

## Minutes of the 74th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at AWE Burghfield

### Present:

Dr Andrew Jupp	MD, AWE Chairman LLC
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish 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 Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Ms Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr Carole Jackson-Doerge	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Patricia Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Penee Chopping	Ufton Nervet Parish
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council
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(outgoing)
Carolyn Porter	External Comms & Marketing – LLC Secretary(incoming)
Michele Maidment	External Comms & Marketing – LLC Administrator
Paul Cooper	AWE
Graham Day	AWE
Geoff Druce	AWE
Philippa Kent	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE
Sandi Langer	AWE
Bob Barclay	AWE

### Regulators:

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

## Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bassil, Cllr Longton, Cllr Gardiner, Cllr Leeks  
Cllr Neill, Cllr Hale, Cllr Mullan, Cllr Shirt, Cllr Stanford-Beale, Cllr R Williams

## Actions from the last meeting

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

To be covered as part of today's presentation – Action closed

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

Slide updated and issued, Action closed.

Action 3/73: Arrange interactive visit to the Situation Control Centre (SCC) at a future Meeting:

Visit to the SCC carried out on 18<sup>th</sup> September – Action Closed

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

To be covered as part of today's presentation – Action closed

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

[www.ActionAWE.org](http://www.ActionAWE.org)

Action closed

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

Slides issued with previous set of minutes, Action closed

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

To be covered as part of today's presentation – Action closed

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

To be covered as part of today's presentation – 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

The Minutes of the 73rd Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

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## Chairman's Remarks

Andrew Jupp, Managing Director

### Membership changes

The Chairman Dr Andrew Jupp welcomed Clive Littlewood of Holybrook Parish Council and Rosemary Williams of Reading Borough Council.

### ActionAWE protests

Dr Jupp updated members on Action AWE's two-week long 'peace camp' which took place between 26<sup>th</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September. He said support was less than anticipated albeit there were 21 arrests for contravening public by-laws. Dr Jupp expressed his thanks in particular to the Burghfield community for their forbearance during this period and acknowledged that the protest activity created particular problems for residents living in the Mearings.

He said that Action AWE's aim was to influence the decision on the future of Trident, expected during the next Parliament, and explained that the AWE sites would remain the focus of their attention between now and then. He told members that the next declared action was scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October and will again be targeted on the Burghfield site although an impact at Aldermaston could not be ruled out. Dr Jupp gave his assurance that AWE, together with colleagues in TVP and MDP, would do everything they could to mitigate the impact of protest activity on local communities around both sites.

### Business achievements

During the period AWE was pleased to welcome a team from the **Chinese Academy of Engineering Physics (CAEP)** for an unclassified visit to meet with some of its distinguished scientists and engineers. The visit, supported by both the MOD and the Foreign Office, followed a successful visit to CAEP by a team of AWE scientists in June of last year.

AWE is proud of its **track record in the field of commercial innovation** and it was pleased to announce its **new Intellectual Property licence deal with Lab Impex Systems** which will see the commercial launch of a new Criticality Incident Detection System (CIDS). This new system further improves on the already high performance of its predecessor by enhancing reliability and minimising false alarms to a level even lower than previously achieved within the nuclear industry. Dr Jupp told members that innovations such as these demonstrate how AWE continues to be at the forefront of technology development.

He said these latest developments significantly increase the performance of the CIDS that are all about safeguarding the health and safety of our people, the community and the environment.

### Our people and our community

Dr Jupp said he was delighted to announce **Paul Taylor, Director Programme Assurance**, has been elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. This accolade is by invitation only and awarded to the UK's most distinguished engineers. Dr Jupp said Paul Taylor's election recognised the exceptional contribution he had made to engineering in the UK throughout his career in defence-related service.

Dr Jupp told LLC members that it has been a particularly busy month for AWE's **Skills Academy** which welcomed in 41 new starters in August as the latest generation of apprentices embarking on their career with AWE. The Academy also staged its annual Graduation Ceremony, celebrating the achievements of 27 individuals who had successfully completed AWE's scheme, receiving their

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awards from guest of honour – and past apprentice himself - Andy Mackinder, Head of the MOD's Strategic Weapons Project Team. Andrew Jupp stated that he was continually impressed by how the team leading AWE's Academy continued to develop and improve the learning experience for its apprentices. He said the latest innovation "Walk the Weapon Week", which included a trip to Coulport, reinforced the importance of AWE's end to end delivery of the weapon and apprentices' contribution to Continuous at Sea Deterrence (CASD) from the moment they walk through our doors and throughout their career at AWE.

**Councillor Broad** asked what the split is between male and female apprentices? **Andrew Jupp** stated that AWE had four female apprentices in this year's intake. He also confirmed this year's AWE Apprentice of the Year was a female, as was the runner up.

**Councillor Chapman** asked what AWE's apprentice retention rate was?

See Table 1 below.

Table 1: Retention Figures				
Outturn year	Number of outturns	Leavers after outturn	Retention rate in percentage	Numbers of years since outturn
2013	28	0	100%	less than 1
2012	27	0	100%	1
2011	32	4	87.50%	2
2010	39	6	85%	3
2009	49	11	75%	

Note: All Apprentices are recruited into the AWE post apprenticeship scheme.

**Councillor McGarvie** asked if there are any older apprentices re-training. **Andrew Jupp** advised that there are currently two mature students on the programme.

**Councillor Montgomery** and **Councillor Lock** asked whether AWE filled all apprenticeship places and how many applications were typically received? **Andrew Jupp** confirmed demand regularly exceeds supply of available places on the scheme. For example, in 2012, just over 300 applied for 47 places.

**Action 1/74:** Further statistical information on the apprentices to be collated and presented at a future meeting.

Finally, Dr Jupp reported that the Community Committee had confirmed AWE **2013 Charities of the Year**, voted from a very wide range of nominated organisations provided by staff. He was pleased to announce **MacMillan Cancer Support** as AWE's national charity. He said MacMillan had a long heritage of providing practical, medical and financial support to those facing this disease, and continue to push for improvements in better cancer care across the health system. With numbers of people diagnosed with cancer continuing to grow each year it was an appropriate national charity for the Company to support.

The local charity selected was **Tadley First Responders**, made up of volunteers trained by and part of the South Central Ambulance Service Community Responder Scheme. Dr Jupp explained that these volunteers live and work in the area, and between them offer 24/7, 365 days a year on call support to emergency calls, providing life support until an ambulance arrives. He said Debbie Leadbetter, winner of AWE's Heart Award last year in recognition of her community volunteering, was Group Co-ordinator for the charity in Tadley.

**Councillor Lock** commented on the success of AWE's previous Charity of the Year, Cornerstone, Which she said had helped many young people to move on in their lives.

**Andrew Jupp** asked the Committee to join with him in saying thank you and farewell to the current LLC Secretary, **Linda Llewellyn** who is moving on to a new position within AWE, and welcomed **Carolyn Porter** into this role.

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## **Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Report**

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

In Julie Taylor's overview of the past quarter performance she highlighted a number of successes namely.

- Good interaction and sharing of best practice with the Safety Directors Forum. This is a nuclear industry group comprising 25 senior safety representatives from organisations involved in the nuclear sector working with regulators on safety policy, strategy and key sector issues. There has been a further successful meeting of the Explosives Leadership Group - a smaller working group that includes representation from both HSE and DNSR and is chaired by AWE.
- Recognition of the roll-out of AWE Ethics training from the Institute of Business Ethics as an industry best practice / exemplar
- Excellent Feedback from the Annual Review of Safety (ARoS). This included an all-day meeting to review past year safety performance with our key regulators, who endorsed the focus and resource commitment we are placing on continuous improvement.
- On-going roll-out of the "Our ESH Culture" programme, with continual refreshment of the message. Recent initiatives included the use of an external theatre group to act out the Deepwater Horizon disaster to provoke an interactive discussion amongst a selected group of employees on the learning points that this has for AWE.
- The overall trend in AWE's Perfect Day performance is one of continuous improvement, including a positive response to the increased focus on the monitoring of expected security behaviours.

**Councillor Chishick** asked for clarity over whether the figures referred to days or incidents. **Julie Taylor** explained that the figures against each category refer to number of incidents. These are translated into the total number of days that meet the Perfect Day criteria represented by the totals shown at the bottom of the chart.

There were three less positive aspects of performance during the quarter:

- Following a vehicle incident at the West Gate earlier in the year when a member of staff suffered a wrist injury, a full investigation has been undertaken and improvements in the inward muster at West Gate are being implemented.
- Readings on the High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) very slightly exceeded their notification level on 4 occasions. This has been attributed to their proximity to soil that has been recently disturbed through decommissioning work. LLC Members were reminded that these samplers are extremely sensitive and will detect minute changes to air quality.

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- The Environment Agency issued AWE plc with a Warning Letter and Enforcement Notice as a consequence of recorded levels of tritium in the North Ponds exceeding notification levels on a number of separate occasions between November 2012 and March 2013. The levels pose no harm to the public and are very much lower than the World Health Organisation Guidance limit for Tritium in drinking water. Recent readings show a return to normal levels. More details can be found in the accompanying EA quarterly report and we are working through the improvement actions agreed with the EA.

Julie also gave an update on the ESH Reporting Improvement Activity. This initiative needs to align with the changes being planned in ONR's own reporting approach and requirements. This project remains on going and we plan to implement improvements in AWE ESH reporting over the coming months.

Looking ahead at the coming quarter, key events include:

- Facility demolition (ref March LLC presentation by G Druce). It was highlighted that this may trigger small increases in radioactive levels due to soil disturbance but levels are, and will be closely monitored.  
***Councillor McGarvie** asked whether the recent good weather could have contributed to general increase in radioactive levels in the air. **Graham Day** confirmed this could indeed be the case.*
- The Annual Environmental Review, which was originally due early in September but delayed due to the planned protestor activity, will take place during the next quarter
- AWE will be running a session on Safety Culture at the forthcoming Submarine Safety Symposium that will take place at BAE Systems in Barrow during October.

***Councillor Littlewood** asked whether the building being demolished is at Aldermaston or Burghfield site. **Graham Day** confirmed it was at Aldermaston with work due to commence in November. The project is part of our on-going Hazard Risk Reduction Programme.*

***Councillor Chapman** asked for an update on the Pangbourne Pipeline and was advised that this would be covered later in the presentation.*

***Councillor Chishick** highlighted a possible issue with the data in the accompanying ESH&Q statistics and requested clarification in the maximum mSv dose levels for an individual.*

**Action 2/74** Julie Taylor to review the data and re-issue if necessary. See Post-Meeting Note below.

**Post-Meeting Note:**

The query raised by **Councillor Chishick** was as a result of the AWE KPI Assurance Performance Data for a "Maximum Individual Dose for June 2013 showing of a 3.00mSv, which looked like either an anomaly in the data or the result of an incident.

Further enquiries held since the LLC meeting have confirmed that at the time of the graphs being produced this was indeed the value from the Thermo Luminescent Dosimetry (TLD) unit of the individual in question. However, the elevated nature of the reading had triggered an internal investigation, which, since the LLC meeting date, has now been able to ascertain that the dose was a result of the individual's dosimeter (separately to the individual) being inadvertently passed

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through an X-ray baggage unit whilst visiting an external venue. Therefore, the dose to the individual was in fact 0.00 mSv. With the investigation now concluded and facts established, the dose data (and hence the graph) can be modified accordingly. This change will be reflected in the graphs to be issued at the next LLC meeting. In order to avoid future such issues we have implemented a robust programme of alerts, briefings and workforce awareness in recognising situations where their dosimeter may have been inadvertently exposed.

**Action 3/74** Julie Taylor and Hadyn Clulow to provide a presentation at the next LLC meeting on Radiological Protection, focusing on high level monitoring and the overview of systems and data.

## Infrastructure Report

### Traffic Management

**Graham Day, Site Manager**

Graham Day advised that the missing speed gun had not been found. There is one currently on loan to a local Parish Council and a further gun will be made available.

Following the concern raised at the previous LLC meeting regarding traffic queuing to access AWE, Graham Day confirmed that traffic flow is monitored on a daily basis at both the West and Main Gates. At peak times flow times (between 07.00 if required and 08.00) the stacking system is in operation to alleviate queues building up on the main road. Always achieving the right balance between an effective traffic flow and whilst meeting our security requirements can be difficult. On investigation we can confirm there were problems further up the A340 on the day in question raised by Cllr Mullin.

### Regulator Activity

**Graham Day, Site Manager**

AWE is working closely with the EA on the action plan arising from the recent Enforcement Notice (see previously). This is a cross-site programme supported by monthly regulator interface meetings instigated and chaired by AWE

### MOD Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP)

**Geoff Druce, Head of Environmental Operations**

Geoff Druce gave an overview of the background, context and current status of the MoD's Submarine Dismantling project (SDP). The SDP requires interim storage of Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (27 Reactor Pressure Vessels (RPVs)) and is considering all existing nuclear sites in the UK. Currently SDP is working with MOD Strategic Weapons Project Team (supported by AWE) to determine availability and suitability of Aldermaston and Burghfield Sites and whether opportunities exist for shared ILW storage solutions.

SDP expects to publish a provisional short list of sites later this year, followed by engagement with statutory bodies and potentially affected local authorities. Full public consultation at local and national levels is expected to be held during 2014.

**Councillor Chishick** asked how large the containers (Reactor Pressure Vessels) are. **Geoff Druce** confirmed approximately four to five metres in radius weighing approximately 90 -100 tonnes (likened to industrial steel bin size).

**Councillor McGarvie** asked if they would end up coming to AWE site. **Geoff Druce** advised that the decision over the ILW storage solution has yet to be made. If the site is chosen there will be

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public consultation. The solution will also require a purpose built store to house the vessels for 50 to 60 years. AWE is on the 'long list' by virtue of the fact that it is a nuclear site.

**Councillor Williams** enquired as to whether AWE will be given the option to be shortlisted or not. **Andrew Jupp** advised that we would need to satisfy the requirements associated with safe storage.

**Councillor Chishick** wanted to know if there was any reason for public concern. **Andrew Jupp** confirmed there was no reason for the public to be concerned.

**Councillor Whitaker** was interested to hear what the US does with their waste. **Andrew Jupp** commented that the US has a very different state of availability.

**Councillor Whitaker** asked what level the waste would be. **Andrew Jupp** reconfirmed it is Intermediate Level Waste in the form of decommissioned reactor pressure vessels.

## Pangbourne Pipeline

## Geoff Druce, Head of Environmental Operations

Geoff Druce then gave an update on the Pangbourne Pipeline project. He advised that on-site removal trials have confirmed that safe, secure and clean removal of the pipeline is achievable and offsite investigations have reconfirmed the route and configuration of the pipeline e.g. proximity to transport infrastructure. The outcomes from these trials and investigations will be measured against Environment Agency Best Available Techniques (BAT). All options are under consideration i.e., complete or partial removal of the pipeline, disposal in situ, leave and monitor.

Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) requires radiological impacts on people to be kept as low as reasonably practical. The application of BAT is part of implementing this requirement.

A Pangbourne Pipeline Stakeholder Engagement steering group will be established to:

- determine the scope, approach and timeline for engagement on the pipeline decommissioning options
- ensure the above reflects government and regulator best practice requirements
- provide an opportunity for inclusive debate/discussion to produce a 'Best Available Techniques' document regarding the decommissioning of the pipeline.

The steering group will include LLC representatives from parishes along the route of the pipeline, subject matter experts to provide necessary technical oversight, the regulator (EA) and affected local authorities.

**Councillor Chishick** asked at what point landowners will be contacted? **Geoff Druce confirmed** the first step is for a steering group to be created. This group will determine the scope, approach and timeline for the engagement project.

**Councillor McGarvie** wanted to know whether the on-site testing had revealed how far apart the holes needed to be if the pipeline is to be removed. **Geoff Druce** advised that this would be in line with industry Standards and that AWE is looking at various techniques for removal.

**Councillor Lock** asked if depth was a problem and was advised it is not.

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**Councillor Gilbert** asked what would happen to the ground should the pipeline be removed. **Graham Day** answered that a clean pipe would be installed using backfill techniques to minimise risk of subsidence. It is important to remember the pipeline is an MOD asset so any final recommendation on its future will require their endorsement. Until that time, we will continue to monitor the pipeline and reconfirm it poses no risk to the public.

### **AWE Recreational Society (Rec Soc)**

**Haydn Clulow, Director Site**

Haydn Clulow gave an update on the AWE Recreational Society (Rec Soc), re-affirming AWE's commitment to providing the local community access to recreational and health facilities.

Future options are currently being reviewed, taking into consideration the age of the infrastructure, current condition and on-going maintenance cost. He reminded members that like the pipeline, this is an MoD facility and AWE will need to liaise closely with them on future options and expenditure. He said AWE would continue to keep members updated on progress.

### **Ask the Regulator**

**Councillor Littlewood** commented on page 3 of the ONR report. He asked if the regulators just turn up or whether we are normally notified of a visit in advance. **John Lindsay** advised that typically ONR visits are to further known issues and interactions.

Compliance inspections are more unpredictable but availability of key people needs to be taken into consideration.

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

**Councillor George McGarvie**

Councillor McGarvie advised that the Joint Steering Group is scheduled to meeting again on the 3rd October when Parish representation will be discussed.

### **Any Other Business**

**Carolyn Richardson** of West Berkshire Council advised members of the forthcoming ALDEX 13 exercise scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> November designed to test the updated Offsite Emergency Plan.

**Action 4/74** A joint WBC/AWE presentation was offered for a future meeting, to look at the ALDEX exercise focusing on agencies involvement and collaborative working

**Councillor Williams** wanted to know if we would be affected by the Fire Service industrial action as per media coverage. **Graham Day** advised discussions had been held with our own fire service and Berkshire Fire and Rescue. We are confident we are fully prepared for this action.

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**Councillor Lock** thanked Paul Cooper for the excellent presentation he gave at a recent AWE/Petroleum Awareness seminar for West Berkshire Council.

<p><b>Action 5/74</b> It was asked that we reissue the Action AWE website address  <a href="http://www.ActionAWE.org">www.ActionAWE.org</a></p>
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**Action Closed**

## **Introduction to Site Visit**

**Graham Day, Site Manager**

Graham Day gave an update on some of the changes that are taking place at Burghfield in advance of the site visit to the SCC and Fire demonstration. He also reminded members that the focus of the recent and planned protest activity has been the Burghfield site and that measures are being introduced to deter protestors setting up camps on MoD land.

**Councillor Wood** asked if any of the buildings planned for demolition have any historical value. **Graham Day** answered no but this is something about which AWE is always conscious of.

**Councillor Lock** enquired whether the new facilities were on time. **Andrew Jupp** advised AWE's major projects programme is one of the largest and most complex in the UK defence industry with many of our new designs setting the blueprint for future nuclear structures. He said AWE was making good progress including meeting challenges that are unique for this type of build and within a tightly regulated environment.

Finally, **Paul Cooper, Manager Emergency Response** provided a briefing to members on the Burghfield 24/7 emergency response capability prior to the Fire and Rescue demonstration and corresponding stand-up of the Situation Control Centre.

## **Remaining 2013 Meeting Date**

Wednesday 11th December 2013

## **Dates for 2014**

Wednesday 5th March

Wednesday 4th June

Wednesday 17th September

Wednesday 17th December

**Carolyn Porter**

**LLC Secretary**