magnox is changing:
From 12 to 20 sites and 3 to 6 thousand staff
- Annual budget increasing from £500 million to £1 billion
- Dounreay joining Magnox on 1st April and preparations underway for the arrival of the seven AGRs as they are defueled over the next decade.
- The NDA has provided £250,000 to Magnox as an emergency cost of living fund in support of our communities. At Harwell we are providing £1,150 at each of 14 foodbanks within a 13-mile radius.

6 Magnox Site update – 462 waste retrievals and processing update (Stuart Watson)

Retrieval machine 2

- 783 below ground waste storage tubes in total – 657 cleared / 126 remaining
- 84% complete

Retrieval machine 1

- 536 below ground waste storage tubes in total – 509 cleared / 27 remaining
- 95% complete
- RM1 return to service is complete
- Radon abatement installation in progress

Long can size reduction

- Hydraulic cropper concept design complete
- Proof of concept preparations in progress

Gamma Gate Retrievals

- 328 below ground waste storage tubes in total – 209 cleared / 99 remaining
- 70% complete

Head End Cell Operations

- 12105 waste cans processed to date
- Polymer encapsulation waste treatment process in operation on the Head End Cells to maximise utilisation during array moves

Waste encapsulation plant

- Active commissioning complete. Extended Active Commissioning In Progress
- 117 of a total 1000 500l drums encapsulated to date

Q1: Were any of the cans/ tubes documented at all?

A1: We have the original waste consignment certificate and enhanced electronic record for almost every waste can.

Q2: How accurate did that information prove to be?

A2: There is a sliding scale – fissile material is very accurate however others whilst accurate are not very detailed, hence why we are fully characterising the waste as part of the process.

Q3: Did corrosion cause an issue getting the tubes out?

A3: Yes, with regards to the cans, corrosion can make it a lot more difficult to retrieve, it can take 4.5 hrs to recover a corroded can versus 1hr for an intact can.

Q4: Is the waste encapsulation plant being planned or used for any waste from outside of 462?

A4: Other than a very small volume from Winfrith it is not planned, however there is spare capacity.

7. CAMPUS MATTERS

Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership – Duncan Rogers.

- Currently building on site behind Building 329 – multi-story car park which will include a travel hub which includes storage for bicycles, changing, showers, drying facilities as well as transport facilities such as taxi collections and information about local transport services.
- Couple of schemes starting on site as well as the office building for the NDA, which is making good progress, this is in the procurement phase. Planning stage is imminent.
- Moderna reduction facility also imminent planning decision.
- Building 168 – Dentist will be relocating, and development is planned for this area 23/24
- Looking at land around Fermi Avenue entrance, access arrangements / Quantum of development / layout etc, driven by demand.
- ESA – near completion of new conference centre.
- Seeing progress and monitoring the travel, how people get to the campus. Bus use, discount scheme increasing from next year.
- Looking at making more buildings more efficient across the campus and sharing information to Landlords. Solar panels, electric charging facilities information etc
- Landscaping biodiversity schemes have been delivered and schemes in planning.
- Installation of Space-Scapes art installation across the campus and heritage trail in development

Q1: The Parish Council has been concerned about loss of biodiversity, many building projects create a loss of biodiversity, we would like to see that offsetting considered around the campus or nearby.

A1: It is very much that offsetting is regarded and widely recognised.

Q2: With all the developments across the campus, any idea what the future numbers on the campus will be in the next 5 to 10 years.

A2: There are some assumptions, it is expected to reach approximately 10 000 in the next 5 to 8 years.

Q3: Are there any plans to increase public transport to the campus?

A3: We are frequently having conversations, we need to future proof this.

Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher

- Joe presented on the James Webb telescope located at the L2 Le Grange point where the Earth orbits the sun and its operation.
- Main construction project on the Rutherford Appleton site itself is the National Quantum Computing Centre is underway.

AOB

No other business.

Date of Next Meeting – 19th October – which will include elections of the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Chairperson Chris Broad

OFFICIAL

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Secretary	Emma Burwood
Minutes	Zoe Mare