



## Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

### Minutes of the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan

**In Attendance:** Cllr Ian Lindsay (representing Annandale East) (Chair)  
Debbie Cairns (Secretary)  
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)  
Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie (representing Annandale South)  
Cllr Ian Carruthers (representing Annandale South)  
Len Moore (Federation of Community Councils)  
Mike Travis (Chapelcross Site Director)  
Dave Wilson (Chapelcross Deputy Site Director)  
Insp. Robert Gibson (D&G Constabulary)  
Mr Richard Mrowicki (NDA)  
Les Davies (Chapelcross Site Inspector - NII)  
Janice Rough (D&G Education Officer)  
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East)  
Paul Giles (Chapelcross HR Manager)

**Apologies:** John Rogerson (Trade Union convenor)  
Cllr Michael Dickie (representing Annandale North)  
Mr M Coward (Cumbria County Emergency Planning Officer)  
Cllr Gail MacGregor (representing Annandale North)  
David Mundell MP  
Cllr Alan Graham (representing Annandale East)  
Cllr Edward Brown (representing Annandale North)  
David Orr (SEPA)  
Isobel Watson (SEPA)  
Cllr Mr Richard Brodie (representing Annandale South)

**Present:**

Steve Southam (D & G Council)  
David Gurney (Emergency Planning Manager)  
Murray Bainbridge (Scottish Enterprise D & G)  
Fraser Robertson (D&G Media)  
David Collier (Falkland Associates)  
Willie McNairn (Blackhills Farm)  
Helen McNairn (Blackhills Farm)

Tony Trayner (British Nuclear Group, Chapelcross)  
Philip Jones (British Nuclear Group, Chapelcross)  
Walter Kennedy (British Nuclear Group, Chapelcross)  
Mr Richard Murray (British Nuclear Group, Chapelcross)  
Fergie Bell (Civil Nuclear Constabulary)  
John Wallace  
Betty Codona

#### **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the June meeting of the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group.

#### **2. Announcement and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed new members to the SSG. The Secretary gave the apologies as listed above.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Ogilvie and seconded by Len Moore.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes**

Mr McNairn had not received contact from the NDA regarding the drainage problems on his land. The Chair referred Mr McNairn to Mr Mrowicki who was representing the NDA and asked both parties to discuss this outside of the meeting.

### **5. Chapelcross Site Director's Report**

Mike Travis gave his quarterly report using the attached presentation slides (*see attached to minutes*). Among which the highlights were a Gold RoSPA medal for Chapelcross' safety record, and the Cooling Towers Demolition Project. Mike formally thanked the Chapelcross team that lead the project, the public, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and the Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary.

#### Questions:

Cllr Marshall asked regarding the asbestos strip contract; would the chosen contractor have the same commitment to employing local labour.

Mike Travis responded that yes he would expect this.

Cllr Ogilvie expressed his disappointment that the new owner of Reactor Sites Management Company was not known by now. Mike Travis mirrored his disappointment at the delay of the announcement.

Cllr Dryburgh asked if it was likely the site would meet its September 2007 defuelling target?

Mike Travis responded that he was very confident of meeting this date.

Cllr Marshall commended the Chapelcross Site team and the emergency planning and police on the success of the Cooling Towers Project. The Councillors appreciated the way the services worked together to result in a "first class" operation. He had received no adverse comments regarding the project.

Murray Bainbridge asked if the socio-economic funds detailed in the presentation were from BNG or the NDA.

Mike Travis said the funds were built into their Lifetime Plans and ultimately come from the NDA. Paul Giles added for clarity that the funds referred to were from a different source than the funds from which Socio-economic project bids come from.

Mr McNairn asked Mike Travis what is happening on the Chapelcross runway.

Mike responded that it was part of a Site Characterisation Study which is assessing any hazards that may be there as a legacy from RAF times. The flags were marking positions where monitoring had taken place.

Mr McNairn asked would the study cover his property.

Mike Travis responded that the study would cover the NDA land.

The Chair asked would there be increased vehicle movements due to the asbestos and defuelling projects? Dave Wilson responded that for the asbestos strip, most of the waste would be initially retained on site so there would be no affect on traffic. Asbestos strippers would be coming to site, although there would be no significant difference to site traffic as any new traffic will be off-set by, for example, the cooling towers contractors leaving site.

The Chair asked about the emergency exercise which the site failed. He asked about the time it took to find the casualty and asked if that was a real life situation, would it have been a fatality.

Mike Travis outlined the scenario in which the casualty was a "walking wounded" therefore no – it would not have been a fatality.

Cllr Dryburgh asked how many site personnel would be involved in the management and the safety of the asbestos contractors.

Mike Travis said the site was obliged to use a licensed asbestos contractor, so control and supervision would be the responsibility of the contractor. However, Superintending Officers and Principle Contractors from BNG were looking after the contract.

Mr McNairn said that at the cooling towers open day he was told that prior to demolition, the site would spray water over the asbestos. When did the spraying happen?

Dave Wilson clarified that the towers were not sprayed with water but with spray paint which was done to identify the asbestos in the rubble that was left after the demolition.

Cllr Marshall reminded the group that at the December meeting he raised a concern from residents about vibrations when the towers were demolished. He asked what was done to monitor the vibrations and what were the results?

Mike Travis replied that 11 vibration monitors were installed around the perimeter of the site. The results all came well within the anticipated level of vibrations, with virtually no vibrations. People who were watching the demolition close by would have not have felt anything under their feet.

Cllr Marshall referred to the effluent line project and access whilst work was ongoing. What was being planned to restrict people's access?

Mr Richard Murray, Project Manager of the effluent line project, answered that signs and heras fencing would be erected to restrict people's movements. There would also be notices in the press and security guards were still on during silent periods.

Cllr Dryburgh asked about spraying the asbestos rings of the towers and whether this was being done to seal the asbestos?

Dave Wilson responded no – there is no need to spray to seal the asbestos. It is not asbestos lagging in the cooling towers, but asbestos concrete.

## **6. Other reports from SSG Bodies**

### **NII – Les Davies**

Les Davies explained that the NII had published their written report which was distributed along with the agenda and was happy to answer any questions on the report or any other matters. There were no questions.

### **NDA – Mr Richard Mrowicki**

The Chair prompted Mr Mrowicki on behalf of the NDA to answer a number of points, including who was the single contact for the NDA to make decisions on Socio-economics and to clarify the funding that was now available as he now understood the funding pot had been cut.

Mr Mrowicki gave an outline of an independent review of the sites Site End States submissions. The NDA were happy with the Chapelcross submission and agreed that nothing in the options presented to the NDA (options 4 and 5) would prevent the options going ahead. However, there were a number of matters to be clarified with the Chapelcross submission in due course. Mr Mrowicki outlined these as;

- 1) Timescales for reaching Final Site End State.
- 2) Cost associated with the mediation of the End State.
- 3) Specifically the cost of removing below-ground and off-site structures at Chapelcross.

Other areas to be explored include; conditions and assumptions attached to the End State Options, including the availability of waste disposal routes, and the viability of the preferred end use of industrial development. This needs to be explored by, for example, Scottish Enterprise D & G.

### Questions and Observations:

Cllr Ogilvie welcomed the fact that the NDA have narrowed down the options to long term or short term. He recalled a discussion with Dr Ian Roxburgh regarding the 25 year model and expressed his frustration that the 1 year plan the sites are working to does not fit into this strategy.

Mr Mrowicki replied that decommissioning programmes depends on government funding which the NDA are required to bid for. The NDA are funding constrained and they need to look at prioritising individual work on sites as well as reducing hazard as this is their main priority.

The next issue in terms of the strategy is the requirement for somewhere to put the waste from decommissioning. Another issue the NDA is aware of regarding the different strategies is the continuation of employment that would be generated as a result of 25 years model versus employment coming to a

'cliff edge' in the longer model. This NDA needs to reach a balance, and juggle all the different priorities and issues outlined above.

Cllr Marshall added that there have been raised expectations in the local area as soon as early site clearance was mentioned. He realises the government funding constraints and acknowledged the new political situation, but asked how realistic it is that any of the sites will get early site clearance.

Mr Mrowicki replied that the ability to accelerate the end state is dependant on a business case in which value for money is demonstrated. There is work going on to reduce the present timescales and the NDA are finding it hard to make the case for 25 years. Again, waste disposal is a constraint and earlier clearance will be dependant on finding a waste disposal route. However, there is no lack of enthusiasm from the NDA and they remain committed to nuclear clean up.

Len Moore stated that a lot of time and effort was spent on the End State work. He felt that the NDA were backtracking and the money was not there. He felt it was a propaganda exercise.

Mr Mrowicki said the NDA believe that the preferred options that were put forward for End State were matched to the NDA requirement. The only point of difference is the End *date*.

Cllr Dryburgh referred to the NDA's funding regime of efficiency savings. He said that the workforce had been asked in the last 2 years to deliver on top of what the NDA wanted, without being offered incentives when they were working themselves out of jobs.

Mr Mrowicki replied that the NDA has no role to play in directing the site how do to the work. Over the last two years the sites have delivered high efficiency and they are to be congratulated in achieving this. Some of the money generated is used to accelerate work from future years, and some has been used to support Socio-economic schemes, which are allocated on a priority basis – Dumfries and Galloway are one of the priority areas. The challenge the NDA have is managing expectations.

Cllr Dryburgh said the NDA strategy continues to change constantly – this has an effect on the site employees and management. He asked Mr Mrowicki when the change was going to plateau to allow the sites to get on with the value-added work the NDA want?

Mr Mrowicki replied that change is ongoing, but the changes that go on at the operational level will be in the way the work is delivered.

Murray Bainbridge asked if there were any financial incentives for the contractor to reduce the timescales.

Mr Mrowicki replied that yes there were incentives for the contractors to do better and the process involves setting milestones which are rewarded.

Murray asked regarding early site clearance and the non-availability of a waste route; have the NDA ruled out any options for waste routes?

Mr Mrowicki said that the UK through a committee involving CoRWM and Radioactive Waste Management has identified its preferred option as deep geological disposal. At the moment there is no alternative.

Mr McNairn asked were the NDA still in consultation about building a station at Chapelcross?

Mr Mrowicki said he wasn't aware of these discussions were at the present time but a preferred site was found for the previous proposal for a biomass plant.

Steve Southam expressed his disappointment at a series of events including failed contact between the NDA and others in which different names had been given as the contact for Socio-economics at the NDA. Steve expressed desire for a clear Socio-economic policy and a single contact at the NDA to try and move the project bids forward.

Mr Mrowicki acknowledged the issue with NDA contact and said that money was available for Socio-economic activities in this priority area. If there are schemes that are ready to go, then funds will be

available on a first come first served basis. He gave Karen Dickens name as a contact for Socio-economics, and added that the sites first point of contact should be Stuart Chalmers.

**Mr Mrowicki took an action away to find out who the single point of contact is for Socio-economics.**

The Chair thanked Mr Mrowicki for his input and reiterated the importance of an NDA representative to be at this meeting in future.

## **7. Chapelcross SSG Sub-Groups update**

***Several SSG Sub-Group meetings had taken place since the last SSG meeting, and the appropriate minutes of the Sub-Groups had been circulated to members. Chairman asked for endorsement of the decisions made at these meetings***

- ***Socio-Economic***

The Chair of this group, Paul Giles, gave a verbal update of the subgroup. He expressed thanks to Alastair Laird for the good work that had been put into the group.

Paul gave feedback from a meeting with John Farquhar, in which he identified the highlights as; Chapelcross remains within the NDA's area of need and there will be a £5M fund split across all 20 reactor sites per year which is significantly less than expected. Projects on the table at the moment total £6.5M for Chapelcross alone. John also verbally outlined the criteria as being focused on creating jobs and developing skills. The group has six projects at an informal stage of development and one (Bridge House) which has had a formal submission to the NDA awaiting a response. Paul has asked John Farquhar to review the six projects against new criteria and has also requested an early response on Bridge House.

### Questions & Observations:

Cllr Marshall said a lot of work had gone into the project bids and as one of the priority areas, we now have to ensure that the projects meet the new criteria.

Cllr Ogilvie said that £5M was miniscule for creating new jobs and skills across all 20 sites. He expressed frustration at the desire to leave a legacy behind from Chapelcross like Bridge House. The way the NDA are talking, he doesn't believe this will happen.

Murray Bainbridge asked about the £200M that was gained from the efficiency savings? He asked how do they bid for some of these efficiency savings that Mr Mrowicki said partly goes towards Socio-economics.

Dave Wilson said the priority for the savings will be putting it towards decommissioning work at sites – not to Socio-economics.

The minutes were endorsed by Cllrs Ogilvie and Dryburgh.

- ***Community Support***

The Chair of the group, Cllr Marshall directed the group to the minutes which were issued with the agenda. The minutes were endorsed by Cllrs Ogilvie and Dryburgh.

- ***Education Support***

The Chair of the group, Cllr Marshall directed the group to the minutes which were issued with the agenda. The minutes were endorsed by Cllrs Ogilvie and Dryburgh.

The Chair invited Janice Rough to discuss the recent awards won by British Nuclear Group, Chapelcross. Janice referred to the 2 awards for Chapelcross's support in education. The Determined to Succeed award was given at national level by the Scottish Executive in recognition of the work of Chapelcross to support education initiatives. Janice commended the sustainability of Chapelcross's work and the specific measurability of projects.

The second award was given for the formal business partnership of the schools with Chapelcross, and for embedding business skills into the curriculum. It is in recognition of the best formal business partnership within the council at present, between Eastriggs and Chapelcross.

The minutes were endorsed by Cllrs Ogilvie and Dryburgh.

- **Review of the Constitution**

The chairman asked for volunteers for a sub-group to review the SSG constitution. Steve Southam, Cllr Ogilvie, Cllr Dryburgh and Cllr Carruthers were identified and would bring some results back to the September meeting of the SSG.

**8. Annual Site Visit and Induction of new members**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that it was time for the annual site visit to Chapelcross for an update and induction for new members. He announced that a date would be set and communicated to all members in the near future.

**9. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 7pm in the Council Chambers, Annan.

**10. Any Other Business**

Mike Travis thanked Janice and the Scottish Executive for the awards the Chapelcross teams achieved. He also thanked Alastair Laird for his contribution to many of the subgroups and for his enthusiasm. He also added that there would be a Cooling Towers DVD produced by the site and the intention is to give copies to local schools, libraries, Annan Museum, the Devils Porridge exhibition and others.

The Chair asked the police representatives to give their account of the Cooling Towers demolition day.

Insp. Robert Gibson responded that from the police perspective it was a very successful event. He was very pleased that everyone could come together and bring any on and off-site issues to a successful conclusion. Feedback he had received personally was that the local people appreciated the opportunity to watch the event.

Sgt. David Gurney added that he was very impressed the towers came down with small 'pops'. He has asked all involved personnel for feedback and everything so far has been positive and the consensus was that it was well managed. He concluded that it was a very memorable event.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.