



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 10 March 2017 at 10.00 am at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan

Present:

Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie (representing Annandale South) (Chairman)
Mr Harry Brown (2km Resident Representative)
Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale)
Cllr Douglas Fairbairn (representing Annandale North)
Mr John Grierson (Scottish Sites Lead and Chapelcross Closure Director)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, NDA)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Mr Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)
Mr Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)
Mr Mark Raffle (NDA Programme Manager, Scottish Sites)
Cllr Craig Peacock (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Vice Chairman)
Mr David Stone (Scottish Environment Protection Agency, SEPA)
Mr Steven Szostak (D&G Council, BCX Gretna, Lockerbie and Annan Project Officer)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)

Apologies:

Cllr Peter Diggle (representing Annandale North)
Mr David Mundell, MP
Mr Oliver Mundell, MSP
Mr Scott Muir (Chapelcross Prospect Union Representative)
Mr Ewan Young (Scottish Government)

In Attendance:

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Rod Edgar (Press representative, DNG Media)
Mr and Mrs Vanderveer (Public)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March meeting and gave a warm welcome to Mr Mark Raffle, NDA Programme Manager, Scottish Sites.

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. As a Magnox employee, he will speak on the results of the Communications External Stakeholder Engagement Survey Results under Any Other Business.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 9 December 2016 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Cllr Craig Peacock and seconded by Cllr Archie Dryburgh.

Action points from the last meeting -

Cllr Ogilvie had fed back to the Council a request for annual Safety Information with regard to emergency preparedness to be provided to Elected Members. This is likely to be addressed after the elections in May – **action complete**.

NDA to provide an update on skills development planning at the June SSG meeting – Mr Hough had passed this to the relevant colleagues and a representative from Human Resources would attend the June meeting to discuss this – **action carried forward to next meeting**.

A response to the consultation on the draft NDA Business Plan was submitted. A copy of the response is available to members from the Secretariat if required – **action complete**.

4. Chapelcross Closure Director's Report – Mr John Grierson

(including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)

Mr Grierson presented his report using the attached slides, which included: Site News, Care and Maintenance Programme, Socio Economics, Magnox in the Community and Final Thoughts.

Mr Grierson was very pleased with safety performance across the site, particularly as the workforce is heavily distracted with the proposed changes to the Pension Scheme as part of the government-led reforms to public sector pensions. Magnox is supporting staff with this through regular briefings and the facilitation of Union meetings.

The result of SEPA's Compliance Assessment Scheme for 2016 was 'excellent' and six Licence Instruments inspections by ONR were graded 'green' at the recent review.

Full preparations have been made on site to address adverse weather conditions, which as yet have not arrived. The unseasonably good weather allowed the crane lifts on the heat exchangers to be completed within a 35 day window. The scaffolding on HEX 7,8, 9 and 10 is now complete with steelwork starting to be removed from HEX 12 and 13. The aim is to have all steelwork to be physically removed by December 2017, subject to weather constraints. Progress in the ponds area is behind schedule, but the budget is being used efficiently. Mr Grierson showed photos of the ponds and explained the physical works now taking place. The contract has been let for the mobile active effluent treatment plant, with contractors due on site in June 2018 to install the system across the Magnox Sites. Asset disposal has seen savings of £3.6m. Ex fire tenders have been sent to International Fire and Rescue Association which is a pathway to beneficial reuse abroad. Photos were shown of the site restoration and asset care and maintenance. Two boilers which are now inefficient are being replaced by an electric heating system. The fire system in the reactor buildings is also being replaced to reduce the number of false activations.

The work on the south site by Iberdrola for Scottish Power continues to progress well. The site is being prepared for work to start on an Interim Storage Facility (ISF) which Mr Grierson stressed will only store waste from Chapelcross site.

Mr Grierson explained that the two Closure Director posts at Hunterston and Chapelcross are being combined into one and he has been training at Hunterston A site since January and will take over from Mr Martin Grafton at Hunterston on 1 April 2017, sharing his time between Chapelcross and Hunterston.

Mr Grierson explained key successes from other Magnox sites, such as the construction of the Solid Waste Encapsulation Plant (SILWE) building for Hunterston A site and the advanced vacuum drying system at Dungeness A, the latter being similar to what Chapelcross will have.

Under the Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme, £16,350 was awarded to worthwhile community projects in 2016/17 and Mr Grierson gave examples of some of the beneficiaries.

Mr Grierson ended his presentation by reiterating, as always, Magnox focus on safety as the number one priority.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh asked for confirmation that no waste from other sites will be stored at Chapelcross. Mr Grierson reiterated that only waste from Chapelcross will be stored at Chapelcross. He added that the only reason that the interim waste storage facility will be slightly bigger than originally anticipated is to store different types of waste packages and it is not to store waste from other sites.

Cllr Peacock noted that the contract for the interim storage facility was let, stopped then re-let, and asked if this was awarded to the same contractor. Mr Grierson confirmed that the facility was redesigned and the contract awarded to the original contractor, Interserve.

Cllr Peacock asked what would happen to the scaffolding boards which were not fit for purpose. Mr Grierson replied that the majority of the scaffold boards would go to Hinkley Point A. The boards which were not to a quality standard would go to Hespian Wood for disposal.

Cllr Peacock referred to the Advanced Vacuum Drying System (ADVS) at Bradwell and asked if this would be operated by Chapelcross staff. Mr Grierson advised that a team from Bradwell would assist Chapelcross staff in assembling the system. Resource requirements would be forecast and the Bradwell team will train Chapelcross operators to work the new system.

Cllr Thompson asked if Scottish Power and Iberdrola could be invited to report to the Site Stakeholder Group meeting on the work they are undertaking. Mr Grierson replied that Magnox lets an area of the south site to Scottish Power from which access is via the licensed site. The works being undertaken are to improve and reinforce the network in the area. Mr Hamilton advised members of the situation at Harwell where the Site Stakeholder Group has morphed into a wider group which can spend more time discussing other businesses on the site than discussing nuclear issues. He suggested that this was more appropriate for a different forum, such as the Beyond Chapelcross project. Cllr Thompson asked how the Site Stakeholder Group would become a wider forum in the future. Cllr Ogilvie replied that the SSG has a Constitution and remit which will phase out in future years and a different body will be required to take matters forward. Cllr Marshall added that Site Stakeholder Groups were formed when the NDA was created in 2005 and Sub Groups of the Site Stakeholder Groups can be set up to deal with other site related matters. Due to the size of the site, there will be enquiries on the non-licensed site which is a key area for economic development. The NDA will take forward interest in the land and inform the Site Stakeholder Group at the appropriate time. As plans for the area develop, the Site Stakeholder Group will be consulted as part of the planning process. Mr Szostak further added that the Memorandum of Understanding is not just a statement of preparedness to work together but a formal partnership relationship which will deal with enquiries as a Group. Cllr Marshall stressed that developments must be done with consultation and in the interests of the community.

Mr Park asked if Magnox personnel would be employed in the Interim Storage Facility. Mr Grierson confirmed that this would be the case with Interserve contracted to achieve the commissioning then handing over to Chapelcross employees.

Cllr Marshall noted the construction of the Intermediate Level Waste storage facility and asked if a presentation on this could be made at a future Site Stakeholder Group meeting. Clarification on timescales and the differences between storage in Scotland and England would also be very useful.

- Action – Mr Grierson to make a presentation on the waste stream process at the Site Stakeholder Group meeting in June 2017.
- Action – Mr Grierson also offered to host a site visit for any new members after the local government elections in May 2017.

Cllr Ogilvie passed on the thanks of some of the recipients of funding from the Socio Economic Scheme, who are very appreciative of this support.

Mr Grierson noted that this year had seen a lower level of take-up of funding than in previous years and encouraged members to invite other groups within the community to apply to the Fund. Cllr Marshall acknowledged that the NDA had provided funding to this Fund for 10 years, as well as contributing £2.5m to the Gretna/Annan/Lockerbie project and £1.3m to the Beyond Chapelcross project, both of which were transformational projects.

Cllr Ogilvie welcomed Cllr Doug Fairbairn who had joined the meeting and Mr and Mrs Vanderveer in the public gallery.

5. NDA Reports – Mr Bill Hamilton

The NDA report, provided with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hamilton referred to the Intermediate Level Waste storage facility and advised that the BBC was interested in visiting Chapelcross when this is in place to report on the difference between Scottish and English policy.

Mr Hamilton advised that work is being done by the NDA to advance the position with jobs in Scotland due to the long term and changing nature of employment in Scotland.

The NDA's new Chief Executive Officer, Mr David Peattie, is now in post, as is the new Chairman, Mr Tom Smith.

Mr Hamilton confirmed that a consultation period will run until 21 April following negotiations between the Government, NDA and national Trade Unions on the Pensions Reform affecting public sector and nuclear industry employees. He believed that the current proposals are the best outcome achievable by negotiation and are less disadvantageous to the workforce and awaits the outcome of the consultation.

There is no update since the last meeting on the Court Case against EnergySolutions EU as it is a complicated process but some news is expected in the next couple of months.

Mr Hamilton informed members of the local engagement and review of Site Stakeholder Groups being undertaken by the NDA. With Magnox Communications personnel, the NDA will look at best practice and improvements which could be made to Site Stakeholder Groups to enable them to run better and include new, younger members. A session with SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs will be held over the summer to share thinking, with a view to issuing draft guidance in autumn and final guidance by the year end to allow Site Stakeholder Groups to review their Constitutions if necessary between January – March 2018. Mr Hamilton reassured SSG members that any changes made will be to make improvements and there is no need for concern. The NDA has bid for additional funding to pay for extra publicity for adverts to encourage members of the public to attend SSG meetings. Relevant external speakers would also be encouraged to attend SSG meetings to make them more interesting.

Questions and Observations

On behalf of the workforce at Chapelcross, Mr Park fed back the strong disappointment and mistrust in the NDA at the way the Pension Reform has been handled. He appreciated that a lot of work had been done and changes were now proposed but the workforce felt that this could have been done earlier. Many are middle aged men in trades who are concerned for their future and this is causing distraction and low morale on site. He also stressed that any new businesses coming to the area should know that there are trained, skilled people available looking for jobs or they may decide not to come to the area. Mr Hamilton understood the concerns and sympathised but stressed again that the NDA is a Government Agency and is bound by its policy. Changes to public service pensions has taken place over a period of time, affecting teachers, local government employees, civil servants and now the nuclear industry. He confirmed that an NDA representative would attend the next meeting to discuss skills development, which is crucially important to the NDA.

In addition, the NDA has invested millions of pounds in training facilities in nuclear and is active on national training forums, more information on which will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr Park repeated the views of the workforce that there has been a variation in proposals, concerns have been listened to which suggests an unwillingness to listen and address concerns at an earlier stage. Cllr Marshall asked hypothetically who the appropriate body would be for the Unions to mount a legal challenge against, the NDA or the Government. Mr Hamilton replied that action would normally be against the trustees of a pension fund but in this case would be the UK Government. He reminded members that the NDA had brokered the meeting with the Trade Unions and the new Cabinet Minister.

In terms of the review of Site Stakeholder Groups and their Constitutions, Cllr Marshall considered that the final guidance from the NDA was not specific enough when Site Stakeholder Groups were first set up, resulting in differences in interpretation and Site Stakeholder Groups running differently across the UK. Going forward, he would like to see the guidance being more robust and specific. Cllr Marshall considered Chapelcross SSG to be a good example of how a Site Stakeholder Group should run. Mr Hamilton replied that there is always room for improvement and a good Site Stakeholder Group is down to the people involved, which he suggested consists of a strong Chairperson who is fair and able to control debate, with SSG members who respect and trust each other. He gave an example of a less than acceptable incident at another Site Stakeholder Group and stressed that sites have to be held to account.

Mr Park noted that the NDA had signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding and asked for assurances that the NDA would react quickly enough to opportunities regarding land. Mr Hamilton confirmed that the NDA had signed the Memorandum of Understanding as public evidence of the NDA's commitment to Chapelcross. There are timescales and rules in respect of delicensing land but he assured members that the NDA is fully committed and very keen to move forward.

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

ONR

The ONR report for October - December 2016, circulated with the meeting papers, was taken as read. There was no ONR representative present at the meeting.

SEPA – Mr David Stone

Mr Stone's report, distributed with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Stone reported on an inspection which focused on the site's procedures for creating and maintaining records, in which the site demonstrated compliance. The sheer volume of records stored is an issue and SEPA will engage with the site on how long and how these records should be kept. An inspection on the segregation of waste had also been carried out which was positive. Last year SEPA had looked at how the waste is characterised and has been working with the site on techniques for segregation and monitoring of waste. The final assessment of environmental performance at the site for 2016 was assessed as 'excellent'.

With regard to the Interim Storage Facility being built, SEPA is interested in the design of the facility and how waste will be packaged in case it needs to be disposed of in future. SEPA will engage with the site to ensure compliance with current thinking on disposal.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh noted that information technology had reduced the amount of paperwork by a third but it was policy to keep hard copies. He asked if it would be possible to keep electronic records rather than paper ones. SEPA had given this some thought as the issue affects more than Chapelcross site and although he could not determine how long records would have to be kept for, they would have to be on paper and not just electronic. Cllr Peacock was surprised to hear that electronic records was not being considered as he thought that digitalising records would be the way forward and they could be stored at the NDA archive facility.

Mr Stone added that it is up to the site how to keep its records and SEPA would consider any proposals. He noted that the Environment Agency is in discussion regarding this subject with some sites in England. Mr Hamilton further added that the NDA has a major programme of work on record keeping and one of his colleagues would be delighted to present on this subject at a future Site Stakeholder Group meeting. Mr Park commented that eventually there would be no records on site, neither would there be the staff with the knowledge and history. Mr Stone agreed that local knowledge is invaluable. Mr McNairn noted that records started to be kept 53 years ago and hoped that this would continue. Cllr Ogilvie noted that radiation records have to be kept indefinitely. Mr Grierson added that the site has a schedule of how long records must be kept for.

Cllr Peacock was pleased to note the 'excellent' rating of the site's environmental performance for 2016 which was testament to the hard work of the management and workforce and he hoped that the local press would report this positive news. Mr Stone added that SEPA has an open and transparent relationship with the site and he considers the site to be operating well. Decommissioning brings with it new challenges and the site is meeting these.

Scottish Government

Mr Young was not present at the meeting but had forwarded his report, which was tabled.

Euratom

The Scottish Government is committed to maintaining protection of the environment and human health to robust international standards where it has devolved responsibility, including for radioactive substances, where some standards are currently set in Directives under the Euratom Treaty. It is looking to the UK Government to ensure the same for reserved matters. It shall continue to work, including in cooperation with the other three administrations in the UK, to assess the impacts of exiting from the Euratom Treaty, and to mitigate any negative effects on Scotland. As this is a constantly evolving item, the Scottish Government recommends checking its website and in particular the news page for the latest updates: <http://news.gov.scot>.

Scottish Government Higher Activity Waste Implementation Strategy

The Scottish Government published its Higher Activity Waste Implementation Strategy in December 2016. The Scottish Government would like to thank the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group for its patience and valuable contributions during the development of the Strategy. The Strategy, along with Chapelcross SSG and other helpful responses to the 2015 consultation, have been published on the [Scottish Government's website](#). Key features of the Strategy include an illustrative long-term timeline and a new Research Statement. The Research Statement commits the Scottish Government and delivery partners to review international concepts and emerging technologies, whilst making best use of the radioactive waste knowledge sharing R&D networks. As part of this work, it will seek advice from its Chief Scientific Adviser and the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. The Strategy also commits the Scottish Government to working closely with business development partners and Skills Development Scotland to help review and enhance Scotland's decommissioning capabilities. The Scottish Government will continue to work with the NDA, RWM, Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances and other partners to help ensure local authorities, site stakeholder groups and other community groups are engaged effectively as the higher activity waste management work, outlined in Phase 1 of the strategy, progresses. The Scottish Government continues to welcome any feedback from Chapelcross SSG on the published Implementation Strategy.

Scottish Nuclear Sites Group

This Group next meets on 23 March 2017 and is expected to receive an update on how the Scottish Government is addressing the way forward in respect of Euratom and its possible implications to the nuclear industry and associated areas. Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform will also attend the first part of the meeting at the request of the Chairs of the Site Stakeholder Groups (SSG's). Each of the three Chairs are being given the opportunity to ask one question each of the Cabinet Secretary.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall suggested asking for clarity about Euratom after Brexit at the Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting.

Mr Park considered that the Scottish and UK Government should collaborate on the effects of radioactivity. Cllr Ogilvie noted that the policy is what it is and the sites have to work with it.

7. External Meetings and Invitations –

Hunterston SSG Visit, 2 March 2017 – Cllr Ogilvie and Cllr Peacock

Cllr Ogilvie reported on the visit he had made to Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group meeting with Cllr Peacock for the purpose of comparison on how it is run. He preferred the format of Chapelcross' agenda, set up by his predecessor, with time allocations for each agenda item. He considered there to be a lot of cross fertilisation between the A site and B station reports which he found confusing. There was however a good turnout of members at the meeting and a lot of members of the public in the audience. He would recommend that the meeting is separated out between the two sites to avoid confusion.

Cllr Peacock agreed with Cllr Ogilvie's observations and suggested that a split agenda with a break in between would give people the opportunity to leave or join the meeting at an appropriate time. Cllr Peacock also considered that the Station Director of Hunterston B site gave very little support to the Regulators in responding to questions from the floor. Cllr Peacock also felt that Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group meetings would benefit from presentations, such as those received at Chapelcross, rather than Officers just reading to reports.

Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting, 23 March 2017 – Cllr Ogilvie

In respect of this upcoming meeting at which Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, will be present, Cllr Ogilvie will ask the following question, on behalf of Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group:

"How can the Scottish Government provide support to the delivery of the Chapelcross Masterplan / Development of the Chapelcross site and the Annandale and Eskdale Regeneration of the M74 Corridor (CoReS)?"

8. CoReS / Beyond Chapelcross – Mr Steve Szostak

Mr Szostak's report, issued with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Szostak advised that there had not been a CoReS meeting since November as the February meeting had been cancelled and was rescheduled for 17 March 2017. Agenda items included: Borderlands – discussion with South of Scotland / North of England local authorities and strategic partners on economic strategy; Scottish Enterprise update; Chapelcross site programme; Memorandum of Understanding – discussion on governance; visit to MoD Longtown.

Mr Szostak reminded members that the Beyond Chapelcross project had been extended to August 2017 to allow for a period of transition with the new programme beginning in September. It is anticipated that all targets for year 5 will be achieved. Mr Szostak stressed that the project funded the original Masterplans but does not fund individual projects. A temporary staff member has been recruited to undertake an assessment of Annan High Street and will start in April. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the NDA, Scottish Enterprise and Dumfries and Galloway Council had been reported in the national press. A Chapelcross Site Programme is being developed, in discussion with NDA colleagues, with key performance indicators factored into the Programme. This five year programme will become the basis to develop significant capital projects. A Core Programme will set the scene for relocating firms balanced with the potential to attract new job creation. The Unique Selling Point (USP) of the site is the direct access to the electricity grid, attracting interest from energy companies. For industrial relocators, the prospect of discounted energy production is also a USP.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall noted that the NDA funded the Beyond Chapelcross project, without which the Masterplans would not have happened.

The Masterplans were dynamic and with a relatively small amount of funding have produced much bigger projects and legacies. Cllr Dryburgh added that the funding through Beyond Chapelcross for Central Avenue in Gretna made a big difference to an area where a lot of the Chapelcross' workforce lives.

Cllr Dryburgh urged caution in the second USP of cheap energy provision as people were told that they would get cheaper energy when Chapelcross started and this was not the case.

Cllr Peacock noted that Scottish Enterprise had not delivered in this area and hoped that the emerging new South of Scotland Enterprise and Skills Agency would emulate the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Zone and remedy this in the south of Scotland. A response had been agreed at the Council's EEI Committee which supported this agency and offered guidance on how this should be shaped going forward.

Cllr Peacock considered that Simplified Planning Zone status should be progressed as quickly as possible to assure any companies coming forward that they will be able to develop. Mr Szostak agreed with Cllr Peacock on the value of a Simplified Planning Zone and noted that the NDA was prepared to consider funding the cost of this as an attractor to the area. Mr Park asked who is responsible for making the decision on the Simplified Planning Zone. Mr Szostak replied that the local authority has an important role to play in demonstrating commitment and support but the final decision lies with the Scottish Government.

Mr McNairn reminded members that there have been many different ideas for the site over the years and summarised six different proposals. He wished the partners well in progressing this.

Cllr Thompson left the meeting.

9. Any Other Business

External Stakeholder Survey Results

Cllr Marshall reminded members of the survey issued in December 2016 to Site Stakeholder Group members and key stakeholders through Magnox website, social media and e-newsletter circulation. He tabled slides of the results of the survey (attached for information), which had achieved a good return rate. Cllr Marshall ran through the slides, summarising the results. Feedback statements will be analysed and a report produced on the findings of the survey.

10. Public Forum

Cllr Ogilvie invited the members of the public in the audience to address the meeting.

Mrs Vanderveer introduced herself as a resident of Eaglesfield and agreed with Mr Szostak's remarks about the importance of collaboration with Cumbria. Mrs Callander confirmed that Cumbria Council's Emergency Planning Unit is invited to Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group meetings. Mrs Vanderveer considered that water and the environment should also be an important consideration. Mr Stone replied that SEPA has responsibility for groundwater in Scotland and advised of the Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) reports produced annually (available to view on SEPA's website) which take account of both environmental and radioactivity considerations.

Cllr Ogilvie concluded the meeting by reminding members that this was the last meeting before the local government elections in May. He had thoroughly enjoyed being Chair of the Group and thanked his Vice Chair, Cllr Peacock, and the Secretariat. In particular, he thanked Mrs Callander for her support. He thanked all members of the Group for their assistance over the years and Mrs Adams for taking the Minutes of the meetings.

Cllr Peacock echoed Cllr Ogilvie's sentiments. Coming from a non-nuclear background, he had more of a learning curve but had found the role to be enjoyable and informative, particularly

attending site visits and national meetings. Cllr Peacock thanked the NDA and Mr Grierson and the whole workforce at Chapelcross.

He added his personal thanks to Mrs Callander and Mrs Adams and thanked the Chair for guiding the Group.

Mrs Callander informed members of the procedure following the local Council elections in May. If there are changes to the Elected Members which impact on the positions held on the Site Stakeholder Group, these will be addressed at the meeting in June and an election will take place in September to facilitate a handover.

With regard to the joint SEPA/Scottish Government Consultation on Proposals for an Integrated Authorisation Framework, Mrs Callander reminded members that the consultation period runs until 12 April 2017.

11. Next Meeting – Friday 9 June 2017

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished them a safe return journey. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Friday, 9 June 2017.

The meeting closed at 12.10 pm.