



**Minutes of the 96th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting
Thursday 11th July 2019
AWE, Aldermaston**

Present:

Susie Tucker	Chair
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Michael Bound	Basingstoke and Deane
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Sophie Crawford	Aldermaston Parish
Cllr Debbie Fisher	Wokefield Parish Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr David Livingstone	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish
Cllr Royce Longston	Burghfield Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Ayo Sokale	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas Thurlow	Mortimer West End
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Nick Bolton	AWE
Philippa Kent	AWE
Mark Hedges	AWE
Anna Markowska	AWE
James Cody	AWE
Scott Davies-Hearn	AWE
Carolyn Porter	AWE
Suzanne Chenery	AWE

Regulators:

Gary Cook	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Rob Greene	Environment Agency
Jane Longman	Environment Agency

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cllrs Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Avril Burdett, Penee Chopping, Stuart Coker, Graham Hetherington, John Miller and Barrie Patman. Carolyn Richardson of West Berkshire Council also sent apologies.

Actions from previous meetings

Action 1/95 Philippa to retrieve some statistics around the percentage of women applying for the graduate and apprenticeship schemes.

13% of apprentice applicants were female
25% of graduate places offered were to females
Action closed.

Action 2/95 AWE to share timetable to REPPiR with LLC members if/when legislation is passed. Action closed.

Approval of the 95th Meeting minutes

David Shirt acknowledged the note he asked be added to the last minutes in relation to press articles.

Chairman's update

Introduction

Susie Tucker welcomed members to the 96th meeting and went on to update them about some topics of interest.

Membership changes

A welcome was given to new members. Councillor Nicholas Thurlow representing Mortimer West End Parish Council replaces John Roberston. Councillor Michael Bound representing Basingstoke and Deane Council replaces Jonathan Richards, Ayo Sokale representing Reading Council replaces Jane Stanford Beale. Other membership changes include Graham Hetherington replaces Adrian Narracott in representing Baughurst Parish Council. Helen Manghnani replaces Jan Gavin in representing Reading Council.

AWE scoops two Diversity and Inclusion Awards

Last week colleagues involved in supporting a range of Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) activities across AWE, were the winners of the enei (Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion) Neurodiversity Award. A Bronze Award was received for AWE's overall work on D&I.

Enei is the leading employer network for all aspects of equality, diversity and inclusion in the UK. AWE has been a member since January 2018.

The Neurodiversity award entry detailed some great work across AWE:

James Cody and Paul Ryan delivered many awareness sessions internally on Autism and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder respectively. They also travelled to a range of places to deliver awareness to the UK Security Vetting officers.

Jo Walker and Paul Chalwin were recognised for their work with local special school, Dove House which enabled two students to successfully complete a trial period with AWE and gain permanent employment.

International Women in engineering Day

Two of AWE's great women engineers were featured in a national article 'Breaking the Stereotypes', sharing how they got involved in STEM careers to support this year's International Women in Engineering Day (InWED) on June 23.

InWED is a global celebration of the outstanding contribution made by women in the field of engineering. It is part of a campaign to raise awareness of the opportunities for long, interesting, challenging and rewarding STEM careers available to women.

AWE's CEO, Iain Coucher, also published a blog on LinkedIn about the importance of having a diverse and inclusive workforce and the value AWE places on recruiting an equal number of women and men.

Time to Change

AWE has joined the national campaign - Time to Change – which aims to reduce stigma around mental health issues.

To support Time to Change, AWE has created a network of trained volunteers, including members of its senior leadership team, to provide support and to spread the word across the whole company.

Clean Air Day

AWE supported Environmental awareness month throughout June, ensuring that regular Tweets have kept the importance of good environmental practices at the forefront of the public's mind. One statistic AWE is very proud of relates to its car sharing scheme which was launched in July 2017. The scheme now has 2,300 members and the positive impact on the environment is a saving of over 1,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide and nearly 8 million miles.

Community Outreach

The summer term is always a busy one for AWE's schools' outreach programme. Highlights have included a record number of students taking part in its Primary Science Challenge. Teams of AWE graduates delivered science experiments to over 600 pupils from 20 schools across North Hampshire and West Berkshire during May and June.

AWE also helped inspire 300 students from 24 local secondary schools at the Hampshire TeenTech event held at the Hampshire Court Hotel in Basingstoke last month. The event is part of a national scheme set up by former Tomorrow's World presenter Maggie Philbin which aims to inspire students and their teachers and change perceptions of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers.

Community News

The next edition of AWE's community magazine Connect will be circulated to 56,000 local homes and businesses in August.

Operational updates

Environment, Safety and Health Update

**Nick Bolton,
ESH Service Delivery Lead (SET)**

Nick gave members an overview of performance in personal and process safety. He reported that OSHA TRI (Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Total Recordable Incidents) rate for the 12 months to the end of May 2019 was 0.264, the current AWE internal target is 0.250. Slips / trips / falls occurring due to commonplace pedestrian hazards encountered when walking around our sites accounted for 33% of the incidents.

AWE strives to send its workforce home in the same condition in which it arrived. Steps taken to achieve this include effective reporting and an investigation programme, operational experience and learning and road safety and driver behaviour initiatives.

AWE's current first aid rate is the best achieved.

A total of 6 RIDORR Reportable Injury Events occurred in the 12 months to the end of May 2019, a slight improvement in performance compared with that achieved over the 12 months to the end of May 2018 (0.045; also 6 Events)

Members were informed that AWE's Process Safety Performance is at an acceptable risk level. The key focus is the delivery of Process Safety Training for supervisors and science staff. Safety metrics have been reviewed and amended to give more focus.

Nick reported that following on from a request for drone support at the last LLC from David Leeks, Haydn Clulow offered to send in AWE's own drone team to carry out a condition inspection of the church's Lightning Protection System at St Mary's Church, Tadley. To gain access to this work in the traditional manner would have cost the church thousands of pounds. The evidence (footage gathered) was sent to the earthing test company for insurance purposes. It will also be used to support community communications/news.

As well as the letter of thanks from Reverend Gill Sakakini, David Leeks also acknowledged with "**Many thanks from the people of Tadley**". Nick also mentioned that a request for support has been made by Tadley Catholic Church.

Nick invited members to contact AWE if this form of technology could help the communities they represent.

AWE has a commitment to protecting the environment and people. In terms of its controlled and construction and demolition waste, 97.1% was diverted from landfill (target 95%), of which 91.3% (target 90%) went to reuse and recycling and 5.8% recovered.

Questions Arising

Jonathan Chishick asked in relation to the OSHA injury rate target of 0.25, why the target is not 0?

Nick advised that with a 0 target, as soon as there is an injury occurrence the target is missed, this can be demotivating. The target set is above the world class level 0.350

Cllr Shirt asked whether the ONR agreed with AWE's statement that its Process Safety performance was at an acceptable level.

Gary Cook of ONR confirmed that broadly speaking, yes, they are.

Cllr Sokale asked how AWE implements its commitment to protecting the environment and people in the wider industry.

Nick advised that AWE is represented at a Nuclear Safety Directors Forum with contacts in the wide industry.

Cllr Sokale asked how AWE deals with the '12 lines of defence'

Action 1 /96 Nick to look at AWE's approach to '12 lines of defence' and update at the next meeting.

Action: Nick Bolton

Environmental Sustainability Plan

Ann Markowska
Head of Environment (Site)

Anna talked to members about AWE's sustainability plan, telling them that the plan looks at resource, carbon footprint, biodiversity and waste management.

In terms of resource use, a key area is to reduce the use of plastic in AWE's catering facility. Additionally, a reduction in the amount of printing and minimising chemical and critical raw material usage.

In looking at its carbon footprint AWE will set a science-based carbon emission reduction target, install 10 electric vehicle charging points and have 100% of its electricity from renewable sources.

To fulfil biodiversity targets AWE will adopt the Wildlife Trust Biodiversity Benchmark Scheme, allocate areas for enhanced biodiversity and introduce the Biodiversity Net Gain scheme.

The waste management element of the plan targets a 97% diversion from landfill of non-RA and non-explosive waste, reuse and recycle 92% non-RA and non-explosive waste and a reduction in facility accumulated radioactive waste holdings of 15%.

Questions Arising

Cllr Bound asked whether AWE use electric vehicles on site.

Anna advised that there are a few on site. AWE is looking at increasing the pool of electric vehicles on site but need to wait for the charging units.

Cllr Shirt asked what the target is for non-nuclear explosive waste

Anna explained that non-nuclear explosive waste is purified to extract explosives and then incinerated. It is the only way to eliminate explosive waste and it is already kept to a

minimum.

Cllr Mullan asked where AWE gets its renewable electricity from.

Anna confirmed that electricity suppliers can disclose where the electricity comes from and AWE can ask for it to be supplied from renewable sources.

Cllr McGarvie asked what AWE's target is in terms of recycle and re-use.

Anna advised that the targets have not been split out but only 2.3% goes to landfill.

Site Update

Mark Hedges
Director of Site Operation

Protestor Activity

Mark reported that AWE is not currently aware of any planned activity other than the Women's Peace Camp at AWE A, the 2nd weekend of every month.

Community Concerns

One concern was received in May which related to work being carried out in a field near to James Lane, during Lapwing nesting season. Following consultation with the AWE full-time ecologist and a letter written, no further contact has been received or information requested.

AWE look closely at the impact any work carried out and when there is a concern about nature, will investigate and act accordingly.

Demolition

West Berks Council determined that a planning application for the proposed demolition of the redundant Liquid Waste Treatment plant at Aldermaston, would not be required as it is deemed to be a permitted development. Demolition will be tendered and likely to start in early 2020.

Mensa

The project has been subject to a fair amount of publicity over the years and Mark reported that performance has stabilised over the last two year. The construction management organisation is embedded.

The catenary towers, protecting against lightning can be seen and lot of construction is now inside the building.

Questions Arising

Cllr Board asked whether the cladding on the new main process facility at Burghfield is non-flammable.

Mark confirmed that it is.

Cllr Chishick asked what the completion date is for the facility

Mark advised 2023

Cllr Bound asked whether AWE has used a new contractor.

Mark replied that a delivery partner has been appointed to support the delivery of Mensa, Costain have been working with AWE for 18 months.

Cllr Shirt asked whether there has been an increase in the frequency of alarm testing

Mark confirmed that the standard maintenance testing frequency has not changed and that any need for enhanced testing out of hours would be kept to a minimum.

Action 2 /96 Scott Davies-Hearn to establish whether there has been increased frequency of alarm testing.

Action: Scott Davies-Hearn

Cllr Longton asked what will be happening to the pre-fab buildings in the mearings.

Mark advised that the plan is to remove rather than keep them

Action 3 /96 AWE to review whether they can be kept.

Action: Mark Hedges / John Steele

REPIR Update

Scott Davis-Hearn

Scott updated members on the REPIR 2019 and explained that there are significant changes to the legislation. New regulations came into force on 22nd May 2019 with a one-year transition period. AWE and West Berkshire Council have until 21 May 2020 to be fully compliant with the new regulations.

It is no longer the ONR but the Local Authority who determines the DEPZ, with West Berkshire Council taking the lead. Following the submission of the technical assessment by AWE regarding Hazard Analysis, West Berks Council will consider the implications and determine the appropriate DEPZ. The process will be based on the previous ONR approach and guidance in the new Code of Practice.

The DEPZ itself will no longer be identified by a clear circle but will be more in line with natural boundaries. The DEPZ is driven by the consequence/ effects in the unlikely event of a radiation incident and residents within this defined area will need to take shelter. The legislation introduces the OPA (Outline Planning Area), which is only for planning purposes in the event of a beyond foreseeable emergency occurring. The new AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan shall be written having regard to any new DEPZ and the OPA by the deadline required in legislation.

AWE is working with West Berkshire Council and other Local Authorities to deliver the changes required under the legislation and issue an updated AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan.

Questions arising

Cllr Fisher asked whether the Councils will receive information on what is expected of them **Scott** advised that the new process is common to all Nuclear Industry, not just AWE and there is an approved Code of Practice. WBC are the lead authority and they will work with

their local parishes. Councils will be informed and should have sufficient time to consult and prepare.

Cllr Mullan asked whether AWE would raise concerns over any subsequent planning applications which potentially fall within the DEPZ or Outline Planning Area (OPA)

Scott confirmed that the planning application process will remain the same. AWE will be consulted in the same way as the rest of the community before planning authorities make a decision.

Cllr Fisher asked whether there may be a conflict of interest when defining the outer circle and eating into the development boundaries.

Scott told members that ONR will deal with any issues and conflicts over the determination process.

Gary Cook of the ONR added that in the short term, determinations carried out in the past can be referenced and advice can be given to Local Authorities.

Cllr McGarvie asked how local councils would know about 'on-site' changes that may affect DEPZ and OPA determination.

Scott advised that if there were any material changes under the legislation, the hazard assessment and determination process would need to be carried out again.

Gary Cook added that the ONR will retain an oversight of hazard assessments.

Cllr Shirt expressed concern over the increased workload the changes will have on already under resourced local authorities.

Scott told members that there is an option under the new legislation for reasonable cost recovery (from AWE) to be undertaken by the Local Authority in respect to costs incurred, as a result of management and development of the off-site arrangements. There is a responsibility by the AWE as the operator to reimburse reasonable costs, under the REPPiR 2019.

Cllr McGarvie asked how Hampshire fits in with the determination process

Cllr Bound raised a similar query over Basingstoke and Tadley Councils.

Scott advised that he was unable to offer an answer but would raise it with Carolyn Richardson of West Berks.

Action 4/96 Scott Davies-Hearn to discuss with Carolyn Richardson and report back.

Ask the Regulators

Rob Green
Environment Agency

Rob Green gave members an overview of the Environment Agency report for the period. He reported that the EA continue to attend meetings on the management of higher activity waste at AWE and review progress with AWE's forward action plan. They are working jointly with ONR on this area of work.

Several compliance assessments were completed, including the Plutonium Technology Centre, where a minor (CCS4) non-compliance on the date of the inspection was noted. Key facilities in the Hydrodynamics and Radiation Technology Centres at Aldermaston Site were

inspected to assess compliance with the radioactive substances' disposal permit. There were no non-compliances on the date of the inspection and the EA provided verbal feedback to AWE.

Rob reported that the EA recorded 3 x minor (CCS4) non-compliances against the radioactive waste disposal permit at A site, in relation to an event that AWE notified them of and led to AWE not reporting an exceedance of an internal activity limit for an environmental monitoring sample. Rob made it clear at the LLC meeting that the event did not result in or result from any discharge of radioactivity into the environment

The EA completed compliance inspections covering the carbon activities and non-ferrous metals activities permits at A site – no non-compliances.

Members were informed that the EA continue to work jointly with ONR in their engagement with AWE on assessing the adequacy of and progress on its commitments to address previously identified shortfalls in the organisation's management of ageing High Efficiency Particulate Arrestor (HEPA) filters.

AWE has developed a Structured Improvement Plan (SIP) designed to facilitate its withdrawal from enhanced regulatory attention by ONR. SIP improvements impact AWE management arrangements, including those that affect environmental compliance. The EA is party to the various work streams supporting the SIP, as well as being involved in supporting meetings and workshops, and continue to support the SIP process.

Questions arising

Cllr McGarvie asked about the HEPA filters, would it be the case that the last filter in the chain potentially doesn't 'see anything' and consequently need changing.

Mark Hedges advised this is not so. There are multiple stages of filtration with the first in line requiring changing more often. The focus is on the first stages.

Cllr Gardiner asked whether with CCS4 representing a minor non-compliance, does a CCS1 sit at the other end of the scale. Could the EA provide a document with the explanation behind CCS4 – CCS1 non-compliances.

Rob confirmed CCS1 is the highest and will provide a note outlining the determination of CSS1 – CSS4.

Action 5 /96 Rob Green to provide a note outlining the determination of CSS1 – CSS4.

Action closed

Post meeting note: Rob has advised that the EA previous internal Compliance Classification System (CCS) has been replaced by a Policy Paper, which can be obtained from Gov.UK via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessing-and-scoring-environmental-permit-compliance/radioactive-substances-activities-assessing-environmental-permit-compliance>

Section 6 in the guidance covers the EA CCS scoring methodology.

**Gary Cook Lead Site Inspector
Office for Nuclear Regulation**

Gary gave an overview of the ONR report for the period 1 February 2019 to 31 May 2019. He told members that the ONR had quite a presence at AWE during the period and had inspected against 14 Licence Conditions and in addition, had carried out inspections relating to electrical safety, asbestos and the Ionising Radiation Regulations.

He confirmed ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by AWE in response to safety requirements to be adequate in most areas inspected. No licensing instruments were issues.

Gary reported that where improvements are considered necessary following inspections, ONR may consider whether regulatory enforcement action is appropriate to ensure that remedial actions are taken in reasonably practicable timescales. ONR raised one regulatory issue relating to LC35 covering the need for AWE to maintain up to date decommissioning strategies.

At the end of the last reporting period ONR undertook an LC36 inspection. The rating for this inspection was not finalised until February 2019 when a red rating was assigned. ONR followed current guidance for red rated inspections and is currently reviewing the findings against the Enforcement Management Model before deciding on the most appropriate course of action.

During a review in March 2019 across 10 Licence Conditions improvements were noted in some key areas. These include aspects of leadership enough to drive safety performance, informed decision making on matters which may affect safety, learning and continual improvement to drive safety performance and in the management of events.

Significant improvement is required in timely delivery of adequate safety submissions and organisational capability to secure and maintain safety and compliance across AWE's wider activities. A further review will take place in October 2019 in line with ONR's new guidance on the judgement of regulatory attention levels.

Questions arising

Cllr Gardiner referred to 2.2 in the report and asked why there is not timely delivery of reports in relation to safety submissions and organisational capability.

Susie Tucker advised that in the main AWE are dealing with aging facilities and periodic reviews of each, using the same resources for multiple facilities. A more holistic approach is being developed, AWE is working with the ONR and is on track to deliver what it said it would.

Autism Awareness

James Cody

James presented to members on Autism Awareness. This included some interaction and audience participation during which James demonstrated the difficulties faced by those on the Autism Spectrum.

He talked about the sensory issues faced, difficulties in communication, instances of unexpected behaviour and fine/gross motor skills. It all matters and James advised that by raising awareness of such issues we can all find ways of making life less difficult

Cllr Leeks asked James how he deals with the constant noise of the site tannoy, particularly noticeable in 10C10.

James told members that it is often not noticed by those who live with it daily.

Action 6 /96 Mark Hedges to investigate why the tannoy in 10C10 seems unusually loud

Following on from the meeting, necessary modifications to the speaker in 10C10 will be made, so hopefully it will be less distracting.

**Team Building in the Community
Anna Markowska**

Anna updated members on the support Environment, Safety and Health (ESH) are providing to Garland Junior School in Burghfield. On Thursday 22nd August they will be transforming and overgrown area of school field to create an outdoor learning centre for the children.

Community Programme

**Philippa Kent
Community Engagement Manager**

Philippa updated members on AWE's revised approach to STEM outreach in schools. The programme, designed to inspire the next generation of STEM professionals, will have three elements. It will include two school partnerships, a focused events programme operating across Newbury, Reading and Basingstoke and participation in the national STEM Ambassador scheme.

AWE's flagship collaboration with Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke, will include supporting STEM activities in the college sixth form, working with them to help deliver an outreach programme in local schools and sponsorship of its Science Centre which runs sessions for 3,500 local primary school pupils.

The second partnership will be with the Hurst Community College in Baughurst and will include a programme of STEM activities, careers awareness and mentoring. The Hurst is AWE's neighbouring secondary school.

Members were also told about the focused events programme which will provide development opportunities for AWE staff, help retain a profile in the local areas and link up with national campaigns.

Philippa went on to tell members about AWE joining the STEM Ambassador Network. This is a national scheme run by STEM Learning which provides free resource, including mandatory training and DBS – helping to promote STEM in both schools and community groups across the UK.

Any other Business

Cllr Leeks commented upon the use of single use plastics at the meeting and referred to the bottled water.

Susie advised that AWE has a degree of reliance on its catering facilities and understands that further steps are needed.

Cllr Shirt referred to articles in the press relating to ONR's intention to prosecute and asked that LLC members be better informed once the National Press take an interest.

Susie advised that AWE would keep members abreast of any likely press activity.

Cllr Shirt also advised members that the planning application for the Manor House development has not yet gone through.

Close

2019 Meeting Dates

Thursday 7th November