

**CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 15 JUNE 2018 IN ANNAN TOWN HALL**

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 9 March 2018 were approved.

Chapelcross Site Closure Director's Report – Mr John Grierson

The Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and the Day Away Case Rate (DACR) for the site are zero. This means that there has been nothing worse than a first aid injury. Storm Hector had presented some weather-related challenges. Target Zero Campaign on safety continues, as does the focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The NDA has undertaken a site assessment group review. Mr Grierson reflected on the heat exchanger deplanting programme and explained the waste projects, interim storage facility, asset care, socio-economic scheme and stakeholder activity.

NDA Report – Mr Bill Hamilton

The NDA Business Plan 2018-2021 has been published. The NDA has published its first ever Socio-Economic Report, giving an overview of socio-economic spend and activity in 2016/17. The Holliday Inquiry report into the handling of the Magnox Competition is now expected late summer/early autumn.

ONR Report

Mr Rob Eales was not present at the meeting but provided a report in advance of the meeting.

SEPA Report

Mr David Stone was not present at the meeting but provided a report in advance of the meeting.

Update from Scottish Government – Mr Ewan Young

Mr Young provided an update which covered the Scottish Nuclear Sites Group meeting held on 26 April; Euratom; Nuclear Safeguards Bill; and Regulation of Nuclear Sites in the final stages of Decommissioning and Clean Up, on which the Scottish Government is working closely with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

External Meetings and Invitations – Cllr Archie Dryburgh, Cllr Henry McClelland, Cllr Sean Marshall

Cllr Dryburgh reported on the Scottish Nuclear Sites Meeting, hosted by Scottish Government, on 26 April in Edinburgh which was well attended with good engagement and questions. Cllr McClelland reported on the NDA Parliamentary Reception in Edinburgh on 15 May which was very positive. Cllr Marshall reported on the BEIS Decommissioning Workshop on 6 June in Edinburgh on Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC). Members were asked to look at the consultation online and feed back comments to the SSG for submission.

CX Project – Ms Kerry Martin

Ms Martin attended the meeting on behalf of Jason Syers and advised that external consultants have been appointed to prepare a strategic outline business case for mixed use development. This will be followed by a more detailed design code and planning zone which will be prepared in time to align to the Borderlands bid.

Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group Constitution

A Sub Group of the SSG is reviewing the Constitution, including membership and frequency of meetings, and will bring a report on proposed amendments to the next meeting.

Questions and Observations

After each presentation, a number of questions were asked by members, which can be read with the responses, in the full Minutes of the meeting, available from the SSG Secretariat.

Any Other Business

The Chair formally thanked Mr Harry Brown, 2km resident representative, who has moved house and will no longer sit on the SSG, for many years of attendance and input to SSG meetings. The Chair also thanked Mr Gordon McMiken of Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Economy, Rural Payments and Inspections Division, who has moved to a new role and will no longer attend SSG meetings.

Public Forum

Mr Peter Dreghorn requested, on behalf of River Annan Trust, SSG support in the removal of Milnblie Caul, as the river quality has been downgraded from good to poor by SEPA because of the weir. This is not in the SSG's remit and Mr Dreghorn was advised to consult with Community Councils and Annan Common Good.

Next Meeting – Friday 14 September 2018 at 10.00 am in Annan Town Hall.



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 15 June 2018 at 10.00 am
at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan**

Present:

Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Chair)
Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)
Mr John Grierson (Regional Closure Director - Chapelcross and Hunterston A)
Mr Bill Hamilton (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, NDA)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Ms Kerry Martin (D&G Council, Project Manager, Strategic Projects)
Cllr Henry McClelland (representing Annandale South) (Vice Chair)
Mr Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)
Mr Scott Muir (Chapelcross Prospect Union Representative)
Ms Jaime Nicholson (D&G Council, Principal Officer Facilities Annandale and Eskdale)
Mr Ian Park (Chapelcross Union Representative)
Cllr Stephen Thompson (representing Annandale North)
Mr Ewan Young (Scottish Government)

Apologies:

Mr Martin Brown (Federation of Community Councils)
Dr Nigel Calvert (Public Health Medicine, NHS Dumfries and Galloway)
Mr Ranajoy Dey (NDA Programme Manager)
Mr Quintin Donald (Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate)
Mr Rob Eales (Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR)
Mr Oliver Mundell, MSP
Dr Will Munro (Food Standards Scotland)
Mr David Stone (Scottish Environment Protection Agency, SEPA)
Mr Jason Syers (D&G Council, Strategic Projects Manager)
Mr Alex Thomson (Federation of Community Councils / Gretna and Rigg Community Council)
Cllr Adam Wilson (representing Annandale North)

In Attendance:

Mrs Sheila Adams (Minutes)
Mr Peter Dreghorn (Member of Public)
Ms Rosina Robinson (Secretary, West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group)
Ms Charlotte Swale (Dumfriesshire Newspapers)

1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Dryburgh, Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed Kerry Martin, Strategic Projects Manager with Dumfries and Galloway Council, on behalf of Mr Jason Syers, and Rosina Robinson, Secretary of West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group.

2. Announcements and Apologies (including Declarations of Interest)

The Secretary read the Apologies as listed above.

Cllr 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 9 March 2018 were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Mr Willie McNairn and seconded by Mr Ian Park.

Action points from the last meeting –

The SSG Secretariat had formally written to thank the NDA for the £495k contribution to the CX project – action complete.

The SSG Secretariat had formally written to thank Mr Szostak for his contribution to the CX project – action complete.

Cllr Dryburgh requested that Dumfries and Galloway Council provides SSG meetings with an in-depth report on the CX project before Christmas 2018 – this will be an Agenda item for the December meeting – action complete.

The SSG Secretariat had made contact with Youth Parliament representatives to invite them to SSG meetings but had not received a response to the email. Cllr Thompson had spoken with Mark Mollooy, Dumfries and Galloway Council's Manager for Young People's Services, but senior students were currently on study leave / sitting exams. This should be followed up at a more appropriate time of year.

4. Chapelcross Site Closure Director's Report – Mr John Grierson (including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)

As always, Mr Grierson commenced his report with safety, and was very pleased to report that once again, the site had maintained its excellent safety record with the Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) and the Day Away Case Rate (DACR) for the site being zero, which also applies to Hunterston. This means that there has been nothing worse than basic first aid injuries and is commendable as it does not get better, but it could get worse and the focus on safety remains. Six action areas have been identified in the Continuous Safety Improvement Plan. The Target Zero campaign continues, with monthly themes, which this month is environment. Safety exercises continue with a recent exercise supported by Scottish Fire and Rescue.

The clear focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) remains, with a focus on respect and inclusion. Training is being undertaken and focus groups have been set up to determine what change is required. Any change implemented will be subtle and not stepped.

The NDA had undertaken a site assessment group review over 2.5 days. The key areas addressed were accurate reporting, confidence in waste inventories and no significant concerns. Observations and comments were positive with no recommendations which is a pleasing result.

Following the heat exchanger transition, all employees have been placed elsewhere with no job losses. There has been a drop in the number of Contractors due to Hertel leaving the site on completion of the heat exchanger job.

Mr Grierson showed a slide looking back at early decommissioning work and explained the next chapter in Waste Operations. He explained the Critical Path Diagram. In terms of the heat exchanger deplanting, Mr Grierson reflected on this £23m project, involving 3000 tons of steelwork with five cranes on site at one time. The safety performance on this job had been excellent and this was testament to the Magnox Team and Hertel Team and other contractors.

Mr Grierson described the two key parts to the Ponds programme involving miscellaneous activated components and removal of sludge (sand/gritty material with a level of radioactivity). The mobile active effluent treatment plant which was intended to go to Chapelcross first, will now go to Dungeness first, then Hinkley and Chapelcross third.

Under Waste projects, preparations are under way for the installation of equipment on site. The main contract for the Advanced Vacuum Drying System (AVDS) and Mobile Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation Plant (MILWEP) has been awarded to Storey. Civil engineering designs are being done which are critical to waste retrieval operations starting in February 2019. The equipment is expected to be released from Bradwell in August. The Interim Storage Facility can be seen from the Eaglesfield Road, with the building being well through construction. It is hoped that it will be ready for non-active commissioning in October, ahead of schedule, if the weather remains good.

Mr Grierson showed photographs under Asset Care. Roads and pathways on site have been refurbished with new lighting on pathways. A new heating system has been installed and oil removed from redundant transformers. Windows are being replaced on the reactor building and the doors also require attention. Redundant iodine filtration pipework has also to be removed.

Beneficiaries of £4,000 from the Socio-Economic Scheme include Annan Academy, Lockerbie Scouts, Annan Riding of the Marches and Youth Beatz.

Stakeholder engagement photos included the new Chief Executive of the NDA, Sports Partnerships, Secondary Schools, Event at the Scottish Parliament and the Year of Young People. Photos of redundant fire tenders sent to Argentina and Bosnia and Herzegovina after being refurbished by International Fire and Rescue were shown and it was very satisfying to see these refurbished and recycled to help others.

As always, Mr Grierson finished his report as he started, with safety. The key objective is to keep everyone focussed on safety. Storm Hector had presented some weather-related challenges the previous day and lessons were being learned from the Learning Capture Forms.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Dryburgh thanked Mr Grierson for his interesting presentation. He considered that as time progresses and the amount of work reduces, it is likely that reports will become less interesting and it may be appropriate to reduce the number of Site Stakeholder Group meetings per year as time goes on.

Cllr Marshall referred to the statistics shown and asked if the £35m budget under waste operations and management would say the same. He also asked if the workforce numbers would remain at 200 and the contractor numbers stay at between 50-80. Mr Grierson responded that the budget will decrease as work reduces. Money is being spent on the Interim Storage Facility, waste retrieval and operations preparations and this will involve an increase in the number of core staff and less work by contractors. Mr Grierson confirmed that staff numbers will reduce from 200. Project teams will reduce at the appropriate times but the teams are shaped to deliver work until 2021. Contractor numbers will also reduce to a base number.

Cllr Marshall asked when the first package is expected in the Interim Storage Facility and how many in total is forecast. Mr Grierson responded that the first package should go to the store in March 2019 and pointed out that in active commissioning things happen at a much slower rate. The forecast is for 220-250 packages but this number is fluid. An example of a change in numbers is the eight packages saved in the ponds and the goal will be to have as few a number of packages as possible. Cllr Marshall noted that this is considerably less than Hunterston which has capacity to store 1500 packages.

Cllr McClelland noted that the reduction in staff numbers meant highly professional jobs and asked if these would be lost naturally through retirement or what other method. Mr Grierson explained that there is a structured programme, in consultation with the Trade Unions, and the key objective is to reduce the number of redundancies. Resilience on site is also a concern and a programme will begin on site shortly to bring forward Deputy Team Leaders. Natural attrition is expected and some resources might have to be brought in or people retrained.

Cllr Thompson commented on the excellent presentation. He asked how the site factors in asset maintenance and calculates budgets. Mr Grierson described the Nuclear & Environmental Routine Maintenance Schedules under Asset Care, which is a planned work system. There is also a Defects System whereby staff raise issues with Defects Cards which are then prioritised. Mr Grierson explained the Local Strategic Asset Management Plan (LSAM) which is scored and analysed across the business to enable budgets to be prioritised. There is more asset care work than funding available so programmes are prioritised, with the focus being on hazard reduction. Access to areas is also restricted when appropriate. The site has a healthy number of team members for discretionary maintenance.

Cllr Thompson asked for more information on the maintenance requirements of the Interim Storage Facility. Mr Grierson referred to the Decommissioning Project Assessment Form. Manufacturers set recommended maintenance schedules for cranes, lighting system, walkways, vents, etc.

- **Action – Mr Grierson offered to host a site visit to see the Interim Storage Facility after it is handed over from the Contractor and before the packages go in.**

Cllr Dryburgh asked about the boiler stacks and for an update on the railway line. Mr Grierson advised that the boiler stacks would be lifted down to ground then disposed of. This will be external at Chapelcross and not in a weather envelope. Hardstanding will not be required as prompt disposal is better. Mr Grierson advised that there are land quality issues on the railway line and this is a redundant asset, which will be addressed.

Before moving on to the next report, Mr Grierson showed a three-minute video from a recent Leadership Conference, demonstrating the decommissioning work being undertaken across other sites. He added that some sites are further ahead than shown in the video, demonstrating the fast pace of the work. Bradwell will enter Care and Maintenance in October/November and will be the first site to close.

5. NDA Reports - Mr Bill Hamilton

The NDA report, issued with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Hamilton highlighted key points from the report. Since the last meeting, the NDA Business Plan 2018-21 has been published and is available on the website. The Parliamentary Reception in Edinburgh on 15 May 2018 focussed on what is happening in the supply chain, real progress across the three Scottish sites and partnership opportunities through socio economics. MSPs spoke very positively at the event. The NDA has published its first ever Socio-Economic Report, giving an overview of socio-economic spend and activity in 2016/17 of £20m across the estate.

The Public Accounts Committee has published its report into the NDA's handling of the Magnox contract, which follows a report by the National Audit Office and the criticisms of the NDA's handling of the Magnox competition. The Holliday Inquiry continues. The final report was expected early in 2018 but the Inquiry is taking longer than anticipated and is not expected until after Parliament's summer recess.

Following the mutual decision to terminate the contract with Cavendish Fluor Partnership, the NDA has submitted its preferred management model to the Secretary of State and is awaiting a response. The NDA has a Special Transition Team in place, members of which

have spoken with Trade Union representatives this week.

Looking forward, Mr Hamilton advised that Site Stakeholder Group representatives will be invited to attend the NDA Stakeholder Summit in Berkeley in July. A report on the economic impact of sites on the local community was prepared by Consultants and the author of the report will be presenting at the summit.

Also looking forward, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is completing its consultation around Proportionate Regulatory Control, which will see a change in the way that sites are regulated when they reach end state, giving more flexibility. BEIS will consider the comments received during the consultation and decide whether to ask for Parliamentary time to amend the Act.

Mr Hamilton reported that the NDA will be considering Continuous Reactor Dismantling over the next few months before going to Government. Discussions will be held with Site Stakeholder Groups before deciding on the criteria which will be used to decide which sites go forward.

With regard to Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in England and Wales, Mr Hamilton noted that several Scottish Constituency MPs are being asked in Parliament about alternatives to GDF.

In respect of comments about interesting presentations, Mr Hamilton urged Site Stakeholder Groups not to be concerned about 'boring' presentations going forward as the content of presentations will be different as time progresses but will still be relevant and interesting. Mr Hamilton confirmed that the NDA has not set recommendations or rules following the review of Site Stakeholder Groups and it is for SSG's to decide how they will run. The NDA will work with communities and Site Stakeholder Groups to make decisions at the appropriate time.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Thompson referred to the £208m contracts awarded through the Decommissioning Programme, of which 70% are suppliers and SMEs based in Scotland. He asked for further information and a breakdown of these figures to gain a deeper understanding. Mr Hamilton advised that the figures are complex but offered to share the report with the Secretariat for circulation with the Minutes. Mr Hamilton offered to arrange for someone to come and speak at a future meeting if more information is required after members have read the report.

Mr Park asked if there was time to proceed with anything other than the NDA's proposed management model and asked for reassurance of stability and budgets and commitment from the NDA as sites cannot stop and start producing waste. Mr Hamilton was unable to respond to the question on the proposed model as this is with the Secretary of State for approval. In respect of funding, he confirmed that the NDA has a team which is very experienced in securing funding from the Treasury. It is not possible for the NDA to give a cast iron commitment as it is bound by Government but it has a good track record in this regard.

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

ONR

The ONR report for the period January-March 2018, circulated with meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Eales was not present at the meeting.

SEPA

The SEPA report, distributed with the meeting papers, was taken as read. Mr Stone was not present at the meeting.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Marshall noted that this is the first time that there has been no representative from the ONR or SEPA present and would like to see one or both representatives at the next meeting. Mr Grierson advised that the absences are due to leave commitments and that Mr Eales has committed to attending SSG meetings this year.

Cllr Thompson asked about the water from the heat exchanger reported under non-routine matters. Mr Grierson advised that this related to a shipment of heat exchanger component that were shipped to Sweden, investigations are ongoing. Both ONR and SEPA are being updated on actions routinely.

Scottish Government – Mr Ewan Young

Mr Young began his report with the **Scottish Nuclear Sites Group** meeting. This group met on Thursday 26 April 2018. He thanked those representatives of Chapelcross SSG who attended and participated in the discussions. The group was provided with a number of presentations which included one on the WILWREP work at Hunterston A station, a SEPA presentation on its standard conditions consultation and an update from the Scottish Government on Euratom.

Euratom

The Scottish Government continues to maintain protection of the environment and human health to robust international standards where it has devolved responsibility. It continues to work 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 regular checking of its website and in particular the news page for the latest updates <http://news.gov.scot>.

Nuclear Safeguards Bill

This Bill forms part of the measures required to be taken prior to the UK leaving Euratom. The Bill addresses critical nuclear safeguarding issues, to ensure that there are no doubts about ownership of and responsibility for nuclear materials. This will enable the UK to demonstrate compliance with international agreements. The Bill has successfully passed through Parliament and is one of the first pieces of legislation addressing the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union to complete its passage through Parliament. The Bill which will shortly become an Act, addresses the UK's departure from the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

Nuclear Safeguards Bill: Factsheet

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has produced a set of factsheets for ease of understanding, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-safeguards-bill-factsheets>

Regulation of Nuclear Sites in the final stages of Decommissioning and Clean-up

BEIS has now published this long awaited consultation and the link is below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-regulation-of-nuclear-sites-in-the-final-stages-of-decommissioning-and-clean-up> .

The proposals contained in the consultation have been developed in consultation with the Scottish Government and SEPA as its independent environmental regulator. The Scottish Government welcome the overall intention to ensure that nuclear sites, as they reach the end of decommissioning, have the appropriate regulation for their evolving condition. This will ensure that there is effective and proportionate regulation and can move to free areas for future uses. The consultation opened on 8 May and closes on 3 July 2018. There are no nuclear sites in Northern Ireland, so the consultation will not directly affect Northern Ireland.

The consultation proposes amendments to primary legislation (the Nuclear Installations Act 1965) and legal advice is that the most straightforward approach would be to develop new secondary legislation in support of these amendments.

Although the initial changes required are to the reserved Nuclear Installations Act, there are important consequences for devolved environmental regulation and the planning system. The Scottish Government will therefore continue to work closely with BEIS on these proposals to ensure that they are effective and reflect Scottish circumstances.

7. External Meetings and Invitations –

Scottish Sites meeting – 26 April 2018, Edinburgh

Cllr Dryburgh commented on the good number of attendees at the meeting and the level of input, including representatives from the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS). Cllr McClelland added that it is encouraging to see such a proactive forum of people keen to share good practice and information. Mr Young confirmed that the Scottish Government appreciates the input from sites, engagement from attendees and the good presentations on topical themes.

NDA Parliamentary Reception – 15 May 2018, Edinburgh

Cllr McClelland reported on the NDA Reception at the Scottish Parliament, hosted by Kenneth Gibson, MSP for Cunninghame North (Ayrshire), Oliver Mundell, MSP for Dumfries and Galloway, and Gail Ross, MSP for Caithness Sutherland and Ross. All three MSPs and the NDA Chair, Tom Smith, and Chief Executive, David Peattie, explained the importance of the nuclear sites within the local communities and how the NDA supports Scottish communities through socio economic work, how the supply chain operates and provides employment and the economic impact this has in Scotland. An exhibition showcasing some of the successes of socio economics and the supply chain and a virtual reality display went down very well. Cllr Marshall offered to bring this to the next meeting. The success of the partnership of the NDA, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise was highlighted and how it is possible to create sustainable jobs and businesses to mitigate job losses and generate the local economy in communities as decommissioning phases are completed.

BEIS Decommissioning Workshop – 6 June 2018, Edinburgh

Cllr Marshall reported on the BEIS workshop on Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC), which was attended by representatives of all three Scottish sites (Chapelcross, Dounreay, Hunterston), the Site Stakeholder Groups and the Regulators. Documents were circulated in advance of the meeting, which allowed stakeholders to tease out questions at the workshop. Cllr Marshall suggested that a Sub Group of Chapelcross SSG is reconvened to prepare a response to the consultation which would then be circulated to members for comment before submitting a final response to BEIS.

Questions and Observations

Cllr Thompson asked who put the virtual reality display together. Mrs Callander advised that this was produced by a Company in Brampton for the Devil's Porridge Exhibition in Eastgriggs. The display will be shared with the Site Stakeholder Group and can also be taken to schools.

➤ [Action – Virtual reality display to be presented at next meeting.](#)

8. CX Project – Ms Kerry Martin

Ms Martin introduced herself as being former Economic Development Manager at Maldon District Council and familiar with Bradwell site. She presented a brief report, on behalf of Mr Jason Syers. External consultants have been appointed to prepare a strategic outline business case for mixed use development. This will be followed by a more detailed design code and planning zone. This will be prepared for November 2018 so that it can be aligned to the Borderlands Bid. This bid is complicated as it involves various parties and a meeting of representatives is taking place on 18 June so that all relevant parties can input to the bid.

Continued dialogue is taking place with the NDA on the CX project. It is important to note the timescale but also that background and preparatory work is required. The CX team of Jason Syers, Kerry and Ash Wylie had visited Dounreay for two days to see parallels and learn from its experience.

Questions and Observations

Mrs Callander asked the timescale for submission of the Borderlands bid. Cllr Dryburgh advised that the timescale is tight as bids have to be submitted ahead of November to be included in budget discussions and the Chancellor's Statement in November. There is a Borderlands conference on Monday 18 June and Cllr Dryburgh expected that the bid would be ready in September. Ms Martin added that the CX project package will be prepared in July.

9. Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group Constitution

Cllr Marshall advised that, following the NDA review and guidelines for Site Stakeholder Groups, a Sub Group of the SSG had met to discuss and review the Constitution, including membership, frequency of meetings, etc. Cllr Marshall advised that Mr Harry Brown was moving house and would no longer be on the SSG as 2km resident representative. Comments from the Site Closure Director have been taken on board and opportunities to increase the voting membership considered. A report will be prepared by the Sub Group over the next few months and will be circulated and brought to the next meeting.

- [Action – Secretariat to bring report on proposed amendments to Chapelcross SSG Constitution to next meeting.](#)

10. Any Other Business

The Chair formally thanked Mr Harry Brown, 2km resident representative, for many years of attendance and input to the Site Stakeholder Group meetings and wished him well in his new home.

The Chair reminded members to look at the BEIS consultation on Proportionate Regulatory Control online.

The Chair formally thanked Mr Gordon McMiken, Scottish Government Agriculture and Rural Economy, Rural Payments and Inspections Division, for his attendance and input to SSG meetings as he now has a new role and will no longer attend meetings.

- [Action – Secretariat to send thank you letters on behalf of the SSG to Mr Brown and Mr McMiken.](#)

11. Public Forum

Mr Peter Dreghorn, Chair of River Annan's Restoring Annan Water's Community Engagement Programme, introduced himself and asked to speak on the removal of Milnbie Caul. He explained that the River Annan Trust would like to see the river restored to its natural state, with trees planted and the river remeandered. As part of the Programme, the river has been down graded and has reduced from good to poor because of Milnbie Caul. Mr Dreghorn believed that this was built in 1980 for water intake at Chapelcross and had had discussions with the NDA, Scottish Water and SEPA with regard to its removal. Extensive discussions have taken place on the ownership of the caul. Mr Dreghorn made two requests of the Site Stakeholder Group – that ownership of the caul is disregarded and if the River Annan Trust can apply to Magnox for the removal of the caul and apply for estimates and funding for this to be carried out.

Cllr Dryburgh advised that the caul is not an asset of the Site Stakeholder Group and it is not within the remit of the SSG to sanction its removal.

Cllr Marshall noted that this had been mooted in the past but believed it was never formalised and advised Mr Dreghorn to liaise with the community. Cllr Marshall considered that there would have to be a proper consultation exercise undertaken and Annan Common Good consulted on the proposal. A Risk Assessment would also be required because of the potential damage which could be done.

Cllr Marshall asked for clarification on whether this was a personal request by Mr Dreghorn or from the River Annan Trust. Mr Dreghorn confirmed that this is part of the River Annan Trust's Core Programme.

Cllr McClelland referred to complications with Health and Safety Environmental management and transfer of a pharmaceutical licence to River Annan Salmon District Fishery Board (RADSFB). The RADSFB had tried several years ago to get the caul removed but this was not done due to ecological considerations and impact and the support of Annan Common Good and the Council would be required.

Mr Park asked if Magnox would have the budget to facilitate the removal or if it would have to come from the site budget. Mr Grierson clarified that Magnox is a contractor to the NDA and does not have the budget, or the authority, to fund this. Permission would be required from the NDA as it is not within the site's budget allocations.

Mr McNairn explained that his wife's family have always worked on the River Annan as millers and farmers. He noted that the earliest map of the weir is 1857 and considered that the weir was created for Newbie Mill and has nothing to do with Chapelcross or the Broom Fishery. He added that in the last 15 years riparian owners and BNFL have made alterations to help the fishery but did not consult SEPA on the alterations and SEPA instructed the reinstatement of the weir.

Mr Dreghorn explained that the River Annan Trust has had ongoing positive dialogue with the NDA but this is being hampered by the question of ownership. He referred to a quote on the River Annan Trust's Facebook page in 2017 which says that the European Eel has declined 90% in two years and the ecological status of the river has been downgraded from good to poor by SEPA. Cllr Marshall asked if the Trust had cast iron proof that SEPA has downgraded the river because of Milnbie Weir and Mr Dreghorn confirmed that this was the case.

Cllr Dryburgh recommended consulting with Community Councils and Common Good as it is not for the SSG to decide. Ms Nicholson offered to facilitate dialogue with the Common Good and Community Councils.

12. Next Meeting – Friday 14 September 2018

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Friday 14 September 2018.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 11.45 pm.