



**Minutes of the 81st AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday 10th June 2015 at AWE Aldermaston**

Present:

Mr Haydn Clulow	Director Site, Chairman LLC
Cllr Lynn Austin	Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Patricia Garrett	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr Gerald Hale	Woolhampton Parish Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr Marian Livingston	Reading Borough Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Cllr Ian Morrin	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Richard Smith	Sulhamstead Parish Council
Cllr Steve Spillane	Silchester Borough Council
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr David Wood	Theale Parish Council
Fiona Rogers	Head of Corporate Communications
Paul Rees	Head of Environment, Safety and Health
Carolyn Porter	AWE – LLC Secretary
Philippa Kent	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE
Scott Davis-Hearne	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Peter Caddock	AWE
Anna Samuel	AWE
Scott Davies-Hearne	AWE
Dave Griffiths	AWE
Kevin Cole	AWE

Regulators:

Gary Booth	ONR
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Invited:

Superintendent Jim Weems	Thames Valley Police
Julian Tubbs	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Graeme Few	South Central Ambulance Service

Apologies

Apologies had been received from: Cllrs Penee Chopping, Royce Longton and Jeff Moss

Actions from the last meeting

Action 5/72 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.

Representatives presented at this meeting.

Action closed

Action 2/79 AWE to look at the possibility of including the population of the groups to which the data refers in future ESH data reporting

Covered by a standard statement contained in the ESH report

Action closed

Action 1/80 AWE to check the Perfect Day trend data to establish whether November 2014 figures reflect a record.

No it doesn't reflect a record but it is the maximum number of perfect days we have had for the third time since the scheme began in 2009.

Action Closed

Action 2/80 Secretary to provide Cllr McGarvie with members' e-mail addresses.

Provided in March.

Action Closed

Action 3/80 Information sheet to be provided outlining the steps AWE takes to minimise the effects of seismic disturbance.

This has been produced and issued at the meeting.

Action Closed

The Minutes of the 80th Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Membership Changes

Cllr Lynn Austin is the newly elected member for Ashford Hill with Headley. Cllr Ian Morrin and Cllr Graham Bridgman are new members representing West Berkshire Council.

Members were advised that this was the last meeting where we will be joined by Gary Booth from the Office of Nuclear Regulation. Gary is moving to a new role and being replaced by Alan Wylie who we hope will be joining us at the September meeting.

Chairman's update

Community engagement

The Chairman reminded members about AWE's programme to engage more proactively with the local community. He reported on the success of the AWE stand at the recent Tadley Treacle Fair and encouraged LLC members to register for the AWE Showcase being held on the 27th June.

AWE will be launching its digital community storybook at the same time. The aim of the storybook is to celebrate the rich history and heritage of AWE sites and the breadth of work carried out over the decades. The call for contributions from the community has generated dozens of submissions and he thanked LLC members who have contributed to it.

Operational update

The Chairman told members that AWE is proposing to introduce a new 9 day fortnight working pattern across its sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield in August. It will support the company's drive for more efficient management and maintenance approach to the use of equipment, facilities and processes in support of core programme delivery. The new way of operating will see a working pattern of Monday to Friday in week 1 and Monday to Thursday in week 2.

He added that staff, Trades Unions and suppliers have been actively engaged in reviewing this operating pattern as have AWE's customer the MOD and key regulators.

AWE's on-site emergency responders will continue to be readily available 24/7, so this change in working pattern will not affect the safety and security of our sites.

Supercomputing upgrade

AWE is to receive an upgrade to its high performance supercomputing system to further boost the company's sophisticated scientific and technological capabilities.

The upgrade to AWE's existing supercomputer, called Spruce, will provide AWE with even greater scale and flexibility to complete scientific modelling at higher resolutions and faster processing speeds than ever before.

The upgrade to the Spruce supercomputers, known as Project Rosewood, comprises, two high performance systems with industry leading energy efficiency that has been specifically designed to run complex workloads at petaflop speeds i.e trillions of calculations per second. The new system will be up and running later this year.

Submarine Dismantling Project

The Chairman referred to the two presentations delivered at previous meetings about the Submarine Dismantling Project and the locally run consultation meetings that some members attended. He advised that the Post Consultation report is due to be published on the Government website at the end of June.

AWE makes Top 10 at Target Jobs Award 2015.

Members were told that following a huge national student vote AWE was short listed in the TARGET jobs National Graduate Recruitment Awards as one of the most popular graduate recruiters in the scientific research and development category. This year AWE was proud to be a top ten finalist for the award in the category, which also includes GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

The survey draws on the views of 44,000 students and is now the largest of its kind in the UK. It informs the Guardian UK 300 publication, a ranked list of the Top 300 graduate employers in the UK. AWE improved its ranking moving from 144 in 2014 to 135 in the Top 300 listing.

Supporting local schools and colleges

The chairman told members that as part of AWE's community relations work, a team of its scientists and engineers is currently (April to June) carrying out a series of experiments in science lessons at local schools as part of a two-term Primary Science Challenge designed to inspire younger pupils.

On June 11th engineers and apprentices will be engaging with 300 secondary age students at the regional Teentech event spearheaded by BBC Tomorrow's World presenter Maggie Philbin.

Later this month AWE's apprentices are working with other companies in Newbury to run a Getting Girls into High Tech Industries event at Trinity School.

AWE graduates are also busy co-ordinating events which support the science curriculum at primary and secondary level this term. Alongside these events AWE are supporting post-16 learners in interactive STEM workshops and demonstrations at career carousel events for sixth form students.

Questions and Comments on the Chairman's update

Cllr Leeks reported that he had received good feedback on the AWE's stand at the Tadley Treacle Fair. He also asked whether we would be communicating the nine day fortnight with local businesses and was advised that local suppliers are being notified.

Cllr Shirt asked whether following the success of the Treacle Fair AWE would be available to run a stand at the Aldermaston and Wasing Show. He will liaise with the LLC Secretary on this.

Environment, Safety and Health Update

Paul Rees, Head of Environment, Safety & Health

Performance during the period

Paul Rees gave an overview of the ESH performance covering the period January to March 2015. He reported on the three process related events and the seven personal injuries incurred during the period.

He advised members that our investigation into the worker who fell from a ladder has been concluded and no immediate cause for the fall has been identified. However, some opportunities for potential improvements have been identified and actioned. The injured person has returned to work.

Highlights

Paul reported that zero community complaints were received during the period and there were no permit breeches. First aid injuries and total recordable injuries continue to decrease. The rates for injury performance in the contract year are better than those in any previous contract year and AWE has seen an 8% improvement in the OSHA First Aid Rate

External Report

Members were informed that the refined format of the external Environment, Health and Safety quarterly report is now in place and that a printable PDF is available on the AWE website for all 2015 issues.

Questions on Environment, Safety and Health Update

Cllr Shirt asked if reference to 'Community Complaints' and Corporate Complaints' are the same thing.

Paul Rees confirmed that they are and agreed that in future they would be referred to as Community Complaints.

Considerate Constructors Award

**Anna Samuel, Senior
Environmental Specialist (Mensa)**

Anna Samuel gave members an overview of the Considerate Constructors Scheme founded in 1997 by the UK construction industry to improve its image. The scheme looks at the direct or indirect impact on the image of the industry as a whole and focuses on impacts to the general public, workforce and environment.

Over 9000 sites are registered across the UK and the top performing 10% are nominated for a national site award. This year AWE added to its site awards by winning a Gold and Most Considerate Site Runner up for Project MENSA at AWE Burghfield.

The MENSA site demonstrated genuine concern over potential neighbour disruption, promotion of good practice among its site personnel both at work and at home. The monitor's report commended the site for achieving 'the highest possible standards and developing new and innovative practices'. These included the project Mensa landscaping scheme, waste recycling rate and on site baling, immediate local resident letter drops, an acoustic barrier and SuDS Pond Information Boards.

Site Update

Fire Detection Systems Improvement Programme

Mark Hedges, Head of Site

Mark Hedges reported that the improvement programme is now is 78% complete and we are on track to meet our completion milestone of October 2015.

Pangbourne Pipeline

Members were told that following a meeting between AWE, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and MOD, next steps have been agreed. The Best Available Techniques (BAT) Assessment is to be reviewed and updated and will be shared with the Environment Agency and affected stakeholders over the next few months.

Questions on Site Update

Cllr Chishick referred to previous proposals to hold a meeting which is yet to materialize.

Mark Hedges advised that it is AWE's intention to hold a meeting but it has been postponed until AWE has gone through the next steps with the DIO and MOD as outlined above. The robust monitoring and surveillance regime already in place will continue.

When asked about the impact on traffic that the nine day fortnight might have **Mark Hedges** advised that reviews are in process. AWE is looking at the way it brings vehicles onto site, larger holding areas and increased parking space. An additional access gate will be opened and we will continue to monitor the flow of traffic. Residents should not notice any difference.

Planning and Estate Development Briefing

John Steele, Planning & Development Manager

John Steele updated members on planning applications and reported on the Travel Plan Survey.

Planning Applications

- **AWE Burghfield Flood Alleviation Update**

The planning application was approved in May 2015 and work is due to commence in August 2015. There will be resulting road closures and LLC members representing affected areas will be kept informed once the details are known.

- **AWE Aldermaston Facility Re-cladding**
A planning application was required to re-clad a 1940's hanger located near West Gate because it will alter the appearance of the building. The application was submitted in May 2015
- **AWE Aldermaston Energy Centre**
Facility providing temporary back- up power supply during power outages through the use of DRUPS. The facility requires the installation of 9 stacks to accommodate exhaust emissions when the DRUPS are in operation. The installation of the DRUPS will require a substantive change to AWE's Environmental Permit, an EP variation application will be submitted to the Environment Agency. The planning application and Environmental permit application will be submitted during the third quarter of 2015.

Questions on Planning and Estate Development Briefing

Cllr Morrin asked how AWE manages its outages currently

John Steel advised that we have adequate capability to manage outages now but the new centre is required to meet increasing computing requirements.

Cllr Shirt asked whether the Energy Centre building would be visible from Red Lane and John Steel confirmed it would not.

No other comments were made by LLC members.

AWE Aldermaston Travel Plan Survey – April 2015

John Steel advised members that AWE is bound by a legal agreement with West Berkshire Council to implement a travel plan mitigating the effects of increased traffic accessing Aldermaston site. Implementation of this plan is supported by annual gate surveys which monitor Travel Plan targets.

The target is 67% of cars coming onto site being single occupancy; the survey indicates this is being met and that 50% of the traffic accessing Aldermaston site does so through West Gate.

Ask the Regulators

Gary Booth from the Office for Nuclear Regulation advised members that the normal ONR Quarterly Report could be found on their website. He confirmed that the ONR would not be prosecuting AWE for breach of the licence instrument issued in 2007. Further enforcement action is not precluded but the regulator is content with the current storage of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW).

Cllr Shirt asked for clarification of new proposed changes to the boundaries for the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ)

Gary Booth explained that ONR has assessed the need for an off-site emergency plan of defined minimum radii around the sites and that it is proposing natural boundaries within and close to these radii in order to define the zone. This will result in the zone being more irregular shape than the current perfect circles. The draft of the DEPZ is being circulated to key stakeholders and a decision is expected in the next four months for formal adoption by West Berkshire Council

Local Emergency Services

Representatives from Thames Valley Police (TVP), Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) and South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) each spoke about how their service works closely and interactively with Ministry of Defense Police (MDP) and AWE emergency services. These presentations formally close action 5/72.

Questions on Local Emergency Services

Cllr Shirt asked what impact the sites security measures have on the speed by which local emergency services can access sites.

Scott Davies-Hearne, Deputy Manager Emergency Response & Strategy, advised members that there are two primary access gates that the emergency services use and that provision is made for uncleared people to be escorted.

Cllr Wood asked what impact proposed TVP cuts will have on their level of support to the site.

Superintendent Weems confirmed there will be no impact to their operational capability.

Cllr McGarvie asked whether Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) has taken part in any AWE/offsite exercises.

Supt Weems confirmed it had, to test operatives and commander roles

AOB

Cllr Shirt thanked AWE for the use of the hi-vis jackets for the 'Clear Up Day' in March, and asked whether AWE could join in by clearing rubbish around the perimeter fence.

Mark Hedges confirmed that AWE did carry this out and will do again next year

Cllr Shirt referred to the statement made about Pegasus at the March meeting suggesting that more recent news seems to be contradictory

The Chairman advised that the Pegasus project is kept under regular review. No decisions on changes to the scope of the Project Pegasus have been made.

Cllr Spillane raised the issue of speeding vehicles in Silchester which his research indicates are either vehicles on school runs or individuals traveling to and from AWE. He has a list of key areas where the speeding takes place.

The Chairman agreed that AWE would raise staff awareness about the importance of adopting the same road safety regime off site as they are expected to on-site. He also asked to have sight of the list.

Cllr McGarvie referred to the survey he has conducted to establish members' views about the new MD's absence at LLC meetings. The survey indicates that members would like to the MD to attend some of the meetings if not all.

The chairman confirmed this would be discussed with the MD and reiterated Kevin Bilger's support for the work of the LLC and the value he places on community feedback.

Action 1/81 Traffic in general to be one of the topics covered at the next LLC meeting.

Cllr McGarvie asked new LLC members to send him their e-mail addresses.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from the emergency services for attending.

2015 Meeting Dates

Wednesday 2nd September

Wednesday 2nd December

Carolyn Porter
LLC Secretary