



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

Minutes of the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group held on Friday 6 March 2009 at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan

In Attendance: Cllr Ian Lindsay (representing Annandale East) (Chair)
Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)
Dave Wilson (Chapelcross Site Director)
Keith Riding (NDA Chapelcross Site Programme Manager)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Len Moore (Federation of Community Councils)
Nick Woodcock (Chapelcross Deputy Site Director)
Pam Duerden (Chapelcross ESS&Q Manager)
Steve Southam (D&G Council)
Cllr Richard Brodie (representing Annandale South)
Hugh Fearn (SEPA)
Les Davies (NII)
Michael Aldersey (D&G Fire and Rescue Services)
David Orr (Chapelcross Environment Manager)

Apologies: Cllr Michael Dickie (representing Annandale North)
John Riddet (Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate)
David Mundell – MP
David Gurney (Civil Protection and Emergency Planning)
Cllr Ted Brown (representing Annandale North)
Cllr Roger Grant (representing Annandale North)
Elizabeth Gray (Scottish Government)
David Irving & Robert Gibson (D&G Constabulary)
Neil Erskine (D&G Fire and Rescue Services)
Paul Giles (Chapelcross Transition Manager)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East)
Jonathan Jenkin (NDA Socio Economic Manager)
Cllr Gail MacGregor (representing Annandale North)
Murray Bainbridge (Scottish Enterprise D&G)
Cllr Allan Graham (representing Annandale East)
Dr Elaine Murray – MSP

Present:

Avril Campbell (Magnox North)
Willie McNairn (Blackhills Farm)
Sandra Proudfoot (A&E Sports & Leisure Trust)

Sharon Liptrot (D&G Standard)
Calum Graham (A&E Sports & Leisure Trust)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

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

2. Announcement and Apologies

The Secretary gave the apologies as listed above.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 5th September 2008

The minutes were endorsed by Cllr R Ogilvie and seconded by Cllr S Marshall

Matters arising from the minutes

Willie McNairn advised that he had contacted Richard Flynn at the NDA by letter, but was now aware that Richard was in fact changing roles. K Riding reported on the Action placed on Jonathan Jenkin at the previous SSG Meeting and advised that the web page was still being worked on. Willie McNairn would still like to see his submission with regard to the consultation on the Socio-Economic Plan 2006.

ACTION: *Jonathan Jenkin will try to retrieve from archives.*

4. Chapelcross Site Director's Report

Dave Wilson presented his report using the attached presentation slides (see copy attached to Minutes).

Dave Wilson closed his presentation by summarising that the core priority at Chapelcross is defuelling the four reactors safely and compliantly, and the reduction/removal of hazard from the Chapelcross site, eg MDU, Fuel, and Asbestos etc is going well and to plan.

Questions and Observations

Defuelling

Willie McNairn asked if the vehicle carrying the flask would pass through the gate monitor situated at the Main Gate at Chapelcross. Dave Wilson responded by explaining that the gate monitor is used only by vehicles which have been on site but have had no radiological material on board. The flasks and transportation vehicles are controlled by a more rigorous process on site to ensure that transport regulations are met. Sean Marshall confirmed that the gate monitor acted as a reassurance facility for the local community knowing that vehicles which do not pass through the monitor have already been through other monitoring criteria on site.

Voluntary Severance

John Rogerson asked if compulsory redundancy would take effect if expected numbers (approximately 50) were not reached, with regard to Voluntary Severance Terms (VST) which has recently been offered Chapelcross employees, and if there were intentions to bring people back on site following their acceptance of VST?. Dave Wilson replied by confirming that the VST programme was voluntary and stated that there are no plans for compulsory redundancies at this stage. He also explained that although there were clear guidelines for re-employment for persons who leave the Company on VST that there was no way that Magnox North could prevent a contractor bringing an ex employee back onto the Site.

Cllr Ogilvie commented on the fact that there are currently 3 skill-seekers on site at Chapelcross and this was an excellent opportunity for youngsters to gain life skills and experience within the workplace. Dave Wilson confirmed that the skill seekers programme was being well supported and that contractors were encouraged to employ local staff. Archie Dryburgh has recently had a meeting with the Nuclear Skills Academy Scotland (NSAS) and they had been addressing the possibility of apprentices being employed by contractors currently on site eg Kitsons/Keir.

5. NDA Chapelcross Site Programme Manager's Report

Keith Riding gave his apologies that he was unable to give an electronic presentation due to technical problems with the production of his material. He gave an update:

Site Quarterly Performance Review

Keith Riding stated that although a letter had been sent three months earlier to Chapelcross re project performance he was now pleased to report that NDA concerns were no longer there. NDA are delighted that the flask despatch is imminent and that the site was concentrating on meeting the MOP8 scheduled programme. Keith confirmed that he was happy with Dave Wilson's detailed summary. He reported that safety and environment issues were going well and problems had been resolved regarding land issues.

Although the NDA had previously had concerns with regard to the asbestos programme these have now been resolved and the containment programme was now going well.

NDA Site Specific

Keith Riding confirmed that the NDA were delighted to announce the Socio Economic Funding allocated through the Site Stakeholder Group, and confirmed that it was critical that the match funding was now put in place to allow the project to proceed. Keith Riding will represent the NDA on the new project steering board

NDA Headquarter Updates

Keith Riding updated the Group regarding the media coverage regarding the MOX Plant at Sellafield. The NDA are currently addressing plutonium stored on sites to ascertain whether this is in fact an asset or a liability. It is hoped that the plutonium can be converted and used in the fuel cycle. Unfortunately the plant which was produced for this had not worked to design standards and review which have been carried out suggest that the existing plant has neither capacity nor longevity. The NDA are currently looking at two options – to build a new facility to process the plutonium or to look abroad to do this. With this in mind a plutonium strategy is currently being developed.

Keith Riding confirmed that to date no Chief Executive Officer had been found and that Richard Waite would continue in the interim to hold the post.

NDA Socio Economics

Keith Riding reported that the NDA had been involved in a number of workshops which had been held in connection with the Solway Barrage Scheme and also the Gretna Landmark Project – which was to be an iconic structure at the Scottish/English border. NDA have already given £40K towards the Gretna Landmark Project.

NDA Estates

Keith Riding confirmed that there had been many expressions of interest with regard to the NDA's extensive land holdings. 4 new build Sites had been identified – Sellafield, Wylfa, Bradwell and Oldbury. He also confirmed that utility companies had expressed interest.

Questions & Observations

Cllr Sean Marshall thanked the NDA for the £2.5M socio economic funding. With regard to the Solway Barrage Cllr Marshall stated that it would be a good scheme for the NDA to support covering two areas of interest ie GLA and West Cumbria. Keith Riding responded by advising that the NDA had been approached by the Company supported by the North West Development Agency but that it was very early days for the Barrage project and there were many questions still to be answered by feasibility studies eg road and rail links, could this be done underwater as done in Europe etc?

Cllr Ogilvie also thanked the NDA for the £2.5K funding and stated that this was an excellent piece of work by the SSG Socio-Economic Sub Group. He also pointed out that the Chapelcross pipeline currently is on the route of the planned barrage and that through the Annan Common Good Fund concerns had been raised regarding fishing.

Cllr Ogilvie commented on the large turnover of staff within the NDA and that jobs were often advertised. He asked if there were problems within the NDA in retaining Staff. Keith Riding replied by confirming that many roles within the NDA were indeed challenging.

Cllr Ogilvie asked Keith Riding, that knowing Keith has observed other SSG Meetings how did he rate the Chapelcross SSG in comparison to others? Keith Riding responded by saying that generally he felt that the Chapelcross SSG effort is exemplary and that it was a real credit and proof of this was recently being awarded £2.5M of socio-economic funding. He added that this was also recognition of the amount of hard work which had gone into the submissions. An acknowledgement that the Chapelcross SSG was very strong and active was made by Cllr Ogilvie.

John Rogerson commented that it would be 2/3 years before we would start to lose jobs. Keith Riding added that the NDA would support the regeneration process where possible but again mentioned that matched funding would need to be found to allow the progress with the proposed Industry Park to take place. Chair Lindsay stated that all agencies involved would need to work together to deliver what had been planned and that the SSG would look forward to seeing progress with this and an update would be given at our next meeting.

Cllr Brodie stated that with regard to the Solway Barrage local concerns would need to be addressed, specifically with relation to the fishing, and also the impact it may have on the Chapelcross pipeline. Keith Riding again confirmed that the Solway Barrage was at a very early stage but he intends to work closely and give support if possible. He also added that the priority was to defuel and maintain Chapelcross safely.

Cllr Sean Marshall reported that a presentation in relation to the Solway Barrage had been given to the Annandale & Eskdale Area Committee and the Annan Regeneration Steering Group, but also confirmed that more details would be needed. He believed that should the Barrage project take place then the link to the grid could be along the Chapelcross Pipeline route. There is an in depth technical feasibility study to conduct and although the concept is there no detail has yet been given. Sean Marshall also reported that in previous years there had been an extensive feasibility PWR study undertaken at Chapelcross by BNFL and that it may be possible that a lot of geological information, etc could be gleaned from this.

A question was raised regarding further NDA funding applications and Keith Riding responded by confirming that NDA funding was indeed available but there was the need to deliver the existing projects which funds had been provided for.

Len Moore commented that although the funding had been given that in fact to develop the Industry Park the land would need to be purchased and asked the question, would it not have been easier to give the land to the community so that the money could be used in other ways. He also asked who would run and develop the Industry Park.

Keith Riding pointed out that it is very important that the NDA maximise taxpayer's return through socio economic projects and that strict rules had to be enforced. Guidelines mean that there are restrictions to what could be done and that the NDA could not just give away assets.

Cllr Sean Marshall reassured Len Moore that the development of the Industry Park would be done through a project steering board specifically set up to purchase and project manage the fund. He also stated that although the discussions relating to the Industry Park had always centred around the land at Chapelcross, this development could in fact be somewhere else close to the site. It was confirmed that all decisions made with regard to the funding would go through due process and would be endorsed by the SSG.

A figure of £8M being invested by Scottish Enterprise into our Area had been quoted in 2005. It was now realised that this figure was not in fact realistic despite lobbying at Scottish Parliament by local politicians and Chapelcross Trade Unions. It was confirmed by Cllr Sean Marshall that some of the Scottish Enterprise funds had been used from Katalyst as the special purpose vehicle for economic generation within the Gretna-Lockerbie-Annan (GLA) area. David Gass confirmed that this was in fact the case. Len Moore asked if the CoRES Group had now done away with the original strategy? This was not the case. Dave Wilson closed the discussion by reiterating that the £2.5M allocated to the GLA was a real good news story and a fantastic achievement but there was a real need for everyone to engage and start delivering the projects. John Rogerson added his agreement to this.

Chair Lindsay thanked Keith Riding and the NDA for the funding received and commended the other bodies, (Local Council, NDA, Chapelcross, CoRES and Scottish Enterprise) involved. He added that we must now ensure that bricks are laid and progress seen.

6. Presentation on BPEO Study

David Orr – Environmental Manager, Chapelcross. Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) Review Workshop.

David Orr opened the presentation by explaining that although Chapelcross had always operated within its environmental limits, there have now been changes within Government Policy and new authorisations are now needed. Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) also requires Chapelcross to demonstrate that we use the BPEO for all waste routes. David Orr reported on the workshop recently held, and hosted by Entek, and a summary report was issued to the SSG Group. The workshop had been very open and transparent and opportunity was given for those attending to comment. David Orr thanked those who attended for generously giving their time.

John Rogerson asked if there had been any trade union involvement. David Orr responded by confirming that there had been a cross section of members in attendance, not specific trade unions.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked for a Summary of the workshop. David Orr reported that in the morning the workshop had addressed Tritiated Groundwater. These looked at at the disposal of collected groundwater through the pipeline, sewerage, surface water through Gullielands Burn, the option to tanker the water away, evaporation or recirculate it by spraying it back onto the Chapelcross Site. The afternoon session had addressed Very Low Level Solid waste. It was noted that plant history had meant that tritiated land at Chapelcross had been registered for many years but because of the increase in groundwater this was having to be dealt with in a different manner and for this we would now require authorisation from our regulators. David Orr advised that there was in fact radioactivity contained in everything and that there were measures for solid radioactive waste but no levels had ever been set for liquids. Once a radioactivity has been identified it has to be managed and it was hoped that the Government would be able to introduce reporting levels which may mean that Chapelcross may not in fact need to report this as the levels were so insignificant. Cllr Sean Marshall reported that Elizabeth Gray, Head of Radioactive Waste, Scottish Government had requested information regarding tritium levels at the last Scottish Sites Meeting.

ACTION – David Orr to contact Elizabeth Gray for an update regarding Tritium Levels.

Willie McNairn reported that Scottish Water had contacted himself regarding drainage systems on his land. Willie asked if the gentleman who had bought The Distillery building had been involved with the workshop. David Orr responded by confirming that Professor Thompson has been kept informed and had recently visited Chapelcross Site.

Chair Lindsay thanked David Orr for his report and having personally attended the workshop, commented that it was good to see stakeholders attending such a workshop and asked that they be kept fully involved and updated.

7. Other Reports from SSG Bodies

NII

The Chair referred to the NII Site Inspector Quarterly Report which had been circulated with the previous minutes. There were no questions relating to this report. Les Davies reported that following the annual Periodic Safety Review that due to the late submission of this report the NII were unable to give any comment/decision relating to this and this would now be the end of October 2009. Les Davies stated that the NII do expect Chapelcross to meet all commitments agreed.

SEPA

The Chair welcomed Hugh Fearn to the Chapelcross SSG Meeting. Hugh Fearn reported that SEPA were inspecting revised solid waste issues.

CNC

David Johnstone reported that CNC were involved and have been assisting the Site with the planning of the imminent flask movements from the Site. David Johnstone also reported that a very successful on site exercise had recently taken place involving CNC, D&G Constabulary and Magnox North.

8. Chapelcross Sub Groups Update

Community Support/Education Sub Group

Cllr Marshall confirmed that more than 20 meetings had been held by the SSG Socio-Economic Sub Group to aid the £2.5M NDA funding achievement. It was confirmed that following the dissolution of the SSG Socio Economic Sub Group that all applications for NDA funding would now go through an endorsement route of CoRES to SSG before submission to NDA. Further to the report given by Dave Wilson, it was confirmed that Community Support funds £40K and Education Support funds of £20K are almost fully allocated. Cllr Marshall reported that the Chapelcross Science Environment and Enterprise (S.E.E) Project was to be launched within the next month. This project would offer every primary and secondary school in Annandale and Eskdale the opportunity to run a project related to the one of the three categories within their own school and receive funding through Chapelcross Education Support (£1K for secondary and £500 for primary).

ACTION – Jill Callander to update SSG of development of SEE project at next SSG Meeting.

Annandale and Eskdale Sports & Leisure Trust

Chair Lindsay welcomed Calum Graham and Sandra Proudfoot from the Trust who gave a presentation on how the funding provided by Magnox North and Energy Solutions had been spent over the last financial year. (see copy attached to Minutes).

Cllr Ogilvie and Chair Lindsay both commended the Trust on their programme of sporting events which they provide for our local children. Calum Graham responded by confirming that local clubs and volunteers had been key to facilitating this, and thanks was given to them.

Dave Wilson praised the Trust and confirmed that he was delighted to advise that Energy Solutions were in a position to support the Trust for a further year to the tune of £10K for the Sports Academy 2009.

Sean Marshall reinstated that the NDA, Magnox North and Energy Solutions were very committed with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and that there was a lot of commitment given by the Chapelcross Lead Team and Site Programme Manager. This resource and time was vital to the delivery of the CSR of Chapelcross Site.

Keith Riding reported that the NDA have a Socio-Economic Panel which met on a regular basis and he believed that the work done by the Annandale and Eskdale Sports and Leisure Trust would meet the criteria needed for additional sponsorship.

Chair Lindsay thanked Calum and Sandra for their very interesting presentation and wished them every success for the next 12 months.

9. CoReS and NDA Socio Economic Funding

Steve Southam reported that 2 meetings had been held by the CoRES Group and gave feedback on 5 potential NDA SE funded projects - A&E Community Fund, Gretna Landmark, Annan Pipeband, Crab Farm and Supply Chain.

Steve Southam advised there had been a CoRES meeting held on the 27th February and that future meetings have been aligned to be 1 week prior to the SSG Meeting to enable them to present any proposals for endorsement by the SSG. 15 projects had been updated and the future role of Katalyst had been discussed as well as the £2.5M funding from NDA. Scottish Enterprise is to head a project steering group to deliver the proposed Industry Park project.

Steve Southam proposed that the Minutes of the CoRES Group are circulated through the SSG. Chair Lindsay endorsed this and it was proposed that this would be a regular Agenda item on future SSG Meetings.

ACTION - Jill Callander to include CoRES minutes in SSG Agenda.

ACTION - Steve Southam to get agreement from CoRES for circulation of minutes.

10. SSG Constitution Review

Cllr Marshall advised that the NDA were almost ready to issue final draft formal guidelines. It was proposed that new Chapelcross SSG Constitution be brought to the June SSG Meeting for endorsement.

ACTION - Jill Callander to circulate revised constitution with Minutes of this meeting.

11. Any Other Business and Public Forum

There was no other business

12. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 12 June 2009 at 10 am, Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall.

Chair Lindsay closed the meeting with an apology for the slight over-run, but added that there had been much good discussion and worthwhile debate.

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