



HARWELL-CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS GROUP
Minutes of the 68th meeting held at the HPA centre on Friday 4th December 2009

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Terry Fraser, Vale of the White Horse District Council
Secretary: Angela Vincent, RSRL
Minutes Secretary: Malcolm Crook, RSRL

MEMBERS

Malcolm Andrew	AEAT Prospect TU Rep
Chris Broad	Chilton Parish Council
William Hanks	Sutton Courtenay Parish Council
Alison Rooke	Vale of the White Horse District Council
Margaret Turner	Vale of the White Horse District Council
Margaret Palling	Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institute
John Sharpe	East Hendred Parish Council

OBSERVERS

Paul Atyeo	RSRL
Alan Neal	RSRL
Ken Heider	RSRL
Malcolm Barents	NDA
Andrew Stone	EA
Sarah Bucknall	Diamond
Dave Jackson	CNC
Trish Reynolds	NDA
Susan Adams	RSRL
Jane Simmons	HPA
Richard Burch	Nuvia
Lesley Cox	RSRL
Dr P Hayes	GE Healthcare
David Hanratty	NII
Natalie Bealing	STFC
Martin Ditter	European Space Agency
Vicky Thomas	RSRL
Barbara Kolanko	RSRL
Penny Ryde	Berkley LSG Chairperson

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

John Wilkins	
Geoffrey Nutt	Commercial Research Services

APOLOGIES

Duncan Rogers
Sally Ann Forsyth
David Clarke
John Clarke
Chris Thomas
Mr Eyston
Andy Staples
Graeme Stonell
Colin Lamont
Marion Judd
Kevin Broughton
Susan Holdroyd

Goodmans
Goodmans
OCNS
NDA
FSA
Hendred Estate
RSRL
RSRL

West Hagbourne Parish Council
Environment & Economy, Oxfordshire
RSRL



**HARWELL-CHILTON CAMPUS
LOCAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP
68TH MEETING**

Date: Friday 4th December, 2009
Time: 10:00 for refreshments, meeting starts 10:30
Venue: The Training Centre Lecture Theatre, Health Protection Agency, Fermi Avenue,
Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didcot, Oxon

AGENDA

1. Chairman's remarks:
 - Welcome guests
 - Chairman's Notes
 - Apologies for absence and changes in membership (10)
2. Minutes of the 67th meeting held on 16th July 2009
3. Matters arising:
4. **RSRL Licensed Site Matters**
 - (a) Closure Director's Site Report – Ken Heider (15)
 - Harwell programme update
 - General report
5. **Reports**
 - (a) HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate – David Hanratty (10)
 - (b) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Malcolm Barents (15)
 - (c) Environment Agency – Phil Heaton (10)
6. **Campus Matters**
 - (a) Campus Development – Duncan Rogers (10)
 - (b) European Space Agency – Martin Ditter (20)
 - (c) Diamond Light Source – Isabelle Boscaro-Clark (10)
- Guest Speaker: Science Vale UK, Steve Moss (20)
7. **Any other business:**
8. **Date of next meeting:** Friday 19th March 2010 – 10:00
Thursday 15th July 2010 – 18:00
Friday 3rd December 2010 – 10:00

Angela Vincent - LSG Secretary

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LSG Agenda December 4th 2009

1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The chairman began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and making the following comments as follows:

- The chairman began the meeting by explaining he was standing in at short notice for current chairman Terry Joslin who was absent due to illness. It was agreed a note be sent to Terry on behalf of the LSG wishing him a speedy recovery.
- He welcomed Penny Ryde the chair of the Berkley Nuclear Establishments LSG.
- He also welcomed Steve Moss who was representing Science Vale UK and John Wilkins.
- On the 25th November Harwell had received an award from the Royal Society of Chemistry in appreciation of 60 years of chemistry research carried out in B220 at Harwell.
- Between 17th-19th November members of Harwell LSG attended the NDA National Stakeholders Group meeting in Manchester where they met the new NDA CEO Tony Fountain. At the meeting it was stated that there were likely to be considerable funding cuts across government.

A Public Value Plan consultation exercise had been put up for comment by the public. All government departments were required to put up 50% of their business plans up for review. It was expected that by spring 2010 that options for future expenditure would be known.

The various Site Licensee Companies (SLCs) were actively engaged in this process but it was not clear regarding how any future cuts may affect Harwell and Winfrith. Much was reliant on how the NDA decided to proceed with operations at Sellafield.

2. MINUTES OF THE 67TH MEETING HELD ON 16TH JULY 2009

These were accepted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The following query arose on a question asked of Goodmans at the previous meeting as follows:

- **Page 11 Q1 to Goodmans.** Dr Forsyth stated she would involve the local community and come to talk to parish councils etc. A1 was "the master plan is not quite ready to be presented to communities yet. The partners in the joint venture are forming the master plan and it should be ready in the autumn, at which point it will be able to go out to the wider community".

- **New question:** Is there any way in finding out how the master plan is progressing as we have reached winter without hearing anything. There were no representatives from Goodman at the meeting so it was agreed that the question be passed forward accordingly and that the response when received should be added to these minutes.

Please see below the response from Duncan Rogers (received 20 Jan 10) to the concerns/views raised at the meeting for inclusion in the minutes:

"Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the comments raised at the LSG meeting on 4th December 2009. As explained before the meeting took place, both Sally Ann Forsyth and I, were already committed to another meeting away from Harwell on the 4th and were unable to change those plans. In view of the concerns expressed at the previous meeting, an update regarding the masterplanning process was therefore provided to the LSG Secretary and all of the local Parish Councils".

"I reported at the meeting in July, that we were in the process of preparing a masterplan for the Harwell Campus which we anticipated would continue, at that time, until the Autumn. There would then follow a consultation process, first liaising with members of the JV partnership before approaching a wider audience which includes, but is not limited to, the local authorities including Parish Councils. The masterplanning process has proved complex with many interests being considered and whilst good progress is being made, this stage of the consultation process is still in hand. It remains our intention to share our plans with the wider community and we are still on programme to do so in the Spring of 2010."

- In answer to a supplementary question it was explained that Goodman were unable to be present at LSG as they were required to attend an urgent meeting elsewhere.
- The chairman added that proposed consultation from Goodman with parishes close to the site had also not been forthcoming.

4. RSRL Licensed Site Matters

(a) Closure Director's Site Report – Ken Heider

- Harwell Programme Update and General Report

The main points were as follows:

RSRL Update

- Three safety incidents had occurred at Harwell during the year which resulted in lost time accidents. These consisted of two back strains and a bumped head.

Ken explained the principal behind STAR (Stop Think Act Review) and how this process was used to try and reduce accidents that had the potential to cause harm. RSRL had recently carried out a “safety stand down” to reinforce the principals of STAR.

- Good cost performance was bringing the programme under the NDA funding target.
- The programme is behind schedule, but should catch up by the end of the year. Following repair the equipment used to retrieve remote handled waste was now working well and it was expected that the waste processing programme would soon catch up.

Legacy Waste Processing

- Ken explained that processing of historical “legacy waste” produced during the research phase was one of the main functions of RSRL at Harwell and good progress was being made.
- In the B462 430 cans had been removed from the Tube Stores and 570 cans processed through the B462 head end cells. The facility in B220 had processed 27 cans of radium containing waste.
- At the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) 110 drums of sludge waste had been solidified.
- Work was continuing on clearance of National Disposal Service Sources and 9 crates had now been processed.
- Commissioning of the new Waste Encapsulation Plant was underway.

Decommissioning

- Post Operational Clean-out (POCO) of the B459 facility was underway.
- B488 had been demolished to base slab level and the remaining section of the B393 complex was being readied for demolition.
- Groundwater remediation was ongoing as was the project to clean and grout the site drainage system.

Eastern Area release Project

- The project to release the eastern area of the Harwell site to the Joint Venture for future development is ongoing with several buildings having been demolished (B146/B149) and most recently the former Water Tower B60.
- Delicensing cases had been submitted to the NII for consideration that covered the Eastern Areas Facilities and the B146/149 Area. A case

covering the North Gate Area (NGA) was due to be submitted next year. Once the various cases have been accepted by the NII (which means the area no longer have to be controlled by a nuclear site license), the NDA can make a de-designation decision which will allow the land to be handed over for re-development by the Joint Venture.

- There is an ongoing project to remove the old main active drain.
- The new police and emergency response team building was nearing completion which would allow for eventual opening of the new eastern area entrance gate. It was hoped that the new facility would be opened early in the New Year.
- The proposed programme for 2010 for RSRL was planned to be similar to the current year and would be focused on essential work activities at both Harwell and Winfrith such as continued legacy waste processing and essential decommissioning as required.
- The NDA priorities are to address the legacy existing at the Sellafield and Dounreay facilities. At present the indicative funding for next year was similar to this year but could be subject to change as all government programmes were up for review.

Outside Interest in RSRL's Programme

- The Royal Society of Chemistry had presented a National Chemical Landmark award to RSRL for the historical chemical work carried out in B220.
- The executive management structure of NDA had visited Harwell during the past year including the new Chief Executive Officer Tony Fountain. The NDA are aware of the work being carried out at Harwell and the aspirations of the RSRL management to decommission liabilities on the site when appropriate funding is available.
- Other visitors to the site include Charles Hendry (Shadow Energy Minister) members of the US Department of Energy, Japanese Nuclear Industry and managers of Bulgarian nuclear plant.

Stakeholder Preferred End State Endorsed by Government

- The government had endorsed the output from the NDA stakeholder consultation for the Harwell Site End State. The document (SMS/TS/A2/1/1/R007) is available on the NDA website.
- The main points of the preferred end state are that the site be redeveloped for further use in the field of science technology and innovation.

- In order to do this the radiological condition of the site must meet NII delicensing criteria, other contamination to be removed to meet regulatory requirements and the re-use of existing facilities, roads and utilities as appropriate.
- The original proposes site completion date of 2020 is subject to affordability and waste route availability.

UKAEA Ltd Sold to Babcock International

- Ken displayed a chart showing the new organisational structure following purchase of UKAEA Ltd by Babcock International.

Questions on the RSRL Report

Q1: Can you indicate how much it will cost to mothball Harwell facilities until 2065 until funding is available to carry out the work?

A1: The cost of decommissioning through to the final clearance of site is to the order of around £2 billion. The proposed accelerated programme would be a couple of hundred million less than that. This would depend on whether you look at the costs in discounted or undiscounted terms, i.e. do you take into account whether the value of money will be less in the future. It is significantly more expensive in undiscounted terms if you simply count all the cash up. If you apply a discounted factor there is not a lot of difference between an accelerated programme and a care and maintenance programme.

Q2: If we are not continuing with the decommissioning at the rate we are doing now and its slowing down is there going to be a time when we stop decommissioning. If that's going to happen we are going to lose the expertise we have here which we can't afford to lose.

A2: The current programme has a small amount of decommissioning occurring until 2035 or so when we complete most of the Harwell work. The amount of decommissioning going on fluctuates depending on what's happening. Many of the people who are here now won't be here when some of the future work is carried out so RSRL needs to have processes in place to ensure that we use the expertise in place now but also capture the knowledge of current staff so that this can be passed on to newly recruited staff in the future in order that the decommissioning programme can be successfully completed.

Q3: When will the Eastern Area Release project be complete and how does it tie in with rumours relating to proposed developments in the North Drive area?

A3: The Eastern Area property will be released to the Joint Venture in two phases. The first phase will occur early next year depending on when we receive the final de-designation clearance from the NDA. And the second

phase will probably follow about a year later in 2011. Work was ongoing in liaison with the regulators regarding how RSRL set up the front side of the area relative to the fencing and access to the areas. RSRL will still control the areas relative to the license but we won't have the same levels of security as before. Details regarding future development of the area would have to come from Goodman.

Disappointment was expressed that no representatives were able to attend from Goodman and the chair was asked to pass on this comment.

4. Reports

(a) HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate – David Hanratty

The main points were as follows:

Inspections

- The Site Inspector had visited Harwell between 14th – 17th July 2009
- Further interactions with the Licensee were progress through monthly videoconferences.

Routine Matters

- No significant events concerning nuclear safety had occurred over the reporting period. A cable strike had occurred which RSRL had investigated and strengthened safety protocols.
- An inspection had been carried out of the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) during which it was noted progress was being made on emptying low level radioactive liquid effluent from storage tanks.
- During the visit to LETP RSRL were advised to ensure external storage tanks containing small amounts of low level radioactive residue were protected from environmental degradation leading to leakage. RSRL confirmed the situation was being monitored and work undertaken to progress decommissioning.
- A compliance inspection of LETP Operating Instructions under LC24 found them to be adequate.
- The inspector held discussions with RSRL on staffing levels within facilities in relation to the Nuclear Baseline. During the discussions the inspector highlighted the need to maintain an adequate nuclear baseline and ensure staff are appropriately experienced and knowledgeable about their role and responsibilities. The nuclear baseline is important in maintaining the high degree of nuclear safety required of RSRL.

Non-Routine Matters

- No none-routine matters had occurred.
- The inspector also highlighted proposed changes to the HSE's Nuclear Directorate. The Nuclear Directorate was being restructured to create a new independent Nuclear Statutory Corporation (NSC) under the auspices of HSE. Subject to consultation and parliamentary approval the aim was to bring the new body into being during 2010.
- This report is available at www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/llc.

Questions on HSE Report

Q1: Will the new organisation require more staff ?

A1: Creation of the new organisation has increased both staff retention and recruitment.

(b) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority - Malcolm Barents

The main points were as follows:

- Work had commended on the NDA Business Plan 2010-2013. This plan would be subject to an eight week period of public consultation from the beginning of December 2009 to end January 2010. This plan would set out the work NDA intended to deliver plus expected expenditure over the next 12 months. The plan would summarise work planned to be carried out in the following two years.
- The 2008/09 Annual Report had been published. See NDA website for details www.nda.gov.uk
- RSRL had managed to bring in the planned work package at a price lower than originally envisaged.
- The new CEO of NDA Tony Fountain had taken up the post on 1st October.
- After a 14 week consultation period NDA was closer to finalising the UK strategy for Management of Solid Low Level radioactive Waste from the UK Nuclear Industry.
- Future financial situation was unclear as the Government was reviewing all departmental and public spending.
- Reports tabled at the NDA's 8th National Stakeholder Group (NSG) in Manchester, are now available for downloading from the NDA website. This event brought together more than 100 of the NDA's national

stakeholders which included regulators, SLC representatives, Government representatives and Site Stakeholder Group Chairs.

Questions on NDA Report

Q1: Can you tell us what's in the business plan that's on consultation affecting this site?

A1: It confirms that the work for the next year is to continue with the waste recovery programme, a small amount of decommissioning is planned and work to release the Eastern Area of site.

Q2: What is the consultation period on the business plan?

A2: The period is about 8 weeks. The Harwell sub-group will review the plan and report back to the main group in January 2010.

(c) Environment Agency – Andrew Stone

The main points were as follows:

- Andrew explained briefly the work of the EA and its function in relation to the Harwell site.
- Andrew drew attention to a new report entitled "Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 2008" RIFE 14. He also showed a map from the report that showed comparative radiation dose attributable at various sites around the country including Harwell. Copies of the report were available in the hall and also via the secretary's office.

Questions on EA Report

Q1: Has there been any progress on establishing a future geological waste disposal site in the UK?

A2: The government are inviting communities to come forward with a view to hosting a geological disposal site for radioactive waste. It is an ongoing project. There were thought to be 4 or 5 communities that had expressed an interest in hosting such a site with the caveat that local geological conditions were suitable. This facility was required for storage of intermediate level waste. In the interim new technologies were being developed to aid the disposal of lower level short lived radioactive material.

Q2: Is the hold up a technical or political issue?

A2: The technical issues for such waste disposal are sound although the characteristics of land throughout the country are not completely known.

5. Campus Matters

(a) Campus Development – Duncan Rogers

Duncan was unable to attend the meeting.

(b) European Space Agency (ESA) – Martin Ditter

The main points were as follows:

- Martin had worked for ESA for 18 years and was responsible for setting up the new facility on the campus.
- The purpose of ESA was to “provide for and promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation among European states in space research and technology and their space applications”
- ESA had been in existence for 30 years and had 18 member states employing about 2000 staff deployed across five establishments. The organisation had designed and tested over 60 satellites designed with 10 scientific satellites currently in operation. Five types of launcher had been developed and over 180 launches made.
- ESA combines responsibility for areas of research that cover space science, human spaceflight, exploration, earth observation, launchers, navigation, telecommunications, technology, operations.
- ESA has a number of programmes which are mandatory and optional. All member states participate in activities related to space science and a common set of programmes which are mandatory whilst states also choose levels of participation in optional programmes.
- The organisation is governed by the ESA Council which provides the basic policy guidelines for ESA’s activities. The council meets at ministerial level every three years to take key decisions on programmes. At ministerial level the council meets with the EU Council to form the Space Council.
- Approximately 90% of the ESA budget is spent on contracts with European industry.
- A number of entities have grown out the work of ESA which include Meteorology: Eumetsat, Navigation: Galileo (with EU), Launch Services: Arianspace, Telecomms: Eutelsat and Inmarsat.
- Martin presented a number of slides covering European Space Policy and ESA’s involvement in the field of spaceflight etc.
- Further information on ESA is available on the website www.esa.int

(c) Diamond Light Source – Sarah Bucknall PR Officer

The main points were as follows:

- Over 2,800 experimental shifts had been undertaken in 12 months and 350 journal papers produced. There were now 15 operational beam lines and with more to become operational in due course.
- A new Joint Engineering, Environment and Processing beam line whilst a new facility was being constructed that would be the longest beam line in Western hemisphere.
- The facility was reaching out to the local community via means of regular things such as “Inside Diamond” days, the world’s largest diffraction pattern and a display at the North Wall Arts Centre.

(d) Guest Speaker – Steve Moss Science Vale UK

The main points were as follows:

- Steve explained that the role of Science Vale UK was to promote the area of South/Central Oxfordshire as a global hotspot for enterprise and innovation in science, high technology and application of knowledge.
- Science Vale UK is made up of a number of partner organisations that include Harwell Science and Innovation campus, Science and Technology Facilities Council, MEPC, VWHDC, SODC, OCC, STFC and South East England Development Agency.
- Some of the principal Characteristics of Science Vale UK are that it includes world class science and facilities, 3 of UK’s premiere science/business parks, 13% of R&D employment in the SE and Government investment. The area has good accessibility, is lightly populated and has a high quality environment. Housing growth supports the local economy and there are good amenities.
- Potential opportunities over the next 20yrs include; 12,000 new jobs, 12 new homes, growth of Didcot, new science and innovation activity and investment, significant contribution to UK competitiveness.
- Potential challenges are transport infrastructure, technical skills, profile, and growing a balanced community of public, private and academic sectors.
- Partnership Themes include Promoting Science Vale UK through Inward investment, provision of appropriate skills locally and nationally, transport infrastructure, development of Science vale UK as a thriving place to live and work.

- Activities undertaken so far to promote Science Vale UK include a web presence, inward investment, engagement with the local business and community, infrastructure planning and lobbying, skills development plans and a link with arrangement for future development of Didcot.

Questions on Science Vale UK Report

Q1: The site appears to disassociate itself from Didcot.

A1: This has been addressed and Didcot is now fully included.

Q2: There appear to be poor links with Didcot First and Didcot Town Council.

A2: Didcot First is aware of the Science Vale UK initiative and there will be further interaction between the partnerships. There has not yet been any direct interaction with Didcot Town Council – their interest would be welcomed.

Q3: Do you see Science Vale UK integrating links with local parish councils?

A3: We will be attempting to do so and Steve said that he wanted to speak to as many people as possible.

5. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

- 6. Date of next meeting:** Friday 19th March 2010 – 10:00
Thursday 15th July 2010 – 18:00
Friday 3rd December 2010 – 10:00