

Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group

Summary of the meeting held at Tortworth Court Four Pillars Hotel on 12 November 2013

Introduction

Cllr P Wride led:

No issues were raised as to the accuracy of the last SSG meeting on 31 July 2013.

Matters arising

No matters arising other than a membership review in line with the constitution. Need to amend the County Councillor representation in the light of recent boundary changes. Changes to membership will be discussed at the next meeting

Apologies that there was no waste update. This was due to Ben Bridgewater needing to be at the Berkeley waste drop-in session. SSG members were encouraged to attend the drop-in, or go along to Cosham Hall in Thornbury on Thursday 14 November 2013.

There was a request to make the ILW/FED video available on the Magnox and NDA websites. This is now on the NDA website.

General/next agenda

Cllr P Wride commented about the usefulness of the recent stakeholder conference she attended and being able to see the ILW boxes in situ.

It was queried by Cllr L Ashton whether bearing in mind Berkeley's landscape, Castle etc, if there were any issues in constructing the interim storage facility at Berkeley. Maria Kolodnytska provided a response to this suggesting this was not the case.

Cllr P Wride mentioned a presentation on health risks given three or four years ago by the South West Health Observatory that may be worth re-visiting and gauged interest on this. Interest was evident.

Cllr L Ashton commented on the Land Sale and the need for an update. Mr S McNally suggested that an update could be given at the next meeting

Legacy/looking forward

SSG members engaged in a lively discussion about the need to consider future skills needs in the area.

Cllr P Wride mentioned the Stroud College project to which Ms A Presdee advised that all is quiet and the need for consultation with the LEP's who will be going to the government in March for funds. Mrs S Postans advised that Magnox has a part to play but the key is partnership working. Mr G Vaughan-Lewis felt that the public's expectation is too great and commented how the Nuclear industry are unique in helping with things like employment and do far more than others.

Mr S McNally advised that we can and should work with local government as 2021 is just around the corner. He also gave an insight into the socio-economic benefits to local businesses that will be lost when the site enters care and maintenance.

Mr P Dickensen commented that having heard from Horizon, it is clear they are expanding and there is a shortage of engineers and that there is an opportunity to convince them now about utilising local people.

Cllr P Wride commented about the need to get the college built at Berkeley. She also stated that Haf Morris has requested she write to her to suggest that Berkeley needs a similar study to that done at Chapelcross and Dungeness to evaluate the socio-economic impact of the site entering care and maintenance. The website 'Beyond Chapelcross' has information about the steps they have gone through to learn from.

Ms A Presdee supported moving this forward by getting some background and key people from the South West together.