

Minutes of the 73rd AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 12th June 2013 at AWE Aldermaston

Present:

Dr Andrew Jupp	MD, AWE Chairman LLC
Julie Taylor	Director Environment, Safety, Health & Quality, AWE
Haydn Clulow	Director, Site
Fiona Rogers	Head of Corporate Communications
Linda Llewellyn	External Comms & Marketing – LLC Secretary
Michele Maidment	External Comms & Marketing – LLC Administrator
Cllr Dave Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Cllr Marylin Tucker	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr Keith Gilbert	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Heather Leighton-Jones	Pangbourne Parish Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Cllr Jenny Williams	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Chris Souden	Sulhamstead Parish Council
Mr Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Ms Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Irene Neill	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Woking Borough Council
Paul Cooper	AWE
Kierra Burnand	AWE
Mark Benson	AWE
Graham Day	AWE
Paul Finnerty	AWE
Paul Rees	AWE
Philippa Kent	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE

Regulators:

John Lindsay	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Matthew Cowen	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency
Stuart Carey-Hodges	Environment Agency

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bassil, Cllr Chopping, Cllr Garrett, Cllr Hale, Cllr Jackson-Doerge, Cllr Livingston, Cllr Longton, Cllr McGarvie & Cllr Round.

Actions from the last meeting

Action 4/71: Land Use Planning: Carolyn Richardson was invited to the March meeting to provide an update on this issue but was unable to attend the meeting.
Presentation given at the 73rd Meeting – Action Closed

Action 1/72: Land Use Planning: Carolyn Richardson to provide an update at the June meeting.
Presentation given at the 73rd Meeting – Action Closed

Action 2/72: Community Complaint data including outcomes to be included in the quarterly ESH data
Data now forms part of the LLC members handout packs – Action Closed

Action 3/72: Fiona Rogers to develop a LLC Review implementation plan including timeline; work to commence on the redrafting of the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct for consideration at the next meeting.
To be covered in a presentation at today's meeting – Action Closed

Action 4/72: An LLC member details proforma to be issued to LLC members by end April
Electronic and hard copy issued to all LLC Members in April – Action Closed

Action 5/72 There was a specific request from Councillor Gardiner to invite a representative from the local emergency authorities to explain in more detail how they work with AWE.
Invitation to be made for a future meeting – Action On-going

Action 6/72: Shaun Welsh confirmed that, ONR will reissue the paper as a formal approved document. LLC Secretary to distribute to the LLC members upon receipt.
Electronic and hard copy issued to all LLC Members – Action Closed

The **Minutes of the 72nd Meeting** were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Chairman's Remarks

Andrew Jupp, Managing Director

LLC Membership changes

There have been a number of changes to the membership over the last quarter:

We say farewell to Majory Bisset (Shinfield Parish Council); Julie James (Hampshire County Council) and Richard Willis (Reading Borough Council). Our thanks go to all three retiring members for their commitment and support to the LLC over recent years.

We welcome Ian Montgomery who takes over the reins from Majory Bisset at Shinfield Parish Council and Gerald Hale who is representing Woolhampton Parish Council. We are still waiting on named replacements for Julie James and Richard Willis.

Finally, it is with sadness that we have to report the death of past LLC member, Terry Faulkner who represented Tadley Town Council. The LLC members would like to extend their condolences to Terry's family at this sad time and our gratitude for his commitment and support to the Committee.

1. HSE Prosecution

As you are all aware, May marked the conclusion of the HSE Prosecution of AWE in relation to the fire at Aldermaston in August 2010. The Company pleaded guilty to a single offence contrary to Section 2(1) and Section 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Following a full day's case hearing and shorter sentencing appearance a week later, the judge's decision was for AWE to be fined £200,000 plus costs of £80, 238. He also directed a compensation payment of £2,500 to the injured employee.

As we have said over the last three years, we very much regret that the fire occurred. On that night we fell somewhat short of our usually high standards. We have taken full note of the judge's closing remarks and accept his decision. We continue to make progress on our safety programme and remain absolutely committed to a culture of continuous improvement in the safe and secure running of all our operations.

2. Business Achievements

The LRQA (Lloyds Register Quality Assurance), our 3rd Party certification agency, undertook a detailed review of AWE's performance in the area of quality and environment management and control. Certification to these industry standards is a contractual requirement by MoD. After a two week intensive programme of evidence review and challenge, I am pleased to confirm AWE was able to demonstrate suitable and sufficient controls that satisfy ISO9001 (Quality Management System), ISO14000 (Environmental Management System) and NAFEMS (National Agency for Finite Element Methods and Standards). LRQA has therefore recommended recertification for a further three year period.

In April, over 130 AWE and Imperial College scientists and eminent academics gathered at the AWE-Imperial Strategic Alliance Technical Showcase. The one-day event showcased our joint technical engagements and the extent and diversity of our research programme covering a number of 'centres of excellence' at Imperial, an example being the world-leading Institute of Shock Physics (ISP) established in March 2008.

Once again AWE was delighted to be involved in the annual UK Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI) held in London. Organised by RUSI, the aim of this important event is to educate the current and next generation of experts, through debate and discussion, about the issues surrounding the ownership of nuclear weapons and civil nuclear power. AWE was also proud to field two speakers who presented papers on prevention of nuclear proliferation and maximising benefits from the investment in the UK nuclear industry respectively.

3. Our people and our community

People Highlights

Two teams from AWE along with the teams from BAe Systems and Thales beat off stiff competition to qualify for the final of this year's Association for Project Management (APM) Thames Valley Project Challenge. This initiative provides fledgling project managers with the opportunity to develop their project management skills and receive mentoring help from an experienced Project Manager.

Later this month three teams from AWE will be taking part in the 2013 Intelligent Sport UK Challenge. This highly competitive national event sees teams from some of the UK's most successful organisations being put through some intensely physical and mentally demanding challenges over the course of two days and three nights. The benefits to individuals who take part are invaluable as team working, performance improvements and strategy skills are all tested to the full. Our teams are making their final preparations for this year's event which is being held in Dartmoor National Park. AWE won the 2012 event.

On the education front, 25 schools across Hampshire and Berkshire have been able to update their science libraries, with either books, CDs or supporting software. This is part of our highly successful Books for Schools scheme which is entering its eighth year with over 90 schools in the area registered.

Last month AWE was delighted to present each of our 2012 Charities of the Year, Cornerstone (Children 1st West Berkshire) and Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, the sum of £10,400. This money is over and above on-going donations made throughout the year by AWE Teams and staff who have tirelessly supported them alongside their own chosen causes. The 2013 Charities of the Year will be announced shortly following the next meeting of the Community Committee. We will update you at our next meeting.

Councillor Neill expressed her thanks to AWE for the £10,400 for Cornerstone (Children 1st West Berkshire). Councillor Neill is a trustee for the charity

Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Report Julie Taylor, Director Environment, Safety, Health & Quality

Julie Taylor, (JT) Director of ESH & Q described the on-going programme of activity to ensure that awareness of environment, safety and health issues remain at the forefront of people's minds across AWE.

The establishment of a Safety Leadership Team comprising representatives from across the business with a particular passion for safety, is one element of this programme. This team are tasked with organising and supporting a variety of ESH events. JT reported the ESH culture programme had been rolled out to over 3000 people staff and that, in addition, 120 managers and supervisors had taken part in an Incident and Injury Free event focusing on improving assurance performance.

The work being done to improve the culture and performance was beginning to reap rewards in a number of areas. Notably the Mensa and Pegasus projects (major new

facilities currently under construction) had won a 5 star award from the British Safety Council. AWE has also won a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) Gold Award for the third consecutive year. In addition, and as already mentioned by the Chairman, the successful reaccreditation to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and NAFEM standards.

JT reported that since the last LLC meeting the Company had been prosecuted for the fire which happened at the Aldermaston site in August 2010. She said the event itself and subsequent prosecution had had a profound affect on many and had been a difficult time for AWE. It had reinforced the importance of all the work being carried out on improving the company's ESH culture.

Other issues

- A Warning Letter from the Environment Agency had been received regarding the requirements of the European Union Emission Trading Scheme. A minor discrepancy occurred on 1st January 2010 and 1st January 2011 due to a reading from a gas meter not being taken at exactly midnight as per the permit. A change to the permit had already been requested and granted in 2012 so a recurrence of this issue will not happen.
- There had been a disappointing increase in minor injuries which required first-aid during April, which had reversed the previous downward trend.
- A stronger focus on reporting minor security breaches to improve standards and behaviours by enforcing zero tolerance.
- A formal improvement activity around ESH reporting has been initiated. The focus of this activity will be to look at ESH reporting externally and to work with the various stakeholders to establish the appropriate requirements.

Community Complaints

As requested at the last meeting (action 2/72) community Complaints data is now included in the information we provide for this meeting. As stated before we had 3 complaints in February and are happy to report that we have had zero Community complaints in March, April, May and none to date in June.

Focus was also given to the Next Period Key Events including the Annual Review of Safety (July), the Annual Review of Environment (September) and the Improvement Activity regarding ESH Reporting.

Action 1/73: Julie Taylor to give an update on the outcomes of the ESH Reporting Improvement Activity at the September LLC meeting.

Councillor Moss asked what level of people attend the Incident Free workshops ?

Julie Taylor stated that it is currently for Managers and Supervisors with the possibility of rolling it out to other areas of the business in the near future.

Councillor Chishick pointed out the error in the public dose slide (Aldermaston Stream) as a result of the figures being transposed in the table.

Julie Taylor apologised and will reissue the slide.

Action 2/73: Julie Taylor to reissue the public dose slide with the correct data

Fire Prosecution Update **Paul Rees, Head of Environment, Safety & Health**

Paul Rees gave a comprehensive update on the Fire Prosecution including the legal process and result, examples of implemented recommendations and other improvement opportunities that have been identified.

Paul ended his presentation with a quote from the HSE Case Summary

“HSE accept that AWE plc are now one of the best in class with regard to the response to some of the specific actions and their overall assessment has positioned them as amongst the best in the UK. AWE plc continue to work with HSE to implement improvement in specific areas”

Councillor Chapman asked if AWE had put in any humidity detectors?

Paul Rees said the process had not been restarted but confirmed humidity detectors are included in the building where the new process will be located.

Councillor Wood asked how did this [risk] slip through the net for so long?

Paul Rees stated that as well as identifying the hazard you need to determine the predictability and foreseeability of this event happening. The overall risk assessment for this process, is not, straight forward, which the regulators acknowledge.

Councillor Moss commented that there appeared to be a number of issues that needed to be addressed. Did the inspectors not notice these issues? **Andrew Jupp** stated that he personally takes full responsibility on behalf of AWE for ensuring the correct risk assessments and competencies are in place.

Councillor Shirt commented that in one report there was reference to poor water pressure from the fire hoses.

Graham Day stated that low pressure was due to the fire main not being fully open following maintenance. The low water pressure however, was not a contributing factor as the correct fire firefighting approach had been taken on the night which required the fire fighters to move away from the building and not to attempt to extinguish the fire. Nonetheless the opportunity for learning and improvement has been taken and an improved inspection and testing regime is now in place.

Councillor Shirt asked why the non-nuclear processes were re-appraised and not the nuclear ones?

Paul Rees replied the nuclear processes were not considered to have the same issues.

Andrew Jupp added that nuclear facilities are covered by an in-depth safety case which is the subject of a Periodic Review of Safety.

Infrastructure Report

Haydn Clulow, Director Site

Haydn Clulow gave the site overview update. He took the opportunity to discuss the Site Exercise which took place on 8th June, which was 12 months in the planning. The exercise allowed AWE to test the emergency response planning arrangements. Representatives

from ONR and DSTL were present and AWE was pleased to report that the exercise was passed as adequate and had demonstrated confidence in our procedures. All learning points have been captured and AWE will work closely with ONR to make further improvements. Haydn expressed his thanks to all those people involved and stated that as a collective we learn and improve.

John Lindsay (ONR) agreed that this had been a good exercise. .

Councillor Gardiner asked whether LLC members could be invited to any future exercises as observers.

Andrew Jupp replied this was possible. He also offered an interactive visit to the Situation Control Centre at a future meeting

Action 3/73: Arrange interactive visit to the Situation Control Centre at a future meeting

Councillor Tucker stated that term 'adequate' concerned her.

John Lindsay (ONR) replied assessment of exercises of this type is multi-faceted. By adequate, ONR means there are no immediate issues that require addressing but there may be particular aspects where there is room for improvement. John Lindsay confirmed that the team was confident that the arrangements would ensure the protection of the workforce and public in the event of an emergency

Older Manufacturing Facility

**Paul Finnerty, Head
of Fissile Materials Technology Centre**

Paul Finnerty gave a presentation on one of our older manufacturing facilities whose steel structure has shown some signs of corrosion. A rigorous regime of inspection, measurement, sampling and testing is currently underway in the facility. Although this facility was built in 1956, testing of the foundations has demonstrated strengths well in excess of that expected for a facility of its age. With the involvement of external Subject Matter Experts, AWE has now established the corrosion mechanism responsible for the observed steel corrosion. With the development of a structural 3D model and the design solutions underwritten we have a safety justification for remediation which will ensure the fixes are what they should be and demonstrate that they fully meet the necessary requirements. Throughout this process AWE has worked very closely with ONR and has now been given approval to start remediation works.

Councillor Wood asked what the building looks like?

Paul Finnerty stated that it is a sizeable building with steel portal frame which is a common design from the 1950's. This building will be replaced by a new facility that is currently under construction.

Councillor Shirt asked what caused the corrosion?

Paul Finnerty explained that steel structure of that age will corrode over time. There was a collection of rain water around the structure and unlike modern buildings, there was no effective run away.

Councillor Shirt asked if the corrosion had anything to do with the activities inside the building?

Paul Finnerty confirmed the corrosion had nothing to do with the activities inside the building.

Traffic Management**Graham Day, Site Manager**

Graham Day provided an update on traffic management at the Boiler House Gate. He confirmed that during March 2013, various improvements were undertaken to improve safety; this also allowed AWE to revoke the right turn ban into the gate that had been in place. The improvements have proved successful to date. There have been no accidents at the gate attributed to the revocation of the right turn ban. The Local Highway Authority confirmed at a recent meeting that they were not aware of any incidents at the junction or any complaints relating to it. AWE continues to monitor the flow of traffic.

Councillor Mullan said that she had received some concerns from her constituents about the small mini roundabout at the West Gate (Tadley side) and the queues to access AWE. She had personally experienced delays at this roundabout at 08.20 in the morning.

Graham Day explained that this situation is monitored on a daily basis and at peak flow times (between 07.00 and 08.00) we utilise the Helipad and RecSoc stacking area to increase capacity (250 additional cars into the stacking system).

Action 4/73: Graham Day to review traffic flow at West Gate mini roundabout (Tadley side)

Councillor Leeks asked what was AWE doing with the Falcon Pub land?

Graham Day explained that we are currently looking at the boundaries and fence lines. Graham confirmed he will update the LLC at a future meeting.

Protestor Activity**Graham Day, Site Manager**

Graham Day gave an update on the heightened protestor activity planned for this summer (details can also be accessed on the ActionAWE website. [Members are reminded this site has no connection with AWE](#)). Intelligence has indicated a number of protestors are undertaking activities at similar establishments throughout the UK. A joint working partnership has been established with Thames Valley Police, Hampshire Police and MDP who jointly decide what is lawfully peaceful and take the lead on protestor handling. AWE is working closely with this partnership.

Councillor Shirt commented that the police had put signs up directing people to look at twitter – please note not everyone uses twitter.

Graham Day said that he would pass this concern onto the police.

Action 5/73: Fiona Rogers to reissue the ActionAWE website address (see below).
www.ActionAWE.org

Development Control**Carolyn Richardson, Civil Contingencies Manage, West Berkshire Council**

Carolyn Richardson gave an in depth presentation on Development Controls, the legislation including Planning Legislation, REPPiR, Planning advice for development near Hazardous Installations (PHADI) – COMAH, West Berkshire Local Plan and Core Strategy and Circular 04/00: Planning Controls for hazardous Substances.

She covered the issues around development control pressures in the local area, if something can be built and where, development controls and policies and impact on the the off-site emergency plan.

Carolyn detailed the draft process which includes the Relevant Local Authority Planning Team checking and registering the details of applications consultation with LA Civil Contingencies Service and then the audit trail and appeals process. Explanation was given about the draft process used to assess the impact of specific development proposals on the AWE Off Site Emergency Plan, and the protocols for feeding the outcome of each assessment to both the Local Authority planners and the ONR.

Carolyn also made reference to the recent fire at the traveller site adjacent to AWE Aldermaston site. The evacuation of people on that evening had been challenging but had provided some good learning. .

Councillor Whitaker asked if she was looking at information from the Fukushima incident. **Carolyn Richardson** confirmed this was the case but pointed out AWE is not nuclear reactor site. She also confirmed that there is an extendibility section, already in the AWE Off Site Emergency Plan, which can be found on the West Berkshire Council website.

Councillor Gardiner asked if Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council where being kept updated

Carolyn Richardson confirmed that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council were being kept informed.

Councillor Gardiner asked if the LLC member could have a copy of the slides presented by Carolyn today

Carolyn Richardson confirmed they could have a copy.

Action 6/73: LLC secretary to provide a copy of Carolyn Richardson's slides to the LLC members

Ask the Regulator

Councillor Shirt commented on the use of the word 'probable' in the ONR report (report titled – Probable future changes to how the ONR provides advice to Local Authorities on Land Use Planning applications). ONR statement they use the word 'probable', in their report, will you be getting rid of this word?

John Lindsay (ONR) confirmed that, whilst the process as described is now in place for West Berks and Basingstoke & Deane. It would not be until all councils have had the opportunity to put their processes in place that the ONR process can be described as final. This consultation is still underway. Although we use 'probable' now, we will use 'actual' once all the work has been completed.

Councillor Mullan voiced some concerns over a 'common approach' and should you not assess each site individually?

John Lindsay (ONR) confirmed that the objective is for an ONR process that is common and consistent across all licensed sites. However, the outputs (advice to local authorities on specific planning applications) will be specific to the relevant circumstances and the possible impact on the emergency plans.

Update on the LLC Joint Steering Group (JSG)
Fiona Rogers - Head of Corporate Communications

On behalf of the LLC Review Chair (George McGarvie) Fiona gave an update on LLC Review recommendations and progress on implementation. This review is to ensure that the information and details about the work of the LLC is more accessible and transparent. It also aims to provide enhanced information to support LLC members in their communications with their residents.

Fiona thanked those LLC members who had completed the recent Councillors contact details form and asked for any outstanding forms to be completed and returned as soon as possible to ensure we have all the correct data to enable us to provide quick and easy communications with all LLC members.

High Explosives Fabrication Facility (HEFF)
Kierra Burnand - (Project Circinus) Principle Project Facility Manager Projects

Kierra Burnand, Principle Project Sponsor, along with Mark Benson, Sponsor Project Circinus, gave a presentation on the progress of the High Explosives Fabrication Facility (HEFF), also known as Project Circinus. The presentation covered the drivers for this project including the need for a reliable and enduring, single modern bespoke production facility that has sufficient capacity to meet the customer requirements and modern assurance standards. When completed this new facility will combine currently geographically dispersed buildings into a single facility and enable the closure of a large area of the Burghfield site.

An update on the project progress was given with the focus on delivery. The equipment kit is currently underway with a handover to facility in Q2 2014, with full commissioning and training during 2014-2015. It is on target for operation mid-2015. The teams are currently working on the transition plans and operators and maintainers are heavily involved and looking forward to the new facility.

Councillor Gilbert asked if this facility will replace the older bunkers etc?

Kierra Burnand replied that we do not have 'bunkers' per se, but yes, the magazines will still be there

Councillor Shirt asked if this facility was a replacement for the building that had the fire?

Kierra Burnand replied no, but there will be another new facility for that.

Councillor Lock asked if this facility will be finished on target?

Kierra Burnand replied that the facility is currently on target with commissioning activities due to commence mid next year

Councillor Montgomery stated that this new facility is steel, have the previous problems of steel corrosion in the older facilities been addressed?

Kierra Burnand replied yes it had. Rain water run-off is managed in the new facility.

Any Other Business

Councillor Gardiner stated that he was aware that the cricket pavilion at the AWE Aldermaston Recreational Society (RecSoc) had been closed. What are the future plans for the Rec Soc?

Haydn Clulow confirmed that he would give the committee an update at a future meeting

Action 7/73: Haydn Clulow to provide the LLC members with an update on the future plans for the AWE Aldermaston Recreational Society

Carolyn Richardson informed the meeting that West Berkshire Council have an Aldex exercise this year. This is a major exercise and some Councillors will be receiving invitations to take part.

Councillor Neill asked if AWE could find out what had happened to the road traffic speed gun that was purchased some time ago (in the region of £30,000), it was for local use but was used by Thames Valley Police, it appears to have been misplaced and not available for local use. Can we look into this issue?

Graham Day confirmed he would look into this

Action 8/73: Graham Day to investigate the location of the missing Speed Gun

Councillor Souden reported residents in Sulhampstead on hearing the Padworth Depot Alarm, had been somewhat concerned.

Graham Day confirmed the Padworth Depot alarm is tested on the 3rd day of each month at 3.00 pm for 15 seconds.

Councillor Wood requested 10 additional copies of the REPPIR leaflet.

LLC Secretary confirmed she would provide these for him

Action 9/73: LLC Secretary to provide Councillor Wood with 10 copies of the REPPIR Leaflet

10 copies provided to Councillor Wood after the meeting Action Closed

Fiona Rogers drew LLC members' attention to the letter in their packs from Peter Burt, NIS who would welcome feedback on its content.

Following the formal meeting the LLC members were taken on a bus tour to the High Explosives Fabrication Facility (HEFF)

Remaining 2013 Meeting Dates

Wednesday 18th September 2013

Wednesday 11th December 2013

**Linda Llewellyn
LLC Secretary**