



**Minutes of the 91st AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
AWE, Aldermaston**

**Present:**

Haydn Clulow	Director Site and Transformation AWE (Chair)
Cllr David Allen	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Avril Burdett	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Penee Chopping	Ufton Nurvet Parish Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Gerald Hale	Woolhampton Parish Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Royce Longton	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 Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Jonathan Richards	Basingstoke Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Steve Spillane	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Mark Hedges	AWE
Nick Bolton	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Carolyn Porter	AWE – LLC Secretary
Philippa Kent	AWE
Michele Maidment	AWE
Scott Davies-Hearne	AWE
Richard Hare	AWE
Matt King	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE
Luke Callow	AWE

**Regulators:**

Gary Cook	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Malcolm Peters	Environment Agency

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Dominic Boeck, Stuart Coker, Patricia Garrett, John Miller and Richard Smith. Carolyn Richardson of West Berkshire Council and Stuart Parr and Rob Greene of the Environment Agency also sent their apologies.

## **Actions from previous meetings**

Action on-going

Action 1/90 Paul Rees to look into the performance data around the 9DF and come back to members at the March 2018.

Action ongoing

Action 2/90 John Steele to present on an updated AWE Travel Plan.

We will be in a position to over this at the next meeting, March 2018.

Action ongoing

Action 6/90 Philippa Kent to look at suggestions visit programme for future meetings.

Action ongoing

The Minutes of the 90th Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### **Chairman's update**

#### **Introduction**

Haydn welcomed members to the 91st meeting of the LLC and introduced new member David Allen. David replaces Crissy Clemson representing Aldermaston Parish Council.

He also reported, with sadness the death of former LLC member Keith Gilbert. Keith started his career as an apprentice at AWE when the scheme was launched in the 1950s. More recently he was an active community ambassador and a member of this committee. We send our sincere condolences to his family.

#### **Community Information**

AWE are introducing a News Brief for all its local councillors and MPs, which will be sent out via email. This will cover topical issues. For instance when the redetermination of the Burghfield emergency planning area is announced AWE will send the details out via News Brief. This will be an easily digestible newsletter which can be forwarded to parishioners, ensuring that local people are kept briefed on topics of interest in a timely way.

AWE's community publication Connect will continue to go out on a bi-annual basis - giving us an opportunity to share news and features of general interest. The next edition will be circulated to 56,000 local homes and business in mid-December.

#### **Site Visits**

At the last meeting a number of LLC members expressed an interest in visiting the Orion Laser. For operational reasons this can only be arranged on a Monday so we will set up a special visit if there is sufficient interest.

#### **Outreach**

A team of 14 AWE volunteers took part in a unique project to attract new talent to AWE's business. Route to Success was a two-week, thousand-mile cycle marathon visiting five universities to showcase career opportunities at AWE.

On the subject of attracting new talent, AWE's scientists and engineers also took part in the New Scientist Live Exhibition at Excel in London. The event attracted around 30,000

people. Visitors to the AWE stand learned how giant lasers can recreate astrophysical conditions. Interactive exhibits included a vortex cannon made from a dustbin which demonstrated shock waves.

### **Recruitment**

AWE is busy recruiting new colleagues to join the company next year. The campaign to recruit new graduates has been a great success with over 1,900 applicants so far for the 150 roles in a range of disciplines for our 2018 intake. Applications close at the end of this month.

AWE opened its apprenticeship applications in November and held a two day Taste of Apprenticeship event to showcase all the apprenticeship opportunities they offer. This included some of the newer qualifications, such as those in supply chain and human resources, as well as the traditional science and engineering-focused training. AWE welcomed hundreds of visitors across the two days including students, teachers, parents and careers advisors.

The applications for apprenticeships close on January 31 2018 and the selection process will take place early next year for the 95 places available on the scheme in 2018.

### **Gender Pay Gap**

As an organisation with more than 250 employees AWE will be publishing a report on its gender pay gap shortly. The report is not about equal pay for men and women doing the same work, that's been the law since the 70s. It's about comparing the mean hourly pay and median hourly pay of all women and men within a business.

AWE's gender pay gap of 16.7% is just under the national comparison of 18.4%. There are already steps in place to narrow the gap and these will be summarised in the report.

At AWE the gender split is approximately 80 per cent men and 20 per cent women. To achieve organisational goals AWE need to attract, retain and harness the skills of all its talented people, both women and men.

Details will be sent via News Brief and the report will also be published on the AWE website.

### **Awards**

AWE technician Amy Lambden has won the south-east category in the regional final of the National Apprenticeship Awards 2017. Amy is a graduate of the AWE Skills Academy and works in electronics. In 2016, Amy was selected as one of the BBC's '100 Women' in 2016, for her role as a STEM pioneer and education work with young people in the community.

### **Schools outreach**

AWE's STEM outreach programme has been recognised as award winning. We were delighted to receive the Community Legacy Award from the Thames Valley Business Magazine. AWE was also shortlisted as a finalist in the Business Supporting Education Award run by local charity Basingstoke Consortium.

### **Charity fund raising**

AWE welcomed 18 local charities on its Aldermaston site last month for a charity Christmas Fair. This was a great way for us to connect with the local community and for the charities to raise their profiles. The event was attended by over 600 staff and enabled the charities to raise around £2,000.

AWE staff raised £5,024 for Macmillan cancer support with a baking bonanza, in support of the charity's world's biggest coffee morning and two of our apprentices raised a further £1,000 by 'Braving the Shave.'

The 125 competitors in his year's AWE Team Challenge raised over £11,000 for our charity partner Living Paintings in between taking part in a series of gruelling mental and physical challenges along the theme 'cops and robbers.'

AWE continue to support our charity partner Living Paintings.

## **Environment, Safety and Health Update**

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

### **Performance during the period**

Nick gave an overview of the perfect day performance covering the period August – October 2017.

There were three work related injuries requiring treatment above first aid. Two of these were as a result of a slip and fall and the other a trapped finger whilst using gym equipment.

The first Tier 2 investigations during the period included an isolator box being incorrectly connected which was found during routine distribution board testing in the building. The area was made safe, a restriction put in place on the isolator and another installed at the same time.

The second related to data errors identified following the transition from the OLM Training System to Minerva.

No OSHA injury Events or RIDDOR Reportable Events have been reported for **October 2017** to date

### **Question arising from Environment, Safety and Health Update**

**Cllr Shirt** asked about the impact of the 9 day fortnight on the performance statistics.  
**Haydn Clulow** confirmed this would be shared with members at the March meeting

Action on-going 1/91 Paul Rees to look into the performance data around the 9DF and come back to members at the March 2018 meeting. <p style="text-align: right;">Action ongoing</p>
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## **Site Update**

**Mark Hedges  
Head of Estate Strategy and Planning**

Mark reported that there had been no community complaints received during the last quarter.

Members were told that it had been a fairly quiet year so far in terms of protestor activity.

Mark gave a routine update on the Pangbourne Pipeline (PPL) and confirmed that total removal of the pipeline remained the preferred option. He stated that further work would be needed to look at the feasibility of this approach, but it was not planned to begin this until at least 2026. In the meantime AWE will continue robust monitoring and surveillance.

#### **Questions arising from the Site update**

**Cllr Chapman** asked whether there had been discussions with affected landowners relating to PPL

**Mark Hedges** - Not yet, we are in the very early stages of planning.

**Haydn Clulow** added that the pipeline is an MOD asset managed by AWE and a 'package' will be submitted to MOD before a decision is made over whether to go ahead.

#### **Planning and Estate Development Update John Steele, Planning & Estate Development Manager**

John updated members on Aldermaston Manor. He told them that the developer is still in the marketing stage with no potential purchasers.

#### **Questions arising from Planning and Estate Development Update**

**Cllr Spillane** referred to the illegal traveller's camp in Silchester and asked if AWE will be taking any action.

**John Steel** advised that AWE is aware of the camp and that it does not pose a threat. AWE will continue to monitor but no action is planned.

#### **Higher Activity Waste Programme (HAW) – update**

**Geoff Druce  
Head of Production Execution**

Geoff Druce reported on the progress with the Higher Waste Activity Programme. He told members that AWE has been working with Sellafield, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Ministry of Defence to secure a long-term solution for the treatment and storage of AWE's HAW. In the meantime an enabling contract has been signed allowing for the treatment of up to 5000 drums of HAW at Sellafield.

#### **Questions arising from HAW update**

**Cllr Bridgman** asked what level of waste there is at Aldermaston in terms of drums.

**Geoff/Mark** advised that significantly more drums were stored at Aldermaston than the 5000 that were planned to be treated as a result of the Sellafield contract, although some of that waste would be re-classified and disposed of as low level waste.

**Cllr Chishick** asked how many drums of HAW are generated.

**Mark Hedges** advised that AWE are not producing the number of drums as in previous years because improved routes are being employed for the early disposal of waste. Geoff

Druce added that AWE is continuing to look at longer terms solutions and national capabilities.

**Cllr McGarvie** referred to transportation to Sellafield and asked if there is a safe system **Geoff Druce** confirmed that safe transportation is an integral part of the strategy of working with the NDA, indeed it is a legal requirement. Existing routes and packages will be used, all approved by the ONR. There will be secure transportation by competent teams.

**Cllr Shirt** asked where AWE are with long term storage.

**Geoff Druce** told members that the safe and secure long-term storage of HAW is the subject of a national strategy and that a consultation is being carried out by the government on the siting of a Geological Disposal Facility. He recommended that members attend the GDF meetings if they would like more information, and added that AWE's actions were focussed on safe preparation of the HAW currently stored on site for long term storage in the GDF.

## **Drones at AWE**

**Richard Hare**  
**Group Leader, Conventional Health and Safety**

Richard gave an overview of the future of drones at AWE. He told members about the key benefits to AWE of using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including cost savings, improved health and safety and greater accessibility.

He reported on progress to date and talked about where AWE are in terms of key activities, strategy and future opportunities and applications.

## **Questions arising**

In answer to a number of questions asked the members were advised that:

- 'alien' drones would be identifiable and reported
- the local community would be notified of AWE drone flights
- there would be no 'noise nuisance' caused.
- the frequencies are secure and extremely difficult to hack; they run on a stand alone system

## **Ask the Regulators**

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

Gary briefed members on the ONR report for the period and advised that there had been no enforcement actions. He referred to the recent muster demonstration which they observed and told members that the demonstration was adequate.

He reported that the ONR has completed technical assessment work regarding a revised Burghfield Report of Assessment required under the Radiation Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPiR). A draft has gone out to stakeholders and some have asked for clarity on how the area is determined. Re-determination will be announced in January 2018 following a meeting with Wokingham Borough Council.

Gary mentioned the continuing engagement with AWE over improvement notice LC 17 Management Systems and told members that progress is in line with regulatory expectations, and that ONR hope to close the Improvement Notice early in 2018.

### Questions arising from the ONR brief

**Cllr McGarvie** asked if members could be given a clear understanding of the interface and overlap between ONR, EA and DNSR.

Action on-going 2/91 ONR to present at a future meeting.	Action ongoing
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### Malcolm Peters, Rob Green Environment Agency

Malcolm Peters re-capped on the Environment Agency report for the period. He told members that the inspection of low level waste management identified a number of good practices and no non-compliances were recorded.

The EA continue to attend meetings on the management of higher activity waste at AWE and review progress with the forward action plan. The work closely with the ONR on this area of work.

Members were told about a permit application made for carbon activities at Burghfield and the issue of a revised Environmental Permit for water discharge activities at Aldermaston.

Members were told the EA launched its annual flood awareness campaign in October

### Questions arising from the EA brief

**Cllr Shirt** asked whether there are any changes to the surface water discharge permit. **Malcolm** confirmed that the current permit remains the same, there are no relaxations.

**Cllr McGarvie** asked whether the Burghfield Flood Alleviation Scheme was fully in place. **Mark Hedges** advised that the scheme is due to be completed during the first quarter of 2018. He confirmed that AWE do have the capacity to deal with flood water in the event of a storm.

### Community Programme

### Philippa Kent Community Engagement Manager

Philippa updated members on the work AWE has been doing with the community since the last meeting. She reported on the STEM outreach activities – Primary Masterclasses, Engineering Challenge, Girls in High Tech and Spotlight on A level STEM careers.

Members were told that AWE has established a Charity Champions network and that £16,000 has been raised for charity partner Living Paintings.

## **Route to Success**

**Jake Clulow**

Jake reported to members on the 'Route to Success' cycle ride and fund raising event which took place in October this year. He told members that the aim was to enhance AWE's brand and reputation with academic institutions through technical outreach and promotion of the AWE graduate scheme.

Members were given details of the 1000 mile route taken and told of some of the highlights and challenges encountered.

There were no questions arising from the Community Programme Update

## **Emergency Response**

**Scott Davies-Hearn**  
**Deputy Manager, Emergency Response and Strategy**

Scott gave members an overview of Emergency Response, telling members about the purpose of the Site Response Group (SRG) and what they do. SRG are experts in emergency planning and response – strategic, tactical and operational.

Emergency response highlights include the successful delivery of a no-notice level 1 demonstration exercise at Aldermaston. It was challenging to plan and arrange and the first no-notice demonstration in the UK.

Improvement projects include more collaborative and joint working with the emergency services and community engagement. Scott spoke of the principles for joint working, co-location, clear communications, co-ordination and joint understanding of risk and shared situational awareness.

Scott also referred to REPPIR (Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations). He mentioned REPPIR 18 and the new legislation to be brought into effect to address specific aspects from the Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSSD)

## **Questions arising from Emergency Response**

**Cllr Shirt** referred to the invite extended to AWE to attend Parish Council meetings and asked if Scott would be able to attend a future meeting.

**Scott** confirmed that he would be able to arrange this.

## **Any other Business**

**Cllr Burdett** extended a thank you to AWE graduates for a project they are delivering to raise awareness of STEM subjects with Girl Guides and Brownies.

**Cllr Shirt** referred to the approval conditions for AWE's Gemini Office development and re-allocation of the residue of funds from the S106 contribution. West Berkshire Council will require specific authorisation from AWE to reallocate the remaining money on a proposed footpath along Frouds Lane to link the cyclepath with the canal tow path, and another along



Frouds Lane to link with the start of footpath #9 and if possible further extended to East Lodge to provide access to Wasing.

**John Steel** confirmed that AWE do not have an issue with re-allocating the funds.

Close

**2018 Meeting Dates**

Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup>

**Carolyn Porter**  
**LLC Secretary**