

**DUNGENESS A SITE AND B POWER STATION**  
**DUNGENESS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING**

**Visitor Centre, Dungeness B**

**Thursday, 22 October 2015**

**10.00 for 10.30**

**Attendance:**

Cllr Lord Ampthill	-	Rother District Council
Ms K Anderson	-	NDA
Mr G Baldock	-	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Mrs L Barton	-	Lydd Airport Action Group
Cllr P Coe	-	New Romney Town Council
Dr L Davies	-	ONR (Dun B)
Ms J Dear	-	Natural England
Mr P Fahey	-	Environment Agency
Mrs T Finn	-	SSG Secretariat
Dr L Franks	-	Minute Taker
Mr P Hetherington	-	Magnox
Ms C Igoe	-	Romney Marsh Partnership
Mr A Jakeways	-	ONR (Dun A)
Mr R Lavender	-	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Cllr D Lawton	-	New Romney Town Council
Cllr J Link	-	Ashford Borough Council
Mr O Leyshon	-	Romney Marsh Countryside Project
Ms J Moakes	-	Environment Agency
Mrs H Morris	-	Dungeness A Site
Mr A Parry	-	Independent Vice Chairman
Mrs K Paterson	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr M Pearson	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Cllr A Rodriguez	-	New Romney Town Council
Ms J Sanders	-	EDF Generation
Col G Smythe	-	Independent Chairman
Mr R Starbuck	-	Dungeness B Power Station
Mr P Wilkinson	-	Dungeness A Site

**Guests:**

Ms A Bamping	-	Natural England
Mr M Koskelainen	-	NDA

## **I INTRODUCTION**

- 3378 Col. Smythe welcomed Catherine Igoe, the new Romney Marsh Partnership Coordinator, members and guests to the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group (SSG).

## **II APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 3379 The following apologies were received:

Mr B Botley	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Cllr M Burgess	-	Ashford Borough Council
Mr T Clegg	-	Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries
Mr D Dodman	-	SJC Dungeness A Site
Chief Inspector Elmes	-	Kent Police
Mr T Hills	-	Independent Member
Cllr E Last	-	Lydd Town Council
Ms L Newell	-	Holiday Inn North Ashford
Cll P Osborne	-	Rother District Council
Cllr P Simmons	-	Shepway District Council
Ms M Stuart	-	Kent Against a Radioactive Environment
Cllr C Waters	-	Kent County Council
Mr J Wroblewski	-	Dungeness B Power Station

## **III MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

- 3380 The minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> SSG meeting held on 21 April 2015 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **IV CORRESPONDENCE**

- 3381 A list of correspondence, distributed to SSG members, was made available to attendees at this meeting. Chairman advised that hard copies were available on request.

## **V MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING**

- 3382 Chairman advised that no action points had been raised at the previous meeting. He drew attention to paragraph 3356 regarding proposed Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) storage at Bradwell site and sought an update. Mr Wilkinson advised that the residue ILW from the Bradwell Fuel Element Debris (FED) processed at Dungeness would be consolidated and returned to Bradwell for storage. He advised that the current waste management strategy was to store all ILW waste from Dungeness, Bradwell and Sizewell sites in the ILW store at Bradwell, adding the caveat that this strategy may be revised.

- 3383 Comments from attendees were invited and none were forthcoming.

## VI DUNGENESS A CLOSURE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3384 Mr Paul Wilkinson, Closure Director, advised of his title change and that he had also been appointed as the Regional Closure Director, with oversight of Sizewell and Bradwell as well as Dungeness A. He drew attention to the written report dated May - October 2015, highlighting the following:

- *Safety Event*: One significant near miss event involving the inner security barrier gates. An operative had opened one of the gates (weighing approx. 1 tonne), the top hinge had failed and the gate had fallen, closely missing the individual. The root cause of the event was poor design and the failure to undertake independent oversight of this, enabling a weak design to be utilised. Significant lessons have been learnt and shared with the fleet resulting in the removal of several of the gates.
- *Conventional Safety*: Several working at height incidents at other sites have resulted in an increased vigilance to potential hazards at Dungeness site, with emphasis upon personal accountability for safety and warning against complacency.
- *Site Clearance*: Good progress with south side site clearance project now complete.
- *Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) programme*: Now building a facility to house a waste processing plant.
- *Ponds programme*: good progress has been made. Divers are to be deployed to decommission the ponds in a trial to establish the productivity and economics of their use. Preparations are underway to remove IONSIV cartridges and filters and send these to Oldbury site for reprocessing.
- *Fuel Element Debris (FED)*: Programme nearing completion with last two drums currently undergoing dissolution. Thereafter, the plant will be decommissioned.
- *Site Separation*: Dungeness A is now a Cat 4 site and Dungeness B is Cat 3, meaning that different levels of security are required for each. Separation of the sites is progressing and likely to be complete by February 2015.
- *Right-sizing the Workforce*: 50-60 Magnox employees will be leaving Dungeness site over next 6-8months.
- *Emergency Scheme Arrangements*: ONR have approved the new arrangements and issued the Licence Instrument. On 20 October 2015 a successful demonstration was undertaken to show that the new arrangements are fit for purpose. The exercise involved a significant personal injury in a contaminated area and under current arrangements a first aider attended the injured individual (realistically played by an amputee) within four minutes. Under previous arrangements that required a retreat, regroup and then re-enter, the casualty would have died. The emphasis is upon making arrangements fit for the current circumstances.
- *Control Room*: the central control room was de-manned in September and is now only visited periodically for specific operational requirements.

3385 Questions and comments were invited and Col. Smythe asked Mr Wilkinson to comment upon the new Environmental Management Plan. Mr Wilkinson explained that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations require that each year the site produces an Environmental Management Plan to describe the strategy for the forthcoming year including planned actions and mitigating practices to ensure

minimised impact on the environment. This has just been completed for Dungeness A site.

## VII DUNGENESS B STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3386 Mr Martin Pearson, Station Director, drew attention to his written report dated 22 October 2015, describing the year so far as very good in terms of safety and generation and drawing attention to the following aspects of his report:

- *Generation:* Approx three weeks ahead the generation plan with both reactors anticipated to operate at full power until the end of this year.
- *Outage:* Statutory triennial major outage was undertaken in the summer that has enabled a £40million investment in plant. All technical challenges were satisfactorily resolved. Refuelling outages, that each take 10 days, will be undertaken in the forthcoming year.
- *Visitors:* EDF Energy have received over 100,000 visitors to their UK wide visitor centres with the actual 100,000<sup>th</sup> visitor greeted at Dungeness B by EDF Energy CEO Vincent De Rivaz. Total visitors to Dungeness B site alone now exceeds 10,000. Liaison with schools includes off-site visits to talk about energy production.
- *Safety:* Contamination (defined as radiation that is mobile) an event occurred when using the radiation cells (isolation boxes) to overhaul a mechanical plug unit. Four operatives received an external dose of 1mSv (the equivalent dose of flying to America) and whilst extremely low, this level of contamination is unexpected and is therefore being fully investigated. Four Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR) events have occurred to date this year. These have not caused any lost time but have required medical attention. Overall a very positive year in terms of safety.
- *Emergency Arrangements:* Report advises that routine site incident alarms are tested weekly on Thursdays; it is actually Monday and will occur at 11am.
- *Community:* Report highlights community events including a BBQ to congratulate staff on the successful completion of the major outage. Confirmation of Chinese support of Hinkley Point C enables other consortium projects to move forward.
- *Beach Feeding:* This will be restarted later this season. EA are the lead on this project. Meetings with local residents are being undertaken to ensure that community concerns are addressed.
- *Seal:* A seal (Christine) is currently awaiting release from the fore bay.

3387 Mr Lavender advised that questions of security, now that the Chinese have invested in new build, have been raised at the Chamber of Commerce. He questioned whether the control of production was retained by the site operators or remotely by the site owners. Mr Pearson confirmed that there is no remote control. The control room is regulated by the UK, irrespective of owners. All controls are considered within the UK regulators' generic design assessment. The data processing control system is not linked to the internet. Certain plant components can be linked to diagnostic programmes contained on laptops under very stringent controls. Mr Davies added that the UK licensing regime requires the licensee to be a UK corporate organisation meaning that control of the site rests within the UK. Mr Pearson added that the Chinese-designed reactor is currently the most reliable in the world.

3388 Q: Has EDF Energy purchased the Dungeness estate?

- A: EDF Energy has expressed interest, are currently awaiting news and will communicate this as it is received.
- Q: Surely there is a security risk if you are not successful. What happens if you do not like the new owners?
- A: I can answer more fully once the new owners are known.
- Q: Are you concerned?
- A: No. The site is already licensed and this includes adequate security arrangements, regulated by ONR, irrespective of neighbouring land. I am confident in these arrangements.

## VIII OFFICE for NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT FOR DUNGENESS A.

3389 Andrew Jakeways, Dungeness A Site Inspector, drew attention to his two quarterly written reports produced since the last SSG meeting dated 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015 and 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015 and in particular to the following:

- *Compliance Inspections:* four safety inspections undertaken during April, May, June and August. Two security inspections undertaken by the ONR security team. Inspections considered 11 of 36 Licence Conditions, checked for compliance with several different regulations and included a systems inspection of containment structures (reactor buildings & ponds). The outcome of all inspections were satisfactory.
- *Meetings:* Two were held regarding the revised emergency arrangements and the use of divers in the ponds.
- *Two on-site demonstrations:* Re: counter-terrorism, emergency arrangements. Both were satisfactory and suggestions for minor improvements of the latter have been fed back. The new emergency arrangements were demonstrated as enabling a far quicker response.
- *Unannounced Inspection:* Undertaken last night to test how the site would deal with an emergency during 'silent hours'. The site was able to demonstrate a satisfactory response.
- *Non-routine Matters:* During the April to June quarter, five events were reported with no nuclear or radiological consequences. One later proved to be a non-event. Last quarter only one event was reported (the gate event); a conventional safety matter that had significant potential consequence. All actions taken have been adequate.
- *Licence Instrument:* One issued in last two quarters; approval of revised emergency arrangements. Very positive response from safety representatives. Successful demonstrations reflect that these new arrangements are well embedded.
- *News from ONR:* ONR Chief Nuclear Inspector, Dr Andy Hall, has announced his retirement and will be on a leave of absence until this takes effect in November. Dr Richard Savage is now Acting Chief Nuclear Inspector pending the process to appoint a permanent replacement.

3390 Chairman invited questions and none were forthcoming.

## **IX OFFICE for NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR) REPORT FOR DUNGENESS B**

3391 Dr Les Davis, Dungeness B Site Inspector, drew attention to his two quarterly written reports produced since the last SSG meeting dated 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015 and 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015. He reminded attendees that he had verbally reported content of the April to June quarter report at the previous SSG meeting. The following points from the July to September report were highlighted:

- *Reactor 22 Outage:* ONR appointed a project Inspector and specialist Inspectors to work alongside Dr Davies to ensure that this 'MOT' had been carried out appropriately and provide the confidence to enable formal consent for the reactor to restart. There were eight visits to site during the outage.
- *Non-routine Matters:* A storm on 13 August 2015 caused ingress of water to several buildings resulting in spurious fire alarms in several areas. A full site muster was called by the licensee and observed by Dr Davies. Whilst there were no direct challenges to site operation, there were some lessons learned from adverse weather conditions and the impact of these will be monitored by ONR.

3392 Chairman invited questions and none were forthcoming.

## **X ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE FOR DUNGENESS A AND DUNGENESS B**

3393 Phil Fahey, EA Site Inspector for Dungeness A, introduced himself as the new incumbent having formally taken over from Andrew Pynn on 1 October. He briefly described his background and highlighted the following:

- *Site Visits:* Familiarisation visit was undertaken during July; a satisfactory inspection was undertaken in August regarding the arrangements for ponds decommissioning; the arrangements for undertaking and reporting the environmental monitoring programme was undertaken in September. The inspections were found to be satisfactory with no non-compliances, however, some recommendations were made. A recent inspection regarding asset management will be reported upon at the next SSG meeting.
- *Re-accreditation:* site received the Environment Agency Monitoring Certificate Scheme re-accreditation in July, for the liquid effluent discharge samplers on both the FED dissolution plant and the active effluent water treatment plant (AEWTP).
- *Discharge Reports:* liquid and gaseous discharges from both sites remain within the limits set by the Environmental Permit.
- *Environmental Events:* No significant events on site since the last SSG meeting.

3394 Chairman invited questions and none were forthcoming.

3395 Jo Moakes, EA Site Inspector for Dungeness B, referred to the written report and in particular to the following sections:

- *Environmental Monitoring:* Dungeness B undertake environmental monitoring for both A site and B station and alongside this the EA undertake environmental monitoring as detailed in the annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report. The EA have reviewed their environmental monitoring programme following the technical guidance note taking into account the ranges, types, frequency and size of samples to reflect the discharges from the sites. The key

change is to include grass sampling during the year to quantify any gaseous depositions. This monitoring regime will be reviewed every 3-4 years or if there are any changes in the discharge profile.

- *Groundwater Tritium*: a minor discharge was reported adjacent to the boiler water storage tanks in December 2014. The EA have reviewed the subsequent investigation report and considered the relevant operating procedures and have now issued a warning letter. This letter reflects inadequate asset management rather than any concerns about environmental impact. The station is continuing to carrying out inspection of all pipework (to be completed by end of this year) and the EA are satisfied with this response.
- *Gaseous and aqueous waste*: The station is undertaking several improvements to enable plant life extension. EA will continue to monitor these.
- *Eels Regulations*: The cost benefit assessment of best available techniques report is currently being reviewed by the EA with initial assessment expected by 31 October 2015. **Action Jo Moakes to provide an update on progress with this at the next meeting.**

3394 Ms Moakes invited questions and Chairman commented that he had been invited to the Eels Regulations review meeting but was unable to attend. Ms Moakes advised that this invitation had been extended to interested parties.

3395 Q: What are the issues with eels?

A: The eels referred to are glass eels that are barely visible and may enter the cooling water systems of the station. Filters are used to prevent the ingress of any wildlife or debris into the cooling system. A further update will provided at the next SSG meeting.

## XI NDA UPDATE

3396 Kelly Anderson introduced herself, apologised for being unable to attend the previous SSG meeting and advised that a key focus for the NDA was the third iteration of the NDA Strategy document. She drew attention to the NDA update for October and drew attention to the following:

- *NDA Website*: The transition to the central government website ([www.gov.uk/nda](http://www.gov.uk/nda)) will complete at the end of November. Any comments or issues please contact [sophie.palmer@nda.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.palmer@nda.gov.uk)
- *Archive*: Building works to house the archive is now underway adjacent to Wick John O'Groats airport.
- *Chapelcross Asbestos*: The project to strip asbestos from the Chapelcross site has now completed a year ahead of time.
- *Dungeness Turbine Hall*: Now demolished.

3397 Ms Anderson introduced her colleague, Markku Koskelainen, and advised that he would provide a detailed overview of the content of the NDA Draft Key Strategy. She advised the following points about the development of this draft strategy:

- Energy Act 2004 requires NDA to review, update and consult on their strategy every 5 years.
- Formal Government approval is required by end of March for final strategy plan implementation from 1 April 2016.

- Specific operating targets are identified in the NDA business plan.
  - DECC have steered the NDA to reflect any implications for the strategy that may result from the Government spending review (outcomes end of November)
  - NDA are keen to hear views of stakeholders on the draft strategy by the end of November before producing a final draft by end of January 2016 in readiness for the formal 6 week public consultation.
  - National Stakeholder Event, previously scheduled for 24 September 2015, has been moved to January 2016 to coincide with the 6 week formal consultation period.
- 3398 Chairman invited questions and the choice of location for the archive (at Wick) was queried. Ms Anderson replied that the location was less relevant as much of the information would be available electronically. Mr Koskelainen added that this choice of location was partly to assist with socio-economic development of the area.
- 3399 Mr Koskelainen introduced himself and explained the revised timeline to take account of the spending review. He advised that the draft strategy was available on the NDA website and encouraged attendees to feedback on this emerging thinking prior to the formal consultation and again during the consultation itself. He offered to provide paper copies of the draft strategy as required.
- 3400 Mr Koskelainen clarified the changes incorporated into the new strategy explaining that, for example, the previous theme 'Business Optimisation' was now captured under the theme 'Critical Enablers' and that 'Funding' had been removed as a topic under 'Critical Enablers' and was now given prominence as an overriding influence on the final strategy. He explained that site decommissioning and remediation (formerly site restoration) was the driving strategic theme and that all the other strategies support or enable its delivery.
- 3401 Mr Koskelainen briefly ran through the key topics in the document and hi-lighted changes from the previous version, for example, a new key topic has been developed called 'Land Use' to optimise the re-use of NDA sites. He explained that within the strategy document that there are information boxes that detail current thinking, possible options and key questions that could be raised. This also includes details of case studies to explain current thinking.
- 3402 Within 'Spent Fuels' it was noted that there are the same three topics (spent Magnox fuel; spent oxide fuel and spent exotic fuel) and a clear commitment that the THORP and Magnox reprocessing plants will complete reprocessing in the next five years.
- 3403 Mr Koskelainen described the strategy with 'Nuclear Materials' as unchanged. It was noted that plutonium stocks will be consolidated at Sellafield and uraniums at Capenhurst. The UK Government have decided to place all plutonium beyond reach and NDA are providing strategic options to implement this policy.
- 3404 It was noted that 'Integrated Waste Management' had been revised to three key topics; Radioactive Waste; Liquid and Gaseous Discharges; Non-radioactive Waste. In the previous version the level of radioactivity in the waste had been differentiated. The strategy now focuses on dealing with waste through its lifecycle including new treatment and alternative disposal options.
- 3405 Mr Koskelainen read through the slides for the 13 critical enablers including the key objective and what is changing for each. It was noted that these slides describe how the strategic goals will deliver benefits to the public.

- 3406 Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback on the draft strategy (available on the NDA website or in hard copy on request). Mr Koskelainen particularly asked for comments on the questions posed within the strategy document to ensure the most effective formal consultation.
- 3407 Chairman invited questions. Ms Igoe asked whether the NDA liaise with the site about ensuring appropriate staffing / skills to undertake the work required. Mr Wilkinson offered to speak further with Ms Igoe in more depth but explained that with site closures there will be migration of resources but that some workers will choose to only work locally. CFP have offered all staff that want continued employment to apply for positions within CFP, but that this may require relocation. Mr Koskelainen added that NDA have discussions with CFP at a strategic level rather than consider the specific needs of individual sites and corresponding employees. Ms Anderson added that the NDA consider longer term requirements and have for example, outreach projects with schools to ensure that workers of the future are appropriately skilled.
- 3408 Q: Can hard copies of the strategy be provided?  
A: Yes. **Action: Ms Anderson agreed to provide four copies to the secretariat for distribution.**
- 3409 Q: What is likely to be archived at Wick? What access will the public have?  
A: Anything that must be retained to meet statutory requirements or has an intrinsic business value will be kept. In addition, photos, videos, samples and other items of interest will be retained. The Freedom of Information Act will enable the public to request copies of documents that are not sensitive. **Action: Ms Anderson agreed to find out what public access there will be to the archive and advise the secretariat.**
- 3410 Q: What impact will the strategy have on the end use of site land?  
A: The rationale for having a Care and Maintenance (C&M) period is to enable radioactive decay and the development of technology to process residual waste. Whilst advances in technology may enable the proposed entry and duration dates for C&M to be closer and shorter respectively, a full assessment of this has not been completed and no decision has been made. If this was feasible, this would bring the end date for re-use of the sites closer too.  
Q: How much closer?  
A: It is not possible to say, as there have been no decisions made and future funding could significantly impact the lifetime plans.
- 3411 Q: All sites were consulted about the preferred final end state. Will there be further consultation about this?  
A: The strategy simply states that land use is for 'the beneficial re-use of the site' and this would depend on a case by case consideration of what the local community would prefer, what the local councils decide and what local stakeholders want for the area. The strategy encourages consideration of the options available, for example what infrastructure is in place on site and surrounding the site.  
Q: Why are you re-visiting this if the re-use of the site is not within the foreseeable future or even within the lifetime of current stakeholders?  
A: The strategy is to ensure that existing infrastructure that may be of use in the future is not destroyed. Whilst site re-use may be far into the future, decisions about decommissioning now may foreclose future options.  
Q: Will these decisions impact on the Environmental Management Plan or the EIA regulations?  
A: This will not impact on the EIA regulations. The annual reports may be affected.

- 3412 Q: Could this impact on the final site appearance?  
 A: Consideration of infrastructure will enable the final decision about land re-use to be left open.  
 Q: Does this mean that returning the sites back to nature is no longer an option?  
 A: No, this does not prevent this option. It was clear that many communities preferred this option. The current lifetime plans reflect this view.  
 Q: So the community did not give you the answer you want so you will change the question you ask?  
 A: The strategy is for the 'beneficial re-use' as this applies to all the sites. A return to nature is not the preferred option for the communities at all sites.
- 3413 Cllr Coe advised that Kent County Council recently completed the "Coastal Community 2150" document that considered what the local community thought the future of the marsh would look like. He suggested that the NDA might like to consider the outcomes contained within this.
- 3414 Chairman commented that he had read the NDA strategy document but had some concerns that CFP were not in complete accordance. He had also considered whether the local community and stakeholders were being considered appropriately and were gaining the most in terms of socio-economic and infrastructure support. He expressed concern that the strategy does not refer to 'The Hub' and the future oversight of the quiescent site.
- 3415 Chairman commented that several parts of the strategy were at a National level and had no local impact. He encouraged attendees to consider those parts of the strategy document that do have a local impact and in particular the questions that are being suggested for inclusion in the consultation. He gave an example of the future for stakeholder groups and the question of whether regional meetings would be more useful than National meetings, expressing his preference to continue with the latter. He suggested that attendees send their views to the secretariat for consolidation to enable the SSG to submit comprehensive feedback and for the Chairman to be able to take this forward to the National Stakeholder Group meeting. Alternatively, a sub group could be called to discuss this matter further. He asked attendees to submit their views to the secretariat.
- 3416 Ms Anderson reminded the SSG that their next meeting was scheduled for January and that this would offer an opportunity for further clarification of aspects of the strategy or to feedback comments to the NDA.
- 3417 Ms Igoe commented that she will raise awareness of the NDA draft strategy to the Romney Marsh Partnership.

## **XII ROMNEY MARSH PARTNERSHIP (RMP) UPDATE**

- 3418 Catherine Igoe, RMP Co-ordinator, introduced herself as the only full time employee of the RMP and provided a verbal update from the detailed information contained within her briefing document (attached as appendix 1). She explained that the RMP is a regeneration partnership for Romney Marsh with members drawn from stakeholders based on or near the Marsh. The highlights since the last SSG meeting and the recent focus areas of the RMP were described in detail (please see report).

3419 Chairman invited questions and none were forthcoming. Chairman commented upon the importance of ensuring that the role of coordinator continues to be funded.

### **XIII SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE**

3420 Chairman advised that the Magnox socio-economic scheme had been revised and consultation is expected to begin early January 2016. Chairman stressed the importance of submitting applications prior to the site entering C&M as the strategy for future funding during site quiescent periods was unclear. He stressed that applications for funding of up to £1000 are considered locally.

3421 Haf Morris drew attention to the Dungeness A Closure Directors' report advising that this provides details of socio-economic spend (March – September 2015) and how to apply for funding. Ms Morris encouraged any interested parties to contact her ([haf.e.morris@magnoxsites.com](mailto:haf.e.morris@magnoxsites.com)) for assistance with applications.

### **XV ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

3422 No matters were arising.

### **XV NEXT MEETING**

3423 The 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dungeness SSG will be held at 18.30 for 19.00 on Thursday 21 January 2016 at The Assembly Rooms, New Romney.

Meeting closed at 12.40

## Appendix 1 Romney Marsh Partnership briefing document

### **Report to Site Stakeholder Group, Dungeness A & B**

By Romney Marsh Partnership on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015

Catherine Igoe (RMP Co-ordinator) took up the position on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015

A key output in the role's job description is **'To enable the delivery of priority projects as identified in the Romney Marsh Delivery Plan and endorsed by RMP Board'**.

Highlights since the last SSG meeting ( April 2015):

- £359,998 Marsh Million EPS grants awarded (October 2015) – scheme currently closed
- £261,843 Marsh Million loans awarded (October 2015) – was £100,000, 21 companies supported, was 12.
- New Chairman(due to elections) appointed for RMP Roger Wilkins
- Social media campaign started and web presence on [www.romneymarsh.net](http://www.romneymarsh.net) established
- Ashford Borough Council Vineyards Trails launched
- £10,000 Dymchurch Coastal Community Team grant secured
- Funding for Marsh Businesses' guide started and first draft approved by RMP board
- Lydd Ashford Airport (LAA) has agreed to join the RMP
- RMP supported Fifth Continent Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership scheme awarded allocated grant of £1.9m including £230,300 development funding

Recent focus put on

- Building the profile of the RMP through publicity. (social media, SDC website development & flyers)
- Attending (as an observer) at Marsh Million Board meetings so that all promotional work done is closely linked to the direction set by Board
- Participating in joint monitoring of Marsh Million loans and visiting companies that have been awarded loans and grants to get the 'soft story' and understand the successes of the scheme
- Building better regular communications between partners and co-ordinator
- Meeting all partnership members to understand their motivations and issues
- Identifying potential priority projects to be delivered before closing of Marsh Million scheme

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