

**CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP  
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST 2022 AT 10.00 AM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, ANNAN**

One nomination had been received for the position of Chair – Cllr Archie Dryburgh. One nomination had been received for the position of Vice Chair – Cllr George Jamieson. As there were no other nominations, there was no need for a vote and Cllr Dryburgh and Cllr Jamieson were formally confirmed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, for a five-year term.

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

Cllr Dyrburgh recapped on the last five years, during which time there had been three Site Directors. He personally thanked Cllr Henry McClelland for his support as Vice Chair and welcomed Cllr Jamieson to the role. Cllr Dryburgh thanked members for allowing him to represent them again as Chair of the Site Stakeholder Group and thanked Mrs Callander, Sean Marshall and the wider team at Chapelcross for their support.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the meeting of 25 May 2022 were approved. The Secretariat had written to Cllr McClelland to convey the thanks of the Site Stakeholder Group.

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

The site reported to SEPA on 20 June that it had exceeded the **sub limit** of discharge of the gaseous 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium', associated with AVDS operation. Activity on the AVDS was stopped for investigation. There was no risk of harm to personnel or the environment. Two site stand-down days have boosted morale on site. 27 of 34 mosaics have been removed from Pond 2 into ISF. 3 A feasibility study is looking at the potential for a solar system to provide the site with a 4mw electrical system. 22 positions are being actively recruited. 3 apprentice operation technicians from local area will start in September. Mock up work is being done in CXPP. Asset care upgrade works are taking place.

**NDA Report – Ms Gillian Elliott**

NDA's Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 has been published. Kathryn Cearns OBE has joined the NDA Board as a non-executive Board member. Fuel reprocessing has ended at Sellafield, with 55,000 tons of fuel being reprocessed. The geophysical surveys started last week. NDA is working with Cwmni Eginio and Welsh Government to develop proposals for a new nuclear development at Trawsfynydd. Supply Chain event took place in Telford on 21 July. NDA Stakeholder Summit is on 7/8 September in Edinburgh. Day visitors welcome.

**ONR Report –**

The ONR report was circulated with meeting papers. Mr Cook was not present at the meeting.

**SEPA Report – Dr David Stone**

The SEPA report was circulated in advance of the meeting. SEPA is still recovering from cyber attack. New Chief Executive, Nicole Paterson, will start in October. Physical inspections on site have resumed. Dr Stone explained the exceeding of the discharge sub-limit from the AVDS in more detail and the limits to put into perspective. The root cause appears to have been found and more detail will be provided at next meeting.

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

The Scottish Government Report was included in meeting papers. A full progress report on the HAW Strategy Review will be brought to the next meeting. The Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting is on 23 August 2022 online.

**CX Project Update – Ms Helen Emberson**

A detailed Status Report was included in meeting papers and Ms Emberson recapped on progress made since the last meeting.

**Magnox Update – Mr Bill Hamilton**

Mr Hamilton gave a verbal update. A proper presentation will be given at the next meeting.

**External Meetings and Invitations –**

**Magnox SSG Chairs / Vice Chairs Meeting – 4/5 July 2022, Manchester**

Cllr McClelland had attended the meeting for Cllr Dyrburgh and a written report would be circulated.

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

**Any Other Business** – no other items of business raised.

**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 16 November 2022 at 10.00 am in Annan Town Hall.**



## **Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3 August 2022 at 10.00 am  
D&G Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan, DG12 6AQ**

### **Present:**

Mrs Jill Callander (SSG Secretariat)  
Cllr Archie Dryburgh MBE (representing Annandale East and Eskdale) (Chair)  
Ms Gillian Elliott (NDA Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Cumbria)  
Ms Helen Emberson (D&G Council, CX Programme Lead)  
Mr Bill Hamilton (Magnox Communications and Stakeholder Relations)  
Ms Diane Hamilton (Scottish Government)  
Cllr George Jamieson (representing Annandale South) (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)  
Mr Willie McNairn (2km Resident Representative)  
Mr Ben Mellor (Magnox Strategic and External Communications)  
Ms Carol Midwood (representing Federation of Community Councils)  
Mr Richard Murray (Chapelcross Site Director)  
Mr Ian Park (Magnox Trade Union Representative)  
Dr David Stone (SEPA)

### **In Attendance:**

Ms Sheila Adams (Minutes)

### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Mrs Callander explained the procedure for re-electing a Chair and Vice Chair every five years. One nomination had been received for the position of Chair – Cllr Archie Dryburgh. One nomination had been received for the position of Vice Chair – Cllr George Jamieson. As there were no other nominations, there was no need for a vote and Cllr Dryburgh and Cllr Jamieson were formally confirmed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, for a five-year term.

### **Apologies:**

Mr Neil Carruthers (The Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council)  
Mr Rowland Cook (ONR)  
Cllr Lynne Davis (Annandale North)  
Mr Oliver Mundell MSP  
Ms Jaime Nicholson (D&G Council, Ward Officer Annandale South)  
Cllr Stephen Thompson (Annandale North)  
Mr Alex Thomson (Gretna and Rigg Community Council / Federation of Community Councils)  
Mr David Wallace (NDA)  
Cllr Carlyne Wilson (Annandale North)

Cllr Dryburgh believed that Mr Alex Thomson was moving to Cyprus to live in the near future and wished him well for the future.

## 1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Dyrburgh recapped on the last five years, during which time there had been three Site Directors. He personally thanked Cllr Henry McClelland for his support as Vice Chair and welcomed Cllr Jamieson to the role. The Site Stakeholder Group had responded to a number of consultations over the years, including ONR and SEPA. It had overseen the progression of the Chapelcross Project and Borderlands Initiative. Cllr Dryburgh thanked members for allowing him to represent them again as Chair of the Site Stakeholder Group and thanked Mrs Callander, Sean Marshall and the wider team at Chapelcross for their support.

## 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 but was attending the meeting as a Councillor, representing Annandale South.

## 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting of 25 May were approved as a true record and proposed as such by Mr Willie McNairn and seconded by Ms Carol Midwood.

### Action points from the last meeting

Mrs Callander to write to Cllr McClelland to convey the thanks of the Site Stakeholder Group – Mrs Callander confirmed that this had been done - discharged.

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

Mr Murray gave an update under the headings of EHSS&Q Performance, Site News, Programme Update and Socio-Economic Update.

In terms of safety, the site reported to SEPA on 20 June that it had exceeded the **sub limit** of discharge of the gaseous 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium', associated with the operation of the Advanced Vacuum Drying System (AVDS). The peculiar reading was found when producing the statutory discharge return for May 2022. Activity on the AVDS was stopped and this is being investigated. Mr Murray reassured members that there was no risk of harm to personnel or the environment.

Good progress is being made with the site's Safety Implementation Plan. There have been two site safety event days, with 200 people receiving presentations on slips, trips and falls; virtual reality elevated platforms; tools and equipment demonstration and Target Zero talks. These were well supported by safety representatives and have boosted morale on site. The site is pleased to have a healthy reporting culture.

Twenty-seven of 34 mosaics have been removed from Pond 2 into the Interim Storage Facility (ISF), although this process has now halted due to the AVDS discharge issue. Three low level waste shipments have been made from site and this is progressing well. Mr Murray recapped on targets for the year. A feasibility study is looking at the potential for a solar farm system to provide the site with a 4mw electrical system. This would be on a part of the site not previously used for nuclear and would bring significant cost savings to the site.

Twenty-two positions are being actively recruited. With a workforce of 170, this is a significant recruitment exercise. In the main, this is due to the ageing profile of the workforce. Three apprentice operation technicians from the local area will start in September.

Mr Murray showed photographic examples of works being done on Waste Hazard Reduction with non-active waste shipments and Pond Decommissioning. CXPP Decommissioning is unique to Chapelcross and is progressing well. Mock up work is being done, with a view to start decommissioning in September / October. This is high hazard work and very demanding. Under Asset Care, Reactor 3 works have been completed with glazing replaced and corroded steelwork dealt with. Reactor roofs are being replaced and pedestrian access routes have been improved.

In terms of socio economics, the Black and Gold Foundation received £20k for the refurbishment of Multi Use Games Area at Annan Athletic Football Club and the Annan Riding of the Marches returned this year and was supported.

### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Dryburgh urged caution with the use of acronyms and noted that new members may not be familiar with the many acronyms used on site and suggested that a glossary of these would be useful.

- Action – Secretariat to produce glossary of common nuclear acronyms for new members.

Cllr Jamieson asked about the model for apprenticeship and where apprentices are recruited from, career progression opportunities and off-site training facilities. Mr Murray responded that these are the first apprentices to be recruited for many years. Recruitment was done locally and online recruitment websites (e.g. Indeed) and successful applicants are from Annan and Dumfries. There is no specialised training facility locally so they will undertake two six-week blocks of training at Bridgwater College in Somerset. There is scope for the apprentice operators to progress their careers by becoming Assistant Team Leaders, Team Leaders etc, depending on their aspirations. There is also a Graduate Apprenticeship Scheme.

Cllr Marshall noted that the issue of lack of training providers in Scotland had previously been raised with NDA and Scottish Government. The lack of training facilities in Scotland is generally recognised and the Site Stakeholder Group has previously asked that Chapelcross is looked at as a potential Scottish Hub for the National Skills Academy Nuclear (NSAN). Cllr Dryburgh added that this will become even more important when EDF Stations at Hunterston and Torness begin decommissioning, meaning 20% of UK decommissioning is in Scotland.

Mr Park was heartened to see apprentices and new employees being recruited but feared that this was not being done quickly enough to meet the gap that could be created by retirement of the ageing workforce. He was concerned that there was a fundamental risk that the site would not be able to deliver in future if new people are not recruited and trained before existing experienced staff retire and suggested that the process should have started five years ago. Mr Murray replied that turnaround in the last 12 months had been as quick as it could be and the site was working to get on top of recruitment and training of new personnel. Cllr Dryburgh noted that it is now feasible to have a long-term career in decommissioning and this has to be made as attractive as possible for potential employees.

Mr Jamieson asked if Magnox worked with Skills Development Scotland. Mr Murray responded that this was not the case. In a different role, Cllr Jamieson was aware of a revamping of 'My World of Work' for career advice through Skills Development Scotland and suggested that it would be worthwhile looking at this as a great resource opportunity for young people. Cllr Dryburgh advised that Skills Development Scotland were previously involved with the Scottish hub of NSAN and that he and Cllr Marshall had been trying to get this re-energised.

Cllr Dryburgh welcomed Mr Ben Mellor to his first Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group meeting. Mr Mellor advised that he is just starting to look at Magnox's recruitment campaign and the issues across the board. How to attract people both into the decommissioning industry and into Magnox needed addressed and he encouraged members to feed in any suggestions through the Secretariat. Cllr Jamieson suggested that the right recruitment is about more than just salaries and 'fair work' policies also need consideration.

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

Ms Elliott gave the NDA Update, on behalf of David Wallace. The NDA's Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 has been published, which includes information on Magnox taking over Dounreay next year and big changes at Sellafield. Kathryn Cearns OBE has joined the NDA Board as a non-executive Board member. Fuel reprocessing has ended at Sellafield, with 55,000 tons of fuel being reprocessed. The geophysical surveys started last week, the results of which will determine if the east Irish sea base is appropriate for the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). This is just the start of a very long journey (around ten years potentially). The NDA is working in collaboration with Cwmni Eginio and Welsh Government to develop proposals for a new nuclear development at Trawsfynydd. The Supply Chain event took place in Telford on 21 July, one of the hottest days of the year. Despite this, there were plenty of visitors, good conversation and a lot of work generated. The NDA Stakeholder Summit is on 7/8 September in Edinburgh. There will be fringe events for stakeholders to talk to NDA experts and a range of people presenting on the main stage. The NDA recognises the number of stakeholders in Scotland and day visitors are welcome.

### **Questions and Observations**

Mr Park asked if the NDA would use the Cwmni Eginio model at Trawsfynydd across the estate and asked if there was any forward thinking on using Chapelcross, although he accepted that Scottish Government policy would have to change first. Ms Elliott confirmed that David Wallace is involved with the Borderlands Initiative and the NDA will look to support across the estate.

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

### **ONR – Roland Cook**

The ONR report was circulated with the meeting papers and no questions were raised. Mr Cook was unable to be at the meeting as he currently has Covid. Cllr Dryburgh passed on the best wishes of the Site Stakeholder Group to Mr Cook for a speedy recovery.

### **SEPA – Dr David Stone**

The SEPA report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Dr Stone was pleased to be back at a face-to-face meeting. SEPA is still recovering from the cyber attack in December 2020. While now functioning normally, some files are still quarantined. New Chief Executive, Nicole Paterson, will take over the role in October. Inspections during Covid were remote but SEPA has now returned to a physical inspection regime. SEPA was on site last week to witness the preparations of the CXPP plant, described by Mr Murray. While this may seem trivial, it is very important and technical options are limited with a small facility to work in. SEPA has also been on site twice in connection with the exceeding of the discharge sub-limit from the AVDS. The sub-limit is based on best practicable means. The breach was rapid in a week and SEPA was informed on 20 June. Dr Stone explained the limits to put into perspective. The sub-limit associated with the AVDS is 62 MBq, from a total site limit of 2,500 MBq for 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium'. SEPA is confident that there is no impact on the public or the environment and works have ceased during investigations. The root cause appears to have been found and more detail will be provided at the next meeting.

## **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Marshall referred to the cyber attack and thought that victims of this are normally up and running much quicker than SEPA appears to have been and asked how long it would be until SEPA is functioning fully. Dr Stone confirmed that the attack was extremely debilitating to begin with. Staff had to work only with telephones at first while new laptops were rolled out. Data retrieval is taking more time but SEPA also holds paper records and the sites hold their own records. The attack has been the subject of a large Police investigation. Cllr Dryburgh added that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) had urged local authorities to help SEPA with documentation where possible.

In terms of exceeding the discharge sub-limit, Cllr Jamieson asked how SEPA manages the public's reaction. Dr Stone responded that SEPA's role is primarily to regulate. It has a Communications Department, which inspectors provide briefing notes for. SEPA staff would speak to and reassure the public if required. This is dealt with as and when required and there is no formal procedure. Members of the public can contact SEPA for information and reassurance. Mr Murray reiterated that the site has not exceeded its authorised discharge limit, but a sub-limit. From the employees' perspective, Mr Park added that the majority of the workforce on site live locally with their families and have an understanding of the situation as they work there. The workforce is disappointed as they are proud of working safely and have been stopped from doing this particular task, which affects morale. He asked if there was a timescale for the AVDS getting back to work. Dr Stone confirmed that SEPA had instructed the site to stop this particular operation. The site is well through the decommissioning campaign and this incident is very unfortunate and unavoidable. It is however a very minor radiological event and SEPA is discussing a number of options with the site. The sub-limit is a rolling limit over 12 months so there is the potential to submit a licence variation. However, the determination period for such a variation is not a short process and will take some months, although a full public consultation would not be required as it is a sub-limit. Cllr Dryburgh noted his confidence in the workforce in doing a good job and identifying the breach. Cllr Jamieson noted the importance of good communication and transparency as facts being hidden causes more alarm. Cllr Marshall noted that this was a breach, which is under investigation. A warning letter is more serious and the Site Stakeholder Group is informed of this, with proactive communication on the website.

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

The Scottish Government report was circulated with the meeting papers. The Higher Activity Waste Policy Review is being worked on by Martin Macdonald and NDA secondee, Laura Hogg, and a proper progress report will be brought to the next meeting. A link to a report on the ONR's seventh Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, which Scottish Government attended for the UK presentation, is in the report. The Scottish Nuclear Sites meeting will take place on 23 August 2022 at 2.00 pm. Invites have been sent out this week and anyone who wishes an invite should contact Ms Hamilton. The Minister for Environment and Land Reform, Mairi McAllan, is not now able to attend. Questions from stakeholders can be sent in advance of the meeting, through the Secretariat.

## **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Marshall referred to planning legislation in Scotland which does not allow for new nuclear build in Scotland but he noted that there is a need for this type of energy in the UK. Ms Hamilton confirmed that traditional nuclear energy is not part of the Scottish Government's plan. Fusion has unknown cost and waste implications and a review of the Energy Strategy is being undertaken now, which will include consultation with sites. Cllr Marshall noted that Chapelcross was unsuccessful in being put forward as a Fusion site but Ardeer is still in the running. Ms Hamilton replied that there is currently a push towards renewable energy but more will be known when the review has been completed.

Mr Park considered that young people should be trained as close to sites as possible. Sellafield is the nearest site to Chapelcross. Chapelcross needs access to the jobs market and training, now, locally. He considered politics to be irrelevant in this case, the important thing was to get the work and training done. Cllr Jamieson added that transferable skills are paramount and a new system should not be too specific so that it can be adapted accordingly going forward, according to need. Cllr Dryburgh added that this does not just relate to nuclear and decommissioning but to gas and oil industries, etc. Skills have to be easily transferable.

Cllr Marshall, along with other SSG members was involved in the original Scottish Higher Activity Waste Policy in 2011 when the Scottish Government adopted the 'near surface, near site' policy. Stock is being taken of the waste inventory to see what is suitable for 'near surface near site' and he asked if that means that some waste could go to a Geological Disposal Facility and what the alternative would be if not suitable for 'near surface near site'. Ms Hamilton confirmed that an inventory of waste is being taken as part of the review work. Cllr Marshall asked if Site Stakeholder Groups would be involved in this and Ms Hamilton confirmed that a detailed report will be brought to the next meeting.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Cllr Dryburgh invited Mr Hamilton to speak.

Mr Hamilton advised that from the next Site Stakeholder Group meeting, a proper corporate presentation will be given at meetings, showing how Chapelcross fits into the Company-wide strategy. Dounreay will come under Magnox ownership next year. He is aware of the history and sensitivity around this, but it is a mutual coming together. The NDA owns sites on behalf of the UK Government and has strategic oversight over the transport pillar, waste pillar, Sellafield and Magnox and Dounreay.

Magnox is expanding and will have seven Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) in the UK as they end generating capacity. Hinkley Point B ceased generation the previous day. By the end of the decade, Magnox will have gone from less than 3,000 employees to over 6,000; from 12 sites to at least 20; and from £500 million annual spend to £1 billion. This is a massive change in strategy and a major transition programme in Magnox, called the Regeneration Programme. The name of the Company is likely to change in spring/summer 2023. This will reflect the name and culture and behaviours and values and mission and vision.

Magnox has provided socio economic support across of all its sites. Of the socio-economic budget of £1,020,035 in 2021/22, just £0.97 was unspent at the end of the financial year. Magnox also succeeded in leveraging another £1M from NDA.

A 'smarter working programme' started before the pandemic has now been accelerated, which includes improvement of welfare facilities, IT and flexible working arrangements. There are hubs at Hinkley, north Bristol; Wylfa, Anglesey; and Harwell in Oxfordshire with smarter office buildings and hot desking facilities. Mr Hamilton undertook to give a proper presentation rather than a verbal one at the next meeting.

### **Questions and Observations**

Cllr Dryburgh emphasised that 20% of the training need will be in Scotland but hubs in Scotland have not been mentioned. He was confident that there is buy-in from Colleges and Universities and placed a marker in the sand that a training establishment is required in Scotland, preferably at Chapelcross.

Dr Stone noted that Magnox is the major nuclear decommissioning organisation and asked if it has ambitions to go abroad to make a profit. Mr Hamilton responded that it is not legally able to do that at the current time. Discussions are taking place with the UK Government /

Foreign Office etc but Magnox is a wholly owned subsidiary of NDA, working closer together and in support of.

To 'sell' Magnox skills abroad, a change in policy would be required. Mr Park commented that this country cannot afford to lose people abroad as it is hard enough getting a trained workforce here and there needs to be a balance. Mr Hamilton agreed that a balance has to be struck between local areas and the country as a whole. Mr Hamilton considered that Magnox needs to be bold and tackle challenges. Cllr Dryburgh reiterated that Chapelcross is ideally sited for a training facility.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group deals with decommissioning but this may not be the case at other sites, where there is an A and B site for example. He thought this question may arise at the NDA Summit but new build has not previously been discussed at SSG meetings. He thought it might now be necessary to look at how Magnox and NDA engage with Site Stakeholder groups and we might be coming into a new era of stakeholder engagement.

## **7. External Meetings and Invitations – Magnox SSG Chairs / Vice Chairs Meeting – 4/5 July 2022, Manchester**

Cllr McClelland had attended the Magnox SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting on 4/5 July in Manchester as Cllr Dryburgh was on holiday. Cllr McClelland had undertaken to write a report on this, which will be forwarded to members by email.

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

A detailed Status Report was included with the meeting papers but Ms Emberson summarised the background to give some context for the benefit of new members. The intention is to bring Chapelcross site back into solid economic use, with a focus on green energy, renewables and hydrogen, which is a real opportunity. Dumfries and Galloway produces 7.5 times more energy than it consumes but there is an energy storage issue with the National Grid. Borderlands Initiative has been asked for £15.5M to unlock the site for development, which will largely be spent on site services, utilities and infrastructure. Dumfries and Galloway Council has also committed £5.5M. To release the Borderlands funding, a full Business Case has to be approved by both the UK and Scottish Governments. Ms Emberson summarised progress since the last meeting – partner meetings; due diligence; meetings with Scottish Water; SPEN; Scottish Gas networks; SEPA; enquiry handling and collation for coordinating responses. The Ukraine situation, energy and cost of living crisis is giving a focus on renewables. Dumfries and Galloway Council has joined the Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association. A presentation was given at a Hydrogen Brokerage Event. Contacts made at the Hydrogen Event are being followed up. The Programme Board is being expanded and the Principal of Dumfries and Galloway College has been invited to join for the skills side. Title searches are underway. Meetings will take place to learn lessons from other areas. The Strategic Development Framework is being prepared for tender. NDA is preparing a video to document socio-economic activity which will feature Chapelcross. Ms Emberson asked members to pass on the email - [cxinfo@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:cxinfo@dumgal.gov.uk) should anyone have any questions or would like any further information relating to the CX Project.

### **Questions and Observations**

For information and interest, Cllr Dryburgh advised of the Scottish APSE Energy Summit 2022 which is being held in Glasgow Marriott Hotel on 6 October 2022.

Cllr Marshall was pleased to hear that the Programme Board is coming together. He asked if there was a general email address to refer people to and pass on enquiries, which are currently passed on to Ms Emberson from Councillors and Community Councillors. With regard to engagement, Cllr Marshall asked if the project had been in dialogue with the Jockstown Solar Farm development. Cllr Marshall referred to the importance of the River Annan for hydrogen developments and considered it important that the weir is retained as this would be crucial in any green energy development. Ms Emberson responded that the

project website has an info@ email address, where enquiries should be sent, and which is monitored daily.

She confirmed that she is aware of the eel pass and Milnby Weir and has been in contact with Scottish Water regarding this. She has also been in discussions with Green Energy International Ltd, with regard to Jockstown Solar Farm. She noted that this development had taken the last capacity on the network and any future developments would not be able to feed into the Grid before 2028. Cllr Marshall asked how this would affect the proposed 4mw solar supply proposed for Chapelcross site. Mr Murray clarified that this would be direct feed to the site and would not feed into the grid.

Cllr Dryburgh suggested that Ms Emberson make contact with Simon Fieldhouse, Environment Manager in Dumfries and Galloway Council, if she had not already done so.

Mr Park noted that Borderlands had been on the agenda for a while and significant investment is proposed for the road network as building a workplace for the future requires people to be able to get there. He suggested investigating the feasibility of a direct cycle route from Annan to the site which does not go by road. There are currently no pavements to the site. This would offer a sustainable way for people to get to work and he asked that it be considered in plans. Ms Emberson agreed that a Net Zero Regeneration Centre should include sustainable transport methods although this would need a different funding source. Cllr Marshall added that the Site Stakeholder Group had written to the NDA Chair in 2009 with regard to the pipeline being used as a potential cycle / walkway route.

Mr Park suggested that there is still capacity to house the workforce on site and referred to the former hamlet at Oaklands where employees used to live. The houses were knocked down in the 1980s. Cllr Marshall noted that the original Infrastructure Framework Plan identified housing but this was not considered favourable.

Cllr Dryburgh offered Ms Emberson advice from the Site Stakeholder Group whenever this is required. He suggested high speed hydrogen trains directly from Gretna to the site and suggested discussing the potential with HS2.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business raised.

Cllr Dryburgh suggested it would be an appropriate time, at the start of a new five year term, for Site Stakeholder Group members to visit the site.

- Action – Mrs Callander to arrange site visit for Site Stakeholder Group members wishing to attend.

## **10. Public Forum**

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

## **11. Next Meeting – Wednesday 16 November 2022**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 November 2022.

On behalf of Site Stakeholder Group members, Cllr Marshall congratulated Cllr Dryburgh on retaining the Chair and welcomed Cllr Jamieson to the Group as the Vice Chair.

Cllr Dryburgh closed the meeting at 11.45 am.