



## Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 12th June 2015 at 10.00 am  
at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan**

### **Present:**

Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie (representing Annandale South) (Chairman)  
Harry Brown (2km Resident Representative)  
Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)  
John Grierson (Chapelcross Site Director)  
Bill Hamilton (Nuclear Decommissioning Agency, NDA)  
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)  
Martin Macdonald (Scottish Government)  
Ewan McDonald (EHSS&Q Manager, Magnox Limited)  
Gordon McMiken (Scottish Govt Rural Payments and Inspections Division)  
Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)  
Jim Nesbitt (Representative of Federation of Community Councils)  
Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)  
Charles Stewart Roper (Scottish Government)

### **Apologies:**

Chris Brown (D&G Council, Economic Development, Business & Enterprise Manager)  
Nigel Calvert (Public Health Medicine, NHS Dumfries and Galloway)  
Cllr Peter Diggle (representing Annandale North)  
Peter Donnelly (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)  
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale)  
Ewan Green (D&G Council, Head of Economic Development)  
Cllr Craig Peacock (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Vice Chairman)  
David Stone (Scottish Environment Protection Agency, SEPA)  
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)

### **In Attendance:**

Sheila Adams (Minutes)  
Rod Edgar (Press representative, DNG Media)  
Professor Andrew Tyler (Head of Biological and Environmental Sciences, School of  
Natural Sciences, University of Stirling)

### **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr Charles Stewart Roper and Mr Martin Macdonald from the Scottish Government who will make a presentation on the Consultation on an Implementation Strategy for Scotland's Policy on Higher Activity Radioactive Waste. Cllr Ogilvie also welcomed Professor Andrew Tyler from the University of Stirling who is conducting a Habits Survey of Chapelcross on behalf of SEPA.

**2. Announcements and Apologies** *(including Declarations of Interest)*

The Secretary read the Apologies as listed above.

Councillor Marshall confirmed that he is employed by Magnox Limited and was attending the meeting as a Councillor, representing Annandale South.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2015 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Cllr Sean Marshall and seconded by Mr Harry Brown.

In respect of the Action Point from the previous meeting, in response to the Secretary's invitation to Joan McAlpine MSP and Mr Brian Richardson, D&G Chamber of Commerce, to attend the next SSG meeting to explain the proposals referred to in the article in the Annandale Herald on 13 March 2015, Mrs Callander read a letter from Ms McAlpine offering sincere apologies for the oversight in omitting to invite representatives from Chapelcross site to the Parliamentary event, organised by Mr Richardson. Mr Richardson was unable to attend the June SSG meeting and no response had been received from Mr David Byers, Scottish Enterprise. The SSG will wait to hear further from Mr Richardson or Mr Byers – Action closed.

**4. Chapelcross Site Director's Report** *(including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)*

Mr John Grierson presented his report using the attached presentation slides.

To summarise:

The site is proactively working on safety, which remains a priority. Magnox has introduced 'Slips, Trips and Falls' and 'Working at Height' Campaigns across its sites to raise awareness and remedy hazards. The site is awaiting ONR assessment on its Revised Emergency Plan following confirmation that Off Site Emergency Arrangements are no longer required through The Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPiR).

Due to transitional changes across Magnox which has caused some distraction Mr Grierson expects business performance to improve over coming months. Temporary adjustments to the workforce are being made to accommodate the amended work programme. Site routine siren tests are in the process of being reviewed and the amendments will be communicated to local residents in due course.

Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) bid to deliver the decommissioning and site closure programme more efficiently and changes are currently being made to reshape the organisation over the next 17 months. Harwell and Winfrith sites have been relicensed to Magnox. Communications have been issued to staff on a proposed Resourcing Programme for delivery of the Programme. Staff are being advised of structures, followed by a 45 day consultation period. Employees are being given the opportunity to choose from three options, Voluntary redundancies, to remain with Magnox Ltd or to explore the possibility of moving to one of the Parent Body Organisations. The overall reduction in personnel across the Magnox fleet is expected to be 1,400-1,600 by September 2016. Consultation is taking place with Unions, with retraining and alternative roles in other Parent Body Organisations are being explored. Mr Grierson is a member of the Magnox Joint Council working on the restructuring.

The Asbestos Removal Programme is now complete and the teams have left the site. This project started in 2007 and was completed one year ahead of schedule and £5m under budget, which is testament to OCS Environmental Services and a credit to the team. The Electrical Overlay Project is also now complete and was well delivered by local firms, APD Ltd and Storeys. Mr Grierson showed some time lapse photography of work being done on the Heat Exchanger Deplanting and explained the process undertaken using the 500t crane. Smaller 95t cranes will be coming on site in the next week and it was noted that the contractor, Hertel, were doing a good job.

Mr Grierson showed photographs of the Ponds Remediation work and explained the process. The equipment was manufactured in Thurso and is now on site. The Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) store is being redesigned to allow the building to accommodate new waste storage containers. The contract has been let for Land and Groundwater Management. Last year saw a record year for waste dispatches from the site and waste management has got off to a good start this year. Under Asset Care, the building at Warmanbie now has a new roof, with asbestos removed. At some time in the future, this will be deplanted and returned to Scottish Water.

Under the Socio Economic Scheme, £7,255 has been awarded to date.

This includes £2,000 to Youth Beatz, £1,500 to the University of West of Scotland Enterprise Challenge and £1,500 to Annan Riding of the Marches which brings an economic benefit to the area. Other beneficiaries are the Sports Academy Cross Country Championships, Lockerbie Golf Club, Maureen Smith Dancing Championships and Lockerbie Bowling Club.

Mr Grierson concluded his presentation by admitting that although it will be a challenge over the next months, safety will always remain the number one priority at Chapelcross site.

### **Questions and Observations**

Mr McNairn asked if Chapelcross site had any input into the route of the proposed 132 power lines. Mr Grierson advised that the site will respond to the consultation but has no influence.

Mr McNairn asked, with regard to the Heat Exchanger Deplanting Project, if there would be benefit on taking the stack down from the reactor building at the same time as removing the top duct and bridge. Mr Grierson replied that there would be but this is subject to availability of funds. He explained that when Heat Exchangers 3, 4, 5 and 6 are done, a 1200t crane will be used which is capable of moving all of the large pieces of Heat Exchanger and also the stacks. Costings are being analysed to calculate the most appropriate time to do this. The site is also very conscious of the weather and conditions have to be assessed to make sure this is undertaken when there are no hazards.

With regard to the removal of stacks, Cllr Marshall added that it is frustrating to local stakeholders that works cannot be done quicker due to funding. He suggested feeding into the NDA's Strategy 3 on the lack of funding.

Mr Park asked about plans for the workforce when the ducts and bridges are taken down, and if there would be any opportunity for the work to be completed by current employees. Mr Grierson responded that this is likely to involve asbestos work and will probably require to be done by a specialist contractor but self-performing across the site will be looked at.

Cllr Ogilvie congratulated the site on a job well done with the asbestos removal. Referring to the top ducts, he noted that there would be a lot of metal and asked if this would be recycled. Mr Grierson replied that the best techniques will be used and there is every possibility that it can be recycled as it is not heavily contaminated and could be cleaned.

Cllr Marshall asked about the size and removal of the top duct. Mr Grierson estimated the size to be the length of the meeting room and half the width. Cllr Marshall noted the importance of the removal of these large exterior structures and how time critical this work is given that the condition of the metal is deteriorating. It was noted that Hertel have carried out the same work at Calder Hall.

## **5. NDA Reports**

Mr Hamilton reminded members that the Government set up the NDA to run competitions to get work done on behalf of the taxpayer as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Bidders were asked if they could do the decommissioning work in 14 years for a certain budget. Four Companies submitted bids at less than the given costs. Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP) won the competition and took over in September 2014. Their bid however was based on information gathered 18 months before and when they took over and reassessed the position

they requested more funds, which were given by the NDA. The 12 Magnox sites are owned by the Government and the NDA has a duty to decommission these sites as safely, quickly and cost effectively as possible.

In terms of staff restructuring and reductions, CFP is doing what it said it would do in its bid – deliver the same work more cost effectively. Funding is a challenge for the NDA as there is a limited amount of money and more money has been spent on the Magnox sites than has previously been the case. Which sites receive the most money is down to the stage of the life cycle that the site is at with funding being prioritised appropriately across sites.

Mr Hamilton explained that the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review is scheduled for April 2016 and the NDA does not yet know how much its budget will be cut by. The NDA has saved £20m this year as the sites have done more work for less money. There could be a stark contrast between this year's and next year's budget but this is currently speculation and information on budgets will be brought to the SSGs as quickly as possible when it is known.

### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Marshall understood that the amount of funding for sites had to be prioritised and high hazard sites should receive more money than Chapelcross but explained that the local community feel that it would be better and more cost-effective for Chapelcross site to go to Care and Maintenance earlier.

Mr Park agreed that Chapelcross site staff understand the need to provide value for the taxpayer but felt that the job could be done without reducing staff numbers if the main drive of the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) was not to make a profit.

Mr Hamilton responded that the PBO only makes a profit if it meets stringent targets. The Companies are private and have expertise built up over generations and they also have salaries to pay. If the PBO does not meet the targets and make savings, they do not earn any profits. Mr Hamilton reiterated that the NDA was created in 2005 to decommission the nuclear industry. The ultimate success for the NDA is for Chapelcross to be a green field. Chapelcross has been an exemplar of how to work to prepare for this, through socio economics, etc. This is a very different situation to when the pits were closed down for example and significant funding has been invested into communities. Mr Hamilton understood the difficulties and challenges facing the workforce but felt that the NDA had done as much as it could to alleviate the process with support to minimise the impact.

Mr Park asked if the NDA could assist Chapelcross staff with transferable skills in making a transition to Sellafield. Mr Hamilton confirmed that work is going on across the estate to look at issues such as this and opportunities for bringing the estate together. He hoped to be able to provide more information on the opening up of job opportunities at the next meeting. Mr Park stressed the immediacy of the situation as employees could be leaving the site in three months' time.

Cllr Ogilvie asked what would happen with NDA contracts with PBOs if the Government cuts the NDA's funding. Mr Hamilton advised that the contracts are not legally binding and all have termination clauses built in with 12 month notice periods.

With regard to an Energy Park and land management on the Chapelcross Site, Cllr Ogilvie asked how quickly delicensing could be done to sell off land. Mr Hamilton advised that this is not within his remit but he would undertake to find out and respond through the Secretariat.

**❖ Action – Mr Hamilton to provide information on the time required for delicensing of land to the SSG Secretariat for distribution.**

Cllr Ogilvie shared his concerns with regard to the restructuring of the SSG Secretariat role. He considered that it is unmanageable for one person to manage 12 sites and noted that Chapelcross SSG is classed as an exemplar because it works well as it is. He asked how

local arrangements would be put in place and how the constant engagement required would be managed.

❖ **Action – Cllr Ogilvie to give a note of concerns on the restructuring of the SSG Secretariat to Mrs Callander to forward to SSG Chairs.**

**6. Other reports from SSG Bodies –  
ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government, etc.**

**ONR**

Mr Peter Donnelly was unable to attend the meeting. The report from the ONR was included with the meeting papers distributed in advance of the meeting.

**Questions and Observations**

Cllr Ogilvie was pleased to note that the results of the site inspections carried out by ONR were satisfactory and adequate which are the best results.

**SEPA**

Mr David Stone was unable to attend the meeting. A report from SEPA will follow separately.

**7. Scottish Government Presentation**

Mr Charles Stewart Roper advised that during the consultation period between January and April on the UK Strategy for the Management of Low Level Waste, 51 responses had been received. Responses are being collated and a Nuclear Industry Strategy for Management of Low Level Waste should be finalised in September 2015.

Mr Martin Macdonald gave a presentation on the Consultation on an Implementation Strategy for Scotland's Policy on Higher Activity Radioactive Waste, hard copies of which were available at the meeting or can be downloaded from the Scottish Government's website. Mr Macdonald recorded his thanks to the SSG for its support.

**Questions and Observations**

Cllr Ogilvie referred to page 6 of the Consultation Document, under Summary, and asked what the difference is between storage and disposal. Mr Macdonald summarised that it depends on the intention and full definitions of each can be found in the document.

Cllr Marshall referred to the subsidiary of the NDA dealing with policy on Graphite Disposal Facilities (GDFs) in England and Wales. He noted that sites in England and Wales will store on site until GDFs are built and asked what the Scottish Government's disposal solutions are and why Scotland has departed from the concept agreed in England and Wales and other countries.

Mr Macdonald confirmed that the Scottish Government's principle is that the waste should not be 'out of sight, out of mind'. Mr Roper added that the policy is a starting point and there is work to be done to determine the best way forward. Options are being looked at across England and Wales because of the cost of GDFs.

Cllr Ogilvie referred to paragraphs 3.3.3 and 3.3.4 on page 12 of the document regarding the need to establish a baseline and thought that this was already established. Mr Grierson clarified that work has been done with stakeholders to establish a baseline and the assumption is that waste will be disposed of by 2043.

On page 13 of the document, under paragraph 3.3.9, Cllr Ogilvie asked about the range of waste management and near surface disposal opportunities. Mr Roper responded that initial work has been done by the NDA but there is still more work to be done. It is important to prioritise the decisions to be made and keep options open.

Cllr Marshall commented that people accept and welcome decommissioning. Although the decision does not have to be made now, people do want to know what the final resting place of the waste will be.

Cllr Ogilvie asked if the package referred to in paragraph 3.4.12 on page 16 of the document would be compatible with the rest of the UK. Mr Macdonald advised that the Scottish Government will work closely with the NDA and other research bodies.

Referring to paragraph 4.1.22 on page 24, Cllr Ogilvie asked if there was a conflict between what is currently being done with Site Stakeholder Groups (SSGs) and what the Scottish Government proposes. Mr Macdonald replied that this will be the subject of separate discussions with the NDA.

In paragraph 4.1.25 on page 24, Cllr Ogilvie added that the local authorities will still need community engagement.

Cllr Ogilvie asked who would be responsible for paying for the skills and supply referred to in chapter 4.1.29 on page 25. The Scottish Government sometimes jointly funds this with the NDA and is open to suggestions. Work will be done with colleagues across the Scottish Government to look at an Energy Skills programme.

Cllr Marshall asked about the practicalities of responding to the consultation and whether this should be done individually or by forming a Sub Group. It was agreed that comments should be fed back to Mrs Callander for collation.

❖ **Action – All members wishing to respond to the consultation to forward comments to the SSG Secretariat for collation and responding to the Scottish Government. The deadline for responses is 7th August 2015.**

## **8. External Meetings and Invitations – NDA Strategy Workshop, 19 May, Manchester**

Cllr Ogilvie had attended this event which was in a new marketplace format of having different stands with specialists at each and it was agreed that this had worked well.

### **SSG Chair's Meeting with Magnox Executive, 20 May, Manchester**

Cllr Ogilvie reported on this interesting meeting with Cavendish Fluor Partnership which included discussions on safety, future plans and structural and operational changes.

### **Scottish Sites Meeting, 14 May, Edinburgh**

Cllr Marshall reported on this meeting facilitated by the Scottish Government. Cllr Marshall thanked Mr Roper and Mr Macdonald for attending the Hunterston and Chapelcross SSG meetings to give presentations. Cllr Marshall reported that a very interesting presentation had been given by Dounreay site at the meeting, which included how the site had addressed a skills shortage by recruiting graduates for the first time and offering apprenticeships. The presentation was followed by the usual updates from the statutory bodies and reports from the other sites. There had also been a discussion on the Submarine Waste Dismantling project, where Scottish Ministers had fed in to the process.

## **9. CoReS Update**

Mrs Chris Brown was on annual leave and Mr Ewan Green was unable to attend the meeting. A written report will follow. Cllr Ogilvie had spoken informally to Karen Dickens from the NDA on where the Beyond Chapelcross project might go after 2017 and Mr Green will discuss this formally with the NDA.

Cllr Marshall advised that the first draft of the Chapelcross Development Framework Project report was being prepared for consultation on future uses of Chapelcross site.

**10. Any Other Business**

Cllr Ogilvie introduced Professor Andrew Tyler from the University of Stirling who explained that he is conducting a Habits Survey of the Chapelcross area, on behalf of SEPA, and has issued 1,000 questionnaires to seek an overview of what people consume, where they buy food, what their hobbies and interests are, etc. Responses will be collected and used as a basis for face to face interviews. Road surveys will also be carried out, with the Survey completed by the end of August 2015. The results will be reported to SEPA and available on its website. Professor Tyler offered to report the results of the Survey to a future SSG meeting.

**11. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**12. Next Meeting – Friday 11th September 2015**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and also gave thanks to the people in the background who facilitate the meetings. The meeting closed at 12.05 pm.