



**Minutes of the 98th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
Dial-in Meeting**

**Present:**

Haydn Clulow	Chair
Dominic Boeck	West Berks
Michael Bound	Basingstoke and Deane
Graham Bridgman	West Berks
Sophie Crawford	Aldermaston Parish
Debbie Fisher	Wokefield Parish
Amy Gower	West Berks
Graham Hetherington	Baughurst Parish
Royce Longton	West Berks
George McGarvie	Pamber Parish
Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish
Susan Mullan	Tadley Town
Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough
David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish
Nicholas Thurlow	Mortimer West End
Nick Bolton	AWE
Scott Davies-Hearn	AWE
Simon Hardaker	AWE
Val Hincks	AWE
Philippa Kent	AWE
Anna Markowska	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Susie Tucker	AWE
Martin Wells	AWE

**Regulators:**

Gary Cook	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Rob Green	Environment Agency

**Note:** This meeting had to be held remotely at short notice due to the developing COVID-19 situation.

A decision was taken to reduce the agenda and duration of the meeting to make it achievable in a teleconference format.

Members were sent the Environment Safety and Health presentation and the reports from the Office For Nuclear Regulation and Environment Agency prior to the meeting instead of receiving presentations at the meeting .

Items 2 and 3 were questions arising from those materials. The main body of the meeting was the presentation on the DEPZ determination by West Berkshire council which is fully documented.

## 1. Chairman's Update

### Introduction

Haydn Clulow welcomed members to the 98th meeting and went on to update them about some topics of interest.

### Key messages COVID 19

- Our business resilience group is working on plans to look after our employees and prioritise what we need to do.
- Sites are open but not taking any risks.
- Between 1,000-1,500 employees have been working from home since Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- Plans have been made for worst case situation and we are able to shut down safely should it be required.

## 2. Environment, Safety and Health Update

*Nick Bolton  
ESH Service Delivery Lead (SET)*

### Questions

#### **Q Cllr Hetherington:**

The statistics provided are not meaningful if you don't know what's changed.

#### **A: Nick Bolton:**

The general trends remain the same (torso/leg /hand injuries) and we continue to address them with targeted activities and campaigns. Nothing new or unique since the last meeting.

## 3. Ask the Regulators

*Gary Cook  
Lead Site Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation  
Rob Green  
Environment Agency*

### Questions

**Q Cllr Longton** asked for clarification on why the improvement notice closeout date is early 2021.

**A: Gary Cook, ONR,** explained it wasn't an indication that AWE had not made progress but a date which was set when the notice was issued .

**Q: Cllr Fisher** asked if environmental testing would be able to continue with COVID-19 restrictions?

**A Rob Green EA** confirmed that EA programme would be suspended for the foreseeable future.

**Anna Markowska, AWE,** explained that AWE sampling would continue and that EA samples are for verification. She said her team would be prioritising which samples to take. Currently under review, but the intention is to continue. She also explained that there are several automatic samplers (for air and water) which would not be affected .

**Gary Cook** added that ONR does not directly carry out monitoring.

#### 4. DEPZ Determination

*Amy Gower  
Emergency Planning Officer, West Berkshire*

- New legislation introduced in 2019 (replaces REPIR 2001) which must be implemented by 22nd May 2020.
- A change in legislation means that the local authority (West Berks) is now responsible for determination and implementation of Detailed Emergency Planning Zone - role used to be undertaken by ONR.
- Council are required to appoint a radiation protection adviser.
- As operator the AWE is required to submit a Hazard Evaluation and Consequences Assessment (HECA).
- Operator has a duty to propose the minimum area for any Urgent Protective Actions (UPA) required in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency.
- It was stressed that there had been no change in safety, activities or risks at the sites.
- Independent assurance of HECA from Public Health England Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (PHE CRCE).
- Council has consulted members of Off-Site Planning Group on the proposed DEPZ to ensure they could respond to an incident.
- West Berks team has driven and walked around the areas of the zones to ensure nothing has been missed.
- They must consider the UPA but also must not go inside the UPA or bisect communities so DEPZ is necessarily larger than UPA. Also, natural boundaries are used to make notifications clearer ( e.g. train line being used near Holybrook which is some distance away from UPA).
- Detailed processes are being followed to identify zones and this will be publicised on West Berks website later today.
- Aldermaston zone remains unchanged.
- Burghfield is increased but required action of sheltering remains unchanged – just over a larger area. This does mean Burghfield zone includes new communities not previously involved and brings Reading and Wokingham Council's onto Off-Site Planning Group.
- West Berks is now revising the off-site emergency plan. Actions taken won't change – just a larger area to respond to. The plan is still fit for purpose.
- New area means making sure all new vulnerable sites are captured.
- REPIR leaflet is being updated to a booklet format with tear out pages with key messages for all residents in zones. Message will remain Go In, Stay In, Tune In.
- West Berks will be leading a programme for informing the community of changes and the LLC brief today is part of that.
- Information is to be placed on West Berks website plus press release to be circulated by close of play today (18<sup>th</sup> March).
- In slower time resident letter and public info booklet.
- AWE welcomes LLC views on how to communicate with the public as you know your residents better than we do – already have ideas about presenting at council meetings, to businesses and holding drop in sessions (subject to COVID-19 restrictions).

#### 5. Any Other Business

**ACTION: 1/98**

**Q: Cllr Bound :** My question relates to planning, particularly the Lidl application being decided next month - any revised thoughts on this?

**A: Amy Gower:** I will take away that question and get back to you. We will be updating the Development Control Document that goes to planners - my colleague Carolyn Richardson is dealing with planning issues.

**Cllr Bridgman** commented on potential effect on Grazeley development.

**Cllr Crawford** said what is and isn't allowed in terms of planning in DEPZ currently a grey area and would be good to get clarification.

**Q: Cllr Fisher:** interested in effect on Grazeley proposal – is AWE aware?

**A: Haydn Clulow:** Yes.

#### **ACTION 2/98**

**Cllr Hetherington:** requested a glossary of terms as there are a huge number of acronyms.  
**Haydn Clulow: said AWE would produce one.**

**Q: Cllr Longton:** interested in extension of DEPZ at Burghfield. Sensibly does that mean no planning in DEPZ?

**A: Amy Gower:** if offsite plan can accommodate development it can continue – we can't say that until we have finished it. Work is ongoing. A new plan will be in place by end of May.

#### **ACTION 3/98**

**Q: Cllr McGarvie:** Can we have an advanced copy (pdf) of REPPIR booklet when its approved please?

**A: Amy Gower: said yes.**

**Cllr Montgomery:** there's a lot of planning in Spencers Wood including 1,300 extra people only half a kilometre outside the zone, this should be considered. Requested consideration for the public information booklet to be distributed to Shinfield residents as well.

**Cllr Mullan:** any info automatically causes concern. With the virus people won't want to come out or won't be allowed to. Please can you put contact numbers on ~~er~~-postcards they can post in? Elderly not all on email etc.

**Cllr Shirt:**

- There are several developments not shown on the OS map you're using. Please investigate this.
- The term urgent protection area is likely to cause concern Cllr Bridgman said it was important as it helped explain the role of West Berks and where they had received the technical information from.

**Q: Cllr Shirt:** Will info on this be made public today?

**A: Amy Gower:** yes, by close of play today.

**Cllr Thurlow:** requested communications to continue with Mortimer due to their location between the two DEPZ's.

**Cllr Patman:** welcomed communications with the Wokingham area.

**Amy said publicity material to be released would include**

- A report outlining the process
- Interactive maps so you can zoom in on to a property (for both sites)
- The emergency planning email address for any questions - but if delayed replies please be patient as council also dealing with COVID-19.
- We will send a note to everyone who has missed this briefing to make sure they know everything that has been shared.

## **Closing remarks**

Haydn apologised for the technical difficulties experienced by participants in joining the meeting.

Date of next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 – confirmation nearer time on where/ how it will be hosted .

After the meeting the following announcement was sent to LLC Members in readiness for the public announcement of the changes.

### **AWE Burghfield DEPZ extended under new REPPIR 19 legislation**

- The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPIR 2019) is new legislation. It was introduced by the Government to further strengthen Great Britain's already robust arrangements for radiological emergencies. These changes aim to deliver a consistent approach to radiation emergency preparedness and response across the radiological defence nuclear and civil nuclear sectors.
- REPPIR 2019 places a duty on nuclear operators and local authorities to plan for and manage the consequences of radiation emergencies. The operator of any premises subject to REPPIR 2019 must undertake a Hazard Evaluation and Consequences Assessment (HECA). Based on the results of these assessments, the operator has a duty to propose the minimum area for any Urgent Protective Actions required in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency. Under the new legislation it is then for the local authority, in this case West Berkshire Council, to determine the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ). This is an area in which suitable and adequate emergency response planning arrangements must be put in place to protect the public.
- In compliance with the new REPPIR 2019 legislation and following detailed assessment, AWE's technical experts calculated that the DEPZ for the Aldermaston site would remain unchanged (at 1.5km) and the extent of detailed emergency planning for the AWE Burghfield site changes from 1.5km to 3.16km.
- The increase in the extent of detailed emergency planning at AWE Burghfield is driven by REPPIR 2019 requirements and the need to base the assessment on a less likely weather category that could result in different dispersal characteristics. It is important to note that the increase is **not** indicative of any change in processing, safety standards, or process risk in respect of our operations or facilities.

**You can find more information about the changes at:**

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/awe>

**The advice on what to do in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency affecting the public at an AWE site has NOT changed under the REPPIR 19 legislation. You can find the advice here:**

<https://www.awe.co.uk/app/uploads/2018/05/REPPIR-2018-FINAL-PRINT-VERSION-APRIL-2018-5.pdf>

All households and businesses in the public information areas of the AWE sites will receive an updated booklet from West Berkshire Council with this information shortly.

**Close**