



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 96th meeting held at the Jupiter Room, Catapult Satellite Applications, Electron Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell on Thursday 27 February 2020.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mr Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Vice Chairman	Dr John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
Secretary	Ms Emma Burwood, Magnox Comms
Minutes	Ms Trudie Tomlinson, Magnox

ATTENDEES

Mr Jon Blackmore	Magnox
Ms Gill Brown	Magnox
Mr Matthew Castle	Environment Agency
Ms Rebecca Cleverley	Environment Agency
Mr Stuart Clark	Magnox
Mr Bill Hanks	Member of the public
Mr Robin Hewat-Jaboor	Magnox
Mr Chris Hall	Wantage Chamber of Commerce & Barclays Bank
Dr Paul Jenneson	ONR
Mr Jonathan Jenkin	NDA
Dr Andrew Munro	Magnox
Mr Steven Moss	UKAEA
Mr Duncan Rogers	Harwell Joint Venture Partnership
Ms Laura Street	Magnox
Mr Dik Third	Magnox
Cllr Reg Waite	Blewbury and Harwell Ward
Cllr Daphne Boughton-Waite	Harwell Parish Council
Cllr Derek Whitmell	Upton Parish Council
Dr Christine Williamson	MRC, Harwell
Dr John Wilkins	Member of the public

1. Chairman's Remarks

- Chris Broad reported that he had attended several meetings of note. One was a meeting of SSG chairs on 22 January in London where the Chairs were introduced to Gwen Parry-Jones. Gwen outlined her career in the nuclear industry mainly associated with Magnox. She declared her support for SSG's.
- An update on reactor dismantling was given, that is, they will all enter Care and Maintenance and stay there for many years. Overall, the Harwell and Winfrith site strategy remains unchanged.
- RWM gave a talk on their continued investigations into finding a suitable geological disposal site. They said they had been approached by groups but did not give any further information.
- The Holliday Report appears to have emerged from legal debate and will be published soon.
- On 6th February there was a meeting on REPPiR 2019 4th edition. REPPiR is Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations 2019. The previous version of REPPiR was published in 2001. The meeting was led by OCC but was not fully clear on what was required, what was being done and what was not required. A key point Magnox have stated is that there is no possibility of an offsite dose > 1mSv. ONR will explain how they have been involved in an outline planning zone of 1km. OCC intend to publish an offsite plan before 21 May on their website.
- On 17th February a meeting was held on the site with Andy Munro, Site Director at Harwell/Winfrith, this was an excellent meeting. Some points are that funding has significantly increased at the two sites which will hopefully allow an increased focus on land release and also to invest in recruiting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Susan Adams, Jacqui Archer, Tim Bruce, Paul Mann, William Matheson and Terry Fraser.

3. Minutes of 95th SSG meeting

These were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters

Site Director's Site Report – Andy Munro

Safety and Environment

- Total Recordable Incidents Rates (TRIR) – we have had one injury to a foot due to a slip. This corrective action has now been dealt with. Our TRIR is now 0.78.

- The environmental dose rate has come down quite significantly. The RIFE report shows the total dose estimate from Magnox Harwell Site 2018 as 0.028 mSv, less than 3% of the public dose limit (1 mSv), and a reduction from 2017 (0.046 mSv).
- Last year Magnox Harwell received a joint warning letter from the EA and an enforcement letter from ONR regarding mis-consignments of waste. An improvement plan has been implemented and the self-imposed waste embargo in place for VLLW and LLW removed in December 2019.
- The tarmac (designated as “hazardous waste”) used to resurface the track near the Meashill site was removed in February 2020.
- The site emergency exercise in November 2019 was deemed adequate by the ONR.
- Magnox Harwell requires an outline planning zone to 1km under new REPPiR – for Oxfordshire County Council to make plans out to 1 km from one facility on site.
- New Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 came into force on 22 May 2019. This must be implemented by 21 May 2020.

Other

- Harwell and Winfrith are designated as the two highest funded sites in the Magnox fleet in 2020/21 and so we are now increasing the work at Harwell. This means more recruitment of between 40 and 70 new staff over several years at Harwell and Winfrith.
- The revised site lifetime plan (LTP) is still being worked through.
- We are currently working with the Trade Unions on T&C’s and pay harmonisation/parity.
- The IT migration has been challenging for both Harwell and Winfrith.
- We are addressing radioactive waste backlogs.
- The LETP land remediation project is going well. Jon Blackmore will give a more detailed update later in the meeting.

Harwell Land Release

Subject to funding it is hoped that the site can focus on additional land release opportunities. Andy Munro gave a general overview of potential work.

Questions

Q1: There are patches of orchids on site. They need protecting. Are there any plans to do this?

A2: The orchids are in the works information as something so protect. This is part of the pre-demolition checks and environmental surveys.

Nuclear Materials Transfer

- On the slides the numbers in red refer to those quoted at the last SSG meeting and in black the progress we have made so far.

Waste Can Retrievals

- There have been three plant breakdowns that the site have been dealing with.

WEP

- The site was resolving an issue related to the observation of a bowed encapsulated drum.

Magnox socio-economic scheme

- The overall funding allocation is now £1,012,874 across the 12 sites. There were many successful applications.
- The scheme is currently closed now to prepare for the end of the financial year and will reopen in May 2020 in a new NDA wide system.

5. Reports

a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Paul Jenneson

- ONR with HSE have published a new Approved Code of Practice to assist compliance with the new Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations 2019 – REPPiR. This is part of the government's implementation of the emergency planning requirements of the Basic Safety Standards Directive 2013 under the Euratom Treaty. The new regulations came into force on 22 May 2019 but duty holders have an implementation period of 12 months from this date to comply.
- Harwell was declared as not needing an offsite emergency plan under REPPiR. Harwell has maintained the external liaison groups which is a good practice meaning that external stakeholders are engaged. This demonstrates that the risks are clearly well managed here so no more legal requirement is required.
- Several inspections for monitoring compliance were undertaken during this past quarter in October, November and December. These inspections focussed on LC11 emergency arrangement and IRR 2017. It was deemed that Harwell demonstrated an adequate compliance.
- ONR are continuing to monitor progress with Magnox Ltd Harwell and Winfrith Integrated Waste Improvement Plan in response to the regulatory requirements of a joint enforcement letter from ONR/EA issued last year.

- All latest news from ONR can be found on their website:- www.onr.org.uk

b) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)– Jonathan Jenkin

- Andrew Davies leaves the NDA tomorrow for pastures new so today I am taking his place, my first SSG at Harwell for 8 years.
- After the government reshuffle we now have a new secretary of State.
- The chairman of NDA, Tom Smith, who had planned to retire imminently, has agreed to stay to the end of April in order to help with the transition.
- The NDA recently published its draft local economic and social impact strategy 2020-2026. The consultation on the draft strategy is open for 6 weeks and closes on Friday 13 March. Website is:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nda-local-economic-and-social-impact-strategy-2020-to-2026-draft-for-consultation>.
- NDA supply chain event registration has now opened. The event is being held on 18 June at the International Centre, Telford.
- Andy Munro then added that Harwell had welcomed the NDA board last week and received positive feedback.

c) Environment Agency (EA) – Rebecca Cleverley

- EA regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment through permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. Magnox holds two permits under EPR – one covers the nuclear licensed site and the other covers small areas outside the nuclear licensed site boundary. No changes have been made to either permit since the last SSG meeting.
- We make regular inspections at Harwell to check compliance and have found that good practice was demonstrated and that staff are committed to permit compliance. We are currently looking at inspection priorities for the 2020/21 regulatory year and will update the SSG on this at the next meeting.
- The latest RIFE report 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2018' is now available on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>
- Regarding the incident at LETP where a waste shipment was despatched with the incorrect paperwork we have scored this event as a category 4 (category 1 being the most serious) non-compliance with a permit. We believe Magnox carried out a thorough investigation and identified corrective actions.
- A warning letter was sent to Harwell site requiring Magnox to remove the hazardous waste material used to resurface the track near Meashill and we visited site to inspect

the location. The waste has now been removed and once confirmation in writing is given we will close our investigation.

Copies of discharge reports and RASCAR's are available from the ONR on request.

6. Update on the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) – Jon Blackmore

Jon Blackmore, senior project manager for the land remediation project at the LETP gave an update on progress.

- From 1948 the LETP operated to treat effluent from the main nuclear site. The treatment process removed radioactivity before discharge of the water to the Thames.
- The sewage farm was used to treat foul sewage.
- Discharge to the Thames stopped in 2013 and effluent treatment ceased in 2014.
- Decommissioning of the above ground structures started in 2013. The land remediation objectives were to remove all contaminated structures and soils, remediation to allow removal of regulatory controls and on completion of the work transfer the site back to the Harwell campus.
- Waste was extracted using excavators, placed into 0.9 cubic metre bulk bags via hoppers and transported to the Waste Assay Facility. Radioactivity in each bag was measured to determine the waste category and sophisticated data management and package tracking was used (eg bar codes).
- If you are interested, videos of the decommissioning of LETP can be found on You Tube.
- The wet winter weather has caused quite a bit of flooding which has created some delays.
- Aerial photographs were shown before decommissioning and after showing progress.
- Over 52,000 bags were dug and 51,875 bags consigned. 70% was conventional waste and 30% was very low level radioactive waste. Remediation and validation surveys were completed across ¼ of the LETP area.
- There were significant challenges including: high groundwater levels, maintaining excellent production rate towards completion and the timing of delicensing and reinstatement.
- There was successful collaboration between Magnox and a number of contractors.

Future work:-

- Completion of remediation is expected to be late summer 2020.

- Ongoing sampling and surveys to support delicensing and surrender of Environmental Permits by March 2021.
- Finalise reinstatement design, including Sustainable Urban Draining Systems (SUDS).
- Submit applications to remove regulatory controls to ONR and EA in late summer 2021.
- Implementation of reinstatement works late 2021/2022.

Questions

Q1: Is the discharge pipe to the Thames completely removed now?

A1: Virtually all of it.

Q2: What about the bit under the A34?

A2: No, that has not been removed but it is complicated to remove it.

Q3: Is all the work at Sutton Courtenay finished?

A3: Yes, that's all done now

Q4: Is the Icknield Way footpath diverted for another two years?

A4: Yes

Q6: Where do the waste bags go to?

A6: 90% of the waste goes to recycling.

7. Campus Matters

a) Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership – Duncan Rogers

- Duncan Rogers, Asset and Estate Management Director at Harwell gave an update on the campus developments.
- The public joint venture was formed in 2013. The aim is for the campus to be Europe's largest collection of scientific facilities. Six new buildings have been completed and fully let. 60,000 square feet has been refurbished. It has grown as three clusters: space, emerging technology and health technology. There has been close to half a billion pounds of public sector investment over the last 3 years.
- It is prime business location in Oxfordshire and now represents 40% of the commercial property market. Ultimately the plan is it becomes a science and innovation town of over 20,000 people.

- There will be other facilities such as cafes and also a gym.
- It is in a rural location and we don't want to spoil that so we are adding green spaces and intending to protect the ecology here. The design of the buildings is to work with the landscape rather than against it.
- Some of the old RAF buildings are being refurbished eg the Airman's Mess (aka B150). B151 and B152 are also being refurbished.

Questions

Q1: This is all fantastic but what about parking facilities and transport needs? It is becoming increasingly difficult to find anywhere to park on the Harwell site.

A1: Where new buildings are going up we are considering the parking needs. The bus park was never going to be a long term carpark and was always going to be developed.

Q2: But presumably you do have a transport plan?

A2: Yes, but parking in future may involve a bit of a walk.

Q3: How many employees do you have here now?

A3: About 6,000

Q4: How many businesses?

A4: 250

Q5: In the new gym will there be provision for squash courts to replace the ones so needlessly taken down 12 years ago?

A5: Pass. I don't know.

Q6: What about the hotel that was going to be built?

A6: This development is forever changing so I can't answer that. The idea hasn't disappeared. It depends on demand.

b) Science and Technology Facilities Council – no report or attendee

c) Diamond Light Source – no report or attendee

8. Any Other Business

Q1: You are going to have the 100th meeting soon. Do you have any plans to celebrate that?

A1: Yes, probably

9. Next Meeting

Thursday 9 July – evening meeting with tour

Thursday 5 November

Chris Broad – Chairman

Emma Burwood – Communications and Socio Economic Lead

Trudie Tomlinson – Minutes

5 March 2020