

**CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2022 AT 10.00 AM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, ANNAN**

**Chairman's Welcome, Announcements and Apologies**

Cllr Dryburgh MBE welcomed in particular some new faces – Mr Rowland Cook, ONR, replacing Mr Bill Kings following retirement; Ms Gillian Elliott, NDA, on behalf of Mr David Wallace; Ms Helen Emberson, CX Programme Lead; Mr Neil Carruthers, replacing Joyce Wylie for Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council; Ishbel Dale and Peter Smith of University of Stirling carrying out the CX Habits Survey for SEPA.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2021 were approved. A response to the action on the Scottish Government action point was provided to members by email. A response to the action for Dumfries and Galloway College was read out at the meeting and included in full in the Minutes.

**CX Project Update – Ms Helen Emberson**

Ms Emberson introduced herself, summarised progress to date and outlined the way forward.

**Chapelcross Site Closure Director's Report – Mr Richard Murray**

All site-based staff are now back on site. There had been one injury with an employee trapping and cutting a finger on a skip. Issues with the security system have been investigated and significantly improved following investment. F gas leaks from air conditioning systems have been reported as notifiable events. 21 mosaics have been removed from Pond 2 into the ISF. 19 low level waste shipments have been made from site. Non-radioactive waste has been removed. A £2.3M asset investment rolling programme has seen the maintenance burden reduced by 14%. 4 Radiation Protection Monitor Trainees, 2 Waste Engineers, 1 Project Engineer and 1 Production Technician have been recruited. Photographic examples were shown of works being done on Waste Hazard Reduction; Pond Decommissioning; CXPP Decommissioning; Waste Projects and Asset Care. The eel pass has been fitted at Milnby Weir.

**NDA Report – Ms Gillian Elliott**

NDA's Sustainability Strategy was released in March 2022. Magnox fuel reprocessing ends at Sellafield in July 2022. Nuclear Waste Services was launched in January 2022. The GDF Siting Process is underway, with geophysical surveys (sonar surveys of deep rock) to begin in Cumbria. The Supply Chain Event will take place on 21 July 2022 in Telford. The NDA Summit will be in person in Edinburgh on 7/8 September. The Gender Pay Gap 2020/21 Report has been published. Laura Hogg is on secondment to Scottish Government to work on the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Policy. NDA's Business Plan for 2022-2025 was published in March 2022.

**ONR Report – Mr Rowland Cook**

The ONR report was circulated with meeting papers. Mr Cook summarised his background. He intends to continue the Inspection Programme that Mr Kings had with routine background and licence condition checks.

**SEPA Report –**

The ONR report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr Stone was not present at the meeting.

**Update from Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton**

The Scottish Government report was circulated with the meeting papers, on which Ms Hamilton gave updates. The next Scottish Nuclear Sites Stakeholder Group meeting will take place on 23 August 2022. Questions are to be forwarded in advance to Scottish Government, through the SSG Secretariat.

**External Meetings and Invitations – Cllr Archie Dryburgh**

**Magnox SSG Chairs / Vice Chairs Meeting – 17 December 2021, 10 February 2022**

Cllr Dryburgh attended the meeting in December. The next meeting is on 4/5 July in Manchester. An independent website for SSGs is expected to be launched at the end of July 2022.

**CX Habits Survey – Mr Peter Smith and Ms Ishbel Dale, University of Stirling**

Mr Smith described the 5 yearly Survey being undertaken in the Chapelcross area, on behalf of SEPA.

**Public Forum** – no public in attendance.

**Any Other Business** – Elections will take place at the next meeting for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Site Stakeholder Group. Cllr Dryburgh will stand for re-election as Chair. Thanks were given to Mr Henry McClelland for his support and input as Vice Chair.

**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.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday 23 August 2022 at 10.00 am in Annan Town Hall.**



## Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 10.00 am  
D&G Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan, DG12 6AQ**

### **Present:**

Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)  
Mr Neil Carruthers (The Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council)  
Mr Rowland Cook (ONR)  
Cllr Archie Dryburgh MBE (Annandale East and Eskdale) (Chair)  
Ms Gillian Elliott (NDA Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Cumbria)  
Ms Helen Emberson (D&G Council, CX Programme Lead)  
Ms Diane Hamilton (Scottish Government)  
Mrs Elaine Irving (Kirtle and Eaglesfield Community Council)  
Mr Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)  
Cllr Sean Marshall (Annandale South)  
Ms Carol Midwood (Federation of Community Councils)  
Mr Richard Murray (Chapelcross Site Director)  
Ms Jaime Nicholson (D&G Council, Ward Officer Annandale South)  
Cllr Stephen Thompson (Annandale North)

### **In Attendance:**

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)  
Ms Ishbel Dale (University of Stirling - CX Habits Survey)  
Mr Peter Smith (University of Stirling - CX Habits Survey)

### **Apologies:**

Mr Henry McClelland (Vice Chair)  
Mr Oliver Mundell MSP  
Mr Ian Park (Magna Trade Union Representative)  
Mr David Stone (SEPA)  
Mr Alex Thomson (Gretna and Rigg Community Council / Federation of Community Councils)  
Mr David Wallace (NDA)

## **1. Chairman's Welcome**

Cllr Dryburgh, Chair, welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since the pandemic. In particular, he welcomed new CX Programme Lead, Helen Emberson; Rowland Cook, ONR; Gillian Elliot, NDA, on behalf of David Wallace; and Ishbel Dale and Peter Smith of University of Stirling, who will present on the CX Habits Survey.

## **2. Announcements and Apologies (including Declarations of Interest)**

Cllr Dryburgh read out 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.

Mr Neil Carruthers confirmed that he is employed by Magnox Limited and was attending the meeting representing The Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council, replacing Joyce Wylie.

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the meeting of 24 November were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Cllr Sean Marshall and seconded by Mr Willie McNairn.

#### **Action points from the last meeting**

1. *Ms Hamilton to check if there is an intention for the Governments in the UK to research a unified store somewhere where all waste would eventually go.*

Ms Hamilton had provided a response after the meeting, which had been circulated to members by email.

2. *Mr Currie to investigate College archives for more information on the former Level 2 SVQ in Decommissioning.*

The Chair read the following response from Mr Currie, Director of Estates and Sustainability:

'The College no longer holds any detail on the previous course due to the time passing, however have identified the correct framework via City and Guilds and as such would welcome further scoping discussion to look at the feasibility of delivering this again. I trust this is of use. I am happy to pick up with members to take this forward.'

*Due to technology issues, the running order of the Agenda was changed.*

### **8. CX Project Update – Helen Emberson, CX Programme Lead**

Cllr Dryburgh introduced Helen Emberson and summarised the project, part of the Borderlands Initiative. Ms Emberson stressed that it is key to retain jobs and the economy of the region. A lot of work has been done previously, including masterplans, site investigations and consultation. It is intended to make the CX project the heart of energising the Borderlands. The CX project is a catalyst for green energy and there has been a lot of interest in this, predominantly hydrogen. High value jobs are required but a balance is needed between energy providers and consumers. The Strategic Outline Case has been completed to date, which looks at unlocking the site, site servicing and access and infrastructure. Ms Emberson identified the Workstreams as: Signed Memorandum of Understanding; Shadow Programme Board (South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), Magnox Limited, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), Dumfries and Galloway Council); Strategic Development Framework; Marketing; Roads and Services.

#### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Marshall noted that £20M funding had been allocated to the CX project through the Borderlands Initiative, mainly for infrastructure. He asked if there was any idea of the internal / external apportionment of funding and roads. Ms Emberson responded that a connection from Junction 20 to the B7022 had been identified but plans needed to be refreshed. Requirements for hydrogen need to be investigated. The costs of road connections and services needs reanalysed and brought into an Outline Business Case.

Cllr Thompson asked if Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group would get sight of the submitted Business Case, capital bids / release of funds from the Borderlands programme and drawdown in terms of funding. Ms Emberson replied that a cashflow profile would be included in future reports to the Site Stakeholder Group.

Cllr Dryburgh referred to the legacy of the NDA and noted that some interested partners are looking to take over the whole site. He asked how the CX project would create a balance to make sure that best use is made of this public asset and how this will be weighed up to get something done quickly. Ms Emberson could not promise that this would happen quickly. The target is to identify one or two anchor tenants then draw in more interested parties. It will be 2028 before energy can be put into the grid due to the current available capacity into the grid. Cllr Dryburgh suggested that starting with a small electricity supplier would give an opportunity to do it before 2028. Mr Murray added that opportunities had been discussed at a master planning workshop and how to go about developing the site of over 100ha of land, which is a prime development site in Scotland, creating positive interest.

After a number of years of anticipation, Cllr Marshall was pleased to see real progress in the last year, with key people on the Shadow Board and a dedicated Project Officer. He was pleased that Mr Murray is now on the Shadow Board and the pieces of the jigsaw are coming together. He welcomed new opportunities and industries but stressed that these have to complement the existing decommissioning work.

Cllr Dryburgh hoped that there would be an opportunity for training facilities on the site for decommissioning.

Mr McNairn asked if there were any planned upgrades to the electrical supply network that could facilitate further export capacity from the Chapelcross site. Mr Murray stated that there was an ongoing reinforcement project of the Kendoon to Tongland 132kV route that was being conducted by Scottish Power and in the future, this may allow for export capacity enhancement, but this was some years down the line. Mr McNairn advised that discussions are taking place with Scottish Power regarding upgrades at Gretna. Ms Emberson responded that there have been discussions around inputting energy into the grid. This takes the form of an application process and queue system. A planning application would be required for line replacement and would be the subject of a Public Inquiry. Cllr Dryburgh noted that potential windfarms have the same discussions with the grid. He asked if there had been any discussion regarding the High-Speed link with Gretna Green and Kirkpatrick Fleming creating 100 jobs. Ms Emberson undertook to pick up on this.

Cllr Thompson referred to the application process for connections to the grid by 2028 and asked if a decision is required for submission of the application. Ms Emberson clarified that work needs to be done to determine the size and scale to go into the grid before an application can be submitted, which would also require a funding investment.

Cllr Marshall noted that there is a potential opportunity, previously raised with Scottish Government and NDA, regarding the lack of decommissioning training providers in Scotland and the opportunity for Chapelcross site to be a Scottish Hub for training and Magnox Ltd is now in a position to recruit people and take on apprenticeships.

#### **4. Chapelcross Site Closure Report – Mr Richard Murray** *(Including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme)*

Mr Murray was pleased to see people face to face and provided an update under the headings of EHSS&Q Performance, Site News, Programme Update and Socio-Economic Update.

All site-based staff are now back on site following the lifting of Covid restrictions. This is creating a better and more collaborative working environment. Some support staff are hybrid working. There had been one injury with an employee trapping and cutting a finger on a skip. Four stitches had been required but the employee had recovered well. Investigations are taking place and the type of skips on site is being addressed.

Issues with the security system have been investigated and significantly improved following investment. A number of F gas leaks from air conditioning systems have been reported as notifiable events.

Twenty-one mosaics have been removed from Pond 2 into the Interim Storage Facility (ISF). Nineteen low level waste shipments have been made from site. Non-radioactive waste (concrete, metals, scrap etc) has been removed. A £2.3M asset investment rolling programme has seen the maintenance burden reduced by 14%. Targets for this financial year are : delivery of 40 packages to the Intermediate Level Waste store; 19 low level waste shipments (229m<sup>3</sup>); active commissioning of the CXPP tritium facility which is a key step forward; ponds decommissioning; sludge and sand removal.

There is positive news on recruitment with a refreshment in staffing. Chapelcross has an ageing workforce and is not alone in this in the Magnox estate, but 4 Radiation Protection Monitor Trainees have started, which has reduced the age profile across the workforce and brought out the best in staff taking them under their wing, sharing knowledge and experience. Two Waste Engineers, 1 Project Engineer and 1 Production Technician have been recruited. A new EHSS&Q Manager will be recruited this year due to upcoming retirement of the current incumbent.

Mr Murray showed photographic examples of works being done on Waste Hazard Reduction; Pond Decommissioning; CXPP Decommissioning; Waste Projects and Asset Care. The people who operated the CXPP plant will also use their skills to decommission it. Some areas of plant have been modified. The Modular Encapsulation Plant is in the final stages of decommissioning. The first one went live at Berkeley two weeks previously and this approved design concept would be repeated across other Magnox sites. Local companies and contractors would be used where possible on the £3M asset care programme this year. Recladding works to Reactor 3 are ongoing. Scottish Water and Magnox have worked together to bring real benefit to the ecology of the river with the eel pass fitted at Milnby Weir.

Of the Magnox Socio Economic budget of £1,020,035 in 2021/22, just £0.97 was unspent at the end of the financial year. Local beneficiaries included Lockerbie Old School project (£50k) and the Black and Gold Foundation (£20k) for the refurbishment of Multi Use Games Area at Annan Athletic Football Club.

### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Marshall observed that in terms of socio economics, Chapelcross has punched above its weight in previous years, with business parks for example. There had been a reduced number of applications during Covid but Magnox continued to support the Annandale and Eskdale area.

Cllr Marshall considered the recent recruitment process good news in taking the opportunity to address the ageing workforce profile. This also reinforces the lack of training facilities in Scotland. Mr Murray undertook to engage with the Principal of Dumfries and Galloway to take this forward.

### **5. NDA Update – Ms Gillian Elliott**

Ms Elliott gave the NDA Update, on behalf of David Wallace. The NDA is still operating a hybrid mix, split approximately as 40% office based and 60% homeworking. More face-to-face meetings are being arranged. The NDA's Sustainability Strategy was released in March 2022. Magnox fuel reprocessing ends at Sellafield in July 2022. This has been a long journey for Sellafield which started operation in 1964. A small amount of approx. 200 tonnes is still to be reprocessed and put into storage in Sellafield. Nuclear Waste Services was launched in January 2022. The Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Siting Process is underway, with geophysical surveys (sonar surveys of deep rock) to begin in Cumbria. The Supply Chain Event will take place on 21 July 2022 in Telford, at which 300 suppliers are expected. Virtual stakeholder events took place last year but this year the NDA Summit will

be in person in Edinburgh on 7/8 September, with more details on the 'Keeping the Conversation Going' event to follow. The Gender Pay Gap 2020/21 Report has been published. The NDA is doing its best to reduce the pay gap as it is important to attract and retain a diverse workforce. Links to all the reports mentioned are available in the report.

The NDA is pleased to have facilitated the secondment of Laura Hogg to Scottish Government to work on the Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Policy. The NDA will work with Cwmni Eginio to develop proposals for a new nuclear development at Trawsfynydd. The NDA's Business Plan for 2022-2025 was published in March 2022.

### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Marshall observed that it is interesting from a Scottish Site Stakeholder Group perspective to hear updates on the Geological Disposal Facility, but this does not currently apply to Scotland, unless Scottish Government policy should change. Cllr Marshall was pleased to note that the NDA is engaging with Scottish Government on Higher Activity Waste policy as the clear definition for example of near surface, near site is still unknown.

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

### **ONR – Mr Rowland Cook**

The ONR report was circulated with the meeting papers. Mr Cook introduced himself as Principal Inspector and was pleased to be at his first Site Stakeholder Group meeting. He summarised his background and advised that he is part retired, working 3 days/wk and also trains new inspectors. Mr Cook has been inspecting ponds retrievals in support of lifting the hold point. A Specialist Inspector inspected the radiological dose. Mr Cook intends to continue the Inspection Programme that Mr Kings had before his retirement with occasional routine background and licence condition checks.

### **SEPA –**

The SEPA report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr Stone was not present at the meeting. No questions were raised.

### **Scottish Government – Ms Diane Hamilton**

The Scottish Government report was circulated with the meeting papers. Ms Hamilton updated on the Higher Activity Waste Policy Review and work with the UK Government on the UK Radioactive Substances Common Framework. The next Scottish Nuclear Sites Stakeholder Group meeting will take place on 23 August 2022. This is currently expected to be online but may be a hybrid meeting. Should any Stakeholder Group member wish to ask any questions at the meeting, these should be sent to Mrs Callander for collation and forwarding to Scottish Government via the Secretariat.

### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Dryburgh asked about radiological issues on oil rigs. Mr Cook advised that there are three different kinds and explained the process.

## **7. External Meetings and Invitations – Magnox SSG Chairs / Vice Chairs Meeting – 17 December 2021, 10 February 2022**

Cllr Dryburgh had attended the virtual Magnox SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting in December 2021. The next NDA Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting will be on 4/5 July in Manchester.

Cllr Dryburgh suggested that, as in the past, a Sub Group of Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group is convened when required to meet, discuss and agree on responses to consultations.

Further to discussions taken place at the Chairs and Vice Chairs Quarterly Update Meetings, Mrs Callander advised that Magnox is intending to launch an independent website for Site

Stakeholder Groups (this currently sits within the Socio-Economic website). Mrs Callander undertook to share the link, when this is available, anticipated to be the end of July 2022.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Cllr Dryburgh introduced Peter Smith and Ishbel Dale from the University of Stirling who are undertaking the Chapelcross Radiological Habit Survey. This work is undertaken on behalf of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and will contribute to an assessment that will ensure that SEPA's environmental radioactivity monitoring programmes are optimised so that the public are not at risk from routine authorised radioactive waste discharges from Chapelcross. Through face-to-face questionnaires individuals' activities and the amount of time spent undertaking these activities and the consumption of fresh produce within the survey area will be determined. A public report will be published and will be available on SEPA's website when complete.

Mr Smith gave a brief presentation on the survey commissioned by SEPA on each nuclear site in Scotland. The surveys take place every five years focussing on food consumption study of population around sites. The 2022 Habits Survey approach involves a postal survey of 2,000 people in the area. These surveys will be used to plan for face-to-face surveys in the field. A follow-up survey will be undertaken in six months' time. The 2022 Chapelcross Habitats Survey area will be face to face 1km around the site, 5km around the site and the coastal area from Gretna to Glencaple. One survey will take place during and one outwith the school holidays. Focus Groups will also be surveyed. Mr Smith gave examples of the questions included in the survey and would be keen to hear of any community groups, organisations, bodies or contacts that it would be worthwhile having discussions with.

### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Dryburgh pointed out that life in general has changed since Covid, with more outdoors living, more walking, foraging, cost of living increases, monkey pox, for example, and thought this was a good time for the Study.

Cllr Marshall agreed that there were more opportunities to speak to people now. He asked if the postal surveys had been sent and suggested that these should be prefaced by a feature in the local media as people are very wary of scams and 'cold' surveys. Mr Smith took this point on board and advised that a 10% return is normally expected from postal surveys.

Cllr Marshall asked if the Survey involves the site itself. Mr Smith responded that interviewers do not go onto the site itself but do make contact with the site to make it aware before going out in public.

With regard to Focus Groups, Cllr Marshall suggested attending the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting in August and speaking to members after the meeting.

Cllr Dryburgh noted that Community Councils are weary of consultations, with many over the last couple of years, all having to be dealt with by volunteers. This has been particularly hard during Covid, and he suggested that there would be a better response from face-to-face meetings.

Cllr Thompson agreed that it would be useful for the Site Stakeholder Group members to be surveyed but also suggested getting in touch with Dumfries and Galloway Council for other appropriate contacts.

## **10. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

## 11. Next Meeting – Wednesday 3 August 2022

The next meeting will be held at 10am on Wednesday 3 August 2022.

Cllr Dryburgh noted that Mr Henry McClelland, Vice Chair, had stood down as a Councillor at the recent elections. Cllr Dryburgh recorded his personal thanks to Mr McClelland for his support and input to the Site Stakeholder Group.

- Action – Mrs Callander to write to Mr McClelland to convey the thanks of the Site Stakeholder Group.

Mrs Callander advised that an election will take place at the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Cllr Dryburgh advised that he intends to stand for re-election as Chair.

Cllr Dryburgh closed the meeting at 11.40 am.