



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 13th March 2015 at 10.00 am
at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan**

Present:

Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie (representing Annandale South) (Chairman)
Cllr Craig Peacock (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Vice Chairman)
Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)
John Grierson (Chapelcross Site Director)
Ewan McDonald (EHSS&Q Manager, Magnox Limited)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Bill Hamilton (Nuclear Decommissioning Agency, NDA)
Chris Kemp (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)
Peter Donnelly (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)
Ewan Young (Scottish Government)
David Stone (SEPA)
Gordon McMiken (Scottish Govt Rural Payments and Inspections Division)
Harry Brown (2km Resident Representative)
Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)
Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)
Ewan Green (D&G Council, Head of Economic Development)

Apologies:

Cllr Peter Diggle (representing Annandale North)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)
Chris Brown (D&G Council, Economic Development, Business & Enterprise Manager)
Jim Nesbitt (Representative of Federation of Community Councils)
Martin Brown (Representative of Federation of Community Councils)
Jonathan Burgess (Cumbria Resilience Unit)
Dave Clarke (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)
Steven Bennett (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)
David Mundell, MSP
Elaine Murray, MSP

In Attendance:

Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Rod Edgar (Press representative, DNG Media)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year.

2. Announcements and Apologies (including Declarations of Interest)

The Secretary gave 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 12th December 2014 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Cllr Craig Peacock and seconded by Mr Willie McNairn.

Action carried forward – Mrs Anderson to report back on the NDA role's in the decision making process of the selected site for the Submarine Dismantling – ongoing

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

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

In summary:

The last quarter had presented some challenges on site due to the adverse weather conditions. The week of 9 March had been exceptionally busy with a Level 1 Demonstration Exercise, which received a satisfactory outcome. SEPA had also undertaken its Annual Review, which had resulted in 'good compliance'. The previous issues with slightly increased levels of tritium discharge in building B141 had been resolved. The amount of work achieved had dropped slightly as new changes in strategy are introduced.

The Asbestos Removal programme will not feature in the Report again as it has reached the end of an 8 year project, with 3,300 tonnes of asbestos material being removed safely. Final Stage 3 clearance has been received for Reactor 1 and the focus now is to remove scaffolding etc and clear the job safely.

The Heat Exchanger Deplanting is the start of the next big three year project. New equipment has been installed in the Electrical Overlay and this will be completed by the financial year end. Ponds remediation is beginning to gain momentum. Three flasks have been cleared, with six to go. The anticipated better weather to come will help other projects. Design work for the retrieval and packaging of operational Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) has come to fruition and is now in the manufacturing stage. Under Waste Management, 878 boxes of asbestos have been cleared by a high resolution assay monitor (HIRAM), with 2,400 to go. A daily shipping schedule is in place. Under Asset Care, scaffolding work is being done at Warmanbie to remove asbestos from buildings and install a new roof.

Mr Bill Hamilton, NDA, entered the meeting at 10.13 am.

The Socio Economic Scheme had seen a healthy year with £51,070 being awarded, compared to £34,380 in the previous year. .

Mr Grierson concluded his presentation by reiterating, as always, that safety remains the number one priority at Chapelcross site.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Peacock understood the delay with the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) storage facility but asked if this meant that the current waste preparatory works would have to be halted. Mr Grierson confirmed the programme is running later than he would have liked but this will have no real impact and the retrieval of waste would not be delayed. A temporary store could be used if necessary but this would not be his preferred option as it is more expensive. Chapelcross will have a full range of storage facilities and is not a major task to redesign as it is already exists.

Cllr Marshall remarked on the media attention being received by the Asbestos project and asked the whereabouts of the final destination of the 3,300 tonnes of asbestos. Mr Grierson advised that this is in licenced sites in Scotland and Preston. Mr Grierson commended OCS Environmental Services and its personnel which have undertaken the Asbestos Removal programme for their diligent performance and good safety focus in a difficult job.

Cllr Ogilvie asked if water could still be pumped at Warmanbie. Mr Grierson confirmed that the basic structure is still there but much of the infrastructure to the building has been

removed as part of the decommissioning of the site so the pumping of water would not be able to take place. He confirmed that site is owned by Scottish Water.

Cllr Ogilvie congratulated Mr Grierson on a successful Level 1 Demonstration Exercise. Mr Grierson added that this was challenging but the site is fortunate to receive tremendous support from the local rescue services.

5. NDA Reports including Update on Submarine Dismantling project

Mr Hamilton apologised for arriving late due to dealing with an urgent issue.

Mr Hamilton advised that Mrs Kelly Anderson had attended the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) public consultations on behalf of the NDA, which had been done very well by the MoD. The NDA understands that Chapelcross SSG does not wish to be the selected site. Following the consultation and public engagement, a report is awaited from the MoD. This discussion closed out the action on Kelly Anderson mentioned earlier.

The NDA announcement on the future management arrangements at Sellafield have attracted much publicity. A twelve month notice period has been given to the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) and the transition towards new arrangements is going well.

The NDA's draft Business Plan is out for consultation and the approved version will be published before the end of March. This will contain a page on Chapelcross site and the NDA allocation of funding and key points of activity for the site over the next three years. Mr Hamilton emphasised that although the Work Programme is for a three year period, the NDA currently has a one year budget and there will be a Spending Review after the General Election. The NDA will make a case to Treasury officials on the importance of the Nuclear Decommissioning Programme. The NDA was very successful at the last Spending Review and hopes to have similar success this time to ensure a viable Decommissioning Programme.

Cavendish Fluor Partnership is now bedding in as the new Parent Body Organisation and is undertaking a status review of assets and liabilities, for which there is a twelve month period built into the Contract.

The NDA's Chief Executive was in front of the Public Accounts Commission where he got a good hearing and was well received. There are always challenges in industry but the conclusions were positive and the media reports were fair and balanced.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall was pleased to hear that the termination of the Contract of the Parent Body Organisation at Sellafield would not affect other sites but asked if increasing costs would affect other sites. Mr Hamilton confirmed that this would not be the case and nuclear provision is very different to the site budgets which are allocated.

Cllr Marshall was pleased to see that the NDA had noted the views of the local community during the MoD Submarine Waste Dismantling project consultations and asked if the NDA could embargo any decision by the MoD if Chapelcross or Sellafield was selected as the preferred site. Mr Hamilton considered this a hypothetical question which he was unable to comment on at this stage and asked that the SSG let the MoD work through its process and leave a detailed discussion of the subject to the appropriate time, if this is necessary.

Cllr Marshall noted that Chapelcross SSG was not represented at the NDA meeting in February specifically to discuss Socio Economics, which was carried forward from the NSG Event in Birmingham in October 2014. Mr Hamilton advised that the meeting was very well attended and confirmed that stakeholder engagement and socio economics are not changing at a strategic level within the NDA. He advised that a wider forum may be brought together over the next year to share issues and problems. The NDA would like to be more actively engaged with local Authorities going forward and there is a failure by some SSGs to report back to the relevant local Authorities, but this does not apply to Chapelcross SSG.

Representatives of SSGs will be invited to NDA events on enabling strategies throughout the year. The NDA is also advising on procedures for formalising SSG meetings to help SSGs run themselves better but Mr Hamilton considered that Chapelcross SSG is very well run.

Mr Park commented on the limited time left for Chapelcross employees and asked if the NDA could move personnel from Chapelcross to Sellafield to increase future employment opportunities for Chapelcross staff. Mr Hamilton replied that Skills Strategy is a Critical Enabler for the NDA and advised bringing this up with senior Human Resources personnel within the NDA who will be present at the events in May and September. He added that the NDA would be supportive of the transition of workforce between sites but would not be able to hold up works to achieve this although it would try to align processes where possible.

Cllr Ogilvie apologised for not being able to attend the SSG Chair's meeting on Socio Economics due to illness and asked if he could receive feedback or notes from the meeting. Mr Hamilton confirmed that a note of the meeting will be circulated in due course.

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

ONR

Mr Chris Kemp referred to his report in the pack of meeting papers. He had been present at the site for two weeks in this quarter, one in respect of electrical and back-up systems and the other to observe and judge the Level 1 Demonstration Exercise. Mr Kemp commended the support given by the Police, Fire and Ambulance Crews which is achieved through a good relationship with Chapelcross site and hoped this continued in the future.

Mr Kemp referred to changes in senior personnel – the Nuclear Safety Inspector is now Mr David Clarke. Mr Kemp introduced Mr Peter Donnelly who will replace him as Site Nuclear Safety Inspector. Mr Kemp described Chapelcross site as a safe place to work and live near and looked forward to hearing news from Mr Donnelly on the site's progress.

Cllr Ogilvie thanked Mr Kemp for his work on site and attendance and input to SSG meetings and welcomed Mr Donnelly to the Steering Group.

SEPA

Mr David Stone apologised for being absent from the December meeting. He advised of the results of the regulatory site inspections throughout 2014. In 2013 the site had received the top score of 'excellent' on Compliance Assessment reports. In 2014 this result was 'good' due to a couple of non-compliant areas, namely the tritium discharge issue in building B141, which had prevented the site receiving the 'excellent' status in 2014. The B141 tritium discharge was a very complex issue which had been well handled by the site with complete transparency. SEPA was satisfied that there was no impact from the discharge on human health or on the environment, which was thought to be as a result of deterioration of seals within temporary storage vessels. As a temporary measure until the site enters Interim Care and Maintenance, the site has applied for a variation in Authorisation and is using additional polythene bags and PVC covers to minimise any leakage.

Cllr Ogilvie was pleased to see that the site had found a practical way of dealing with the packing and Mr Stone confirmed that the site is in control of the storage vessels and looking at solutions.

Scottish Government

Mr Ewan Young highlighted the main aspects of his report, as follows:

UK Strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Waste (LLW) from the Nuclear Industry

This consultation was launched on 27 January and will close on 21 April 2015. Consultation has been adopted jointly by all 4 UK administrations in support of the LLW Policy which was published in 2007.

The consultation document evidences that the direction of the strategy remains unchanged, as do the 3 themes in the original document. These are:

- Application of the waste hierarchy
- The best use of existing LLW management assets
- The need for new fit-for-purpose waste management routes

The strategy provides a framework for continued capability and capacity for the safe, secure and environmentally responsible management and disposal of LLW in the UK. Public engagement with this consultation and responses to the questions asked are necessary to ensure that Government has the opportunity to consider all views on the review of the strategy. The consultation and associated documents are on the DECC website and can be accessed from the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-an-update-of-the-uk-strategy-for-the-management-of-solid-low-level-radioactive-waste-from-the-nuclear-industry>

Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) Strategy

The objective of the strategy is to ensure that UK NORM waste can be disposed of safely and efficiently. The NORM Strategy Implementation Group has now met twice and is focussing on the progression of a number of specific areas of the strategy.

These include:

- Offshore treatment and disposal options
- Averaging and characterisation of NORM waste
- Compilation of data on NORM waste arisings

Scottish Nuclear Sites Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 14 May 2015. The meeting will take place in the Scottish Government Victoria Quay premises. An agenda is being put together and is expected to include 2 presentations from differing sites. A call for the relevant stakeholder update reports will be issued in early April following the Easter holiday period (2 April to 7 April 2015).

6. External Meetings and Invitations – SSG Chair’s Meeting with the NDA on 24th February 2015

There was no separate report on this meeting due to Cllr Ogilvie being unwell and unable to attend the meeting.

Cllr Ogilvie referred to a Chapelcross Charrette, involving Chapelcross SSG, Dumfries and Galloway Council and the NDA, which took place over two days to formulate a plan and included visits to MoD sites at Longtown and Easttriggs, as well as the NDA’s Chapelcross site. This was facilitated by Gillespies, Consultants. Cllr Ogilvie was very disappointed to subsequently see an article in the Annandale Observer today regarding talks specifically on the future of Chapelcross site as an Energy Storage facility arranged by Joan McAlpine MSP and Mr Brian Richardson the new CEO of Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce attended by David Byers of Scottish Enterprise. The SSG questioned why they were acting independently of the Charrette.

Cllr Marshall echoed Cllr Ogilvie’s concerns over the apparently independent working of Joan McAlpine, Brian Richardson and David Byers, according to the newspaper article. Cllr

Marshall suggested that they be invited to attend an SSG meeting to explain their position to the SSG.

Action – Mrs Callander to invite Joan McAlpine MSP and Mr Brian Richardson , D&G Chamber of Commerce, to the next SSG meeting to explain the proposals referred to in the article in the Annandale Observer on 13 March 2015.

8. CoReS Update

In the absence of Mrs Brown, Mr Ewan Green reminded members of the Year 3 Update Report of the Beyond Chapelcross project, discussed at the last meeting, and advised that he is leading discussions internally within the Council as part of the mid-term review for the future of Chapelcross beyond Year 5.

The Charrette alluded to by Cllr Ogilvie was the starting point to build momentum for future regeneration and economic uses and there will be further engagement with the SSG on aspirations and ambitions. The Consultants, Gillespies, will feed back on their findings of the Charrette and this will allow the Chapelcross Framework to develop.

Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Enterprise are working to pull together an overarching strategy for the wider M74 area, looking at potential for new businesses and employment.

In respect of the MoD Submarine Dismantling project, Mr Green advised that the Council's Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, at its meeting on 19 February 2015, agreed to submit a formal response opposing the proposal on the grounds of lack of wider economic community benefits, a neutral score on the Environmental Assessment (rather than negative impact) and an undermining of work already done to regenerate the area. There are also significant natural assets in the area which could be adversely affected.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Ogilvie was pleased that the Council and Chapelcross SSG had got the public engaged and thinking about the future of Chapelcross site.

10. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business raised.

11. Public Forum

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

12. Next Meeting – Friday 12th June 2015

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 11.15 am.