



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

Minutes of the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group held on Friday 7 March 2008 at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan

In Attendance:

Cllr Ian Lindsay (representing Annandale East) (Chair)
Isobel McBain (Acting SSG Secretary)
Dave Wilson (Chapelcross Site Director)
Cllr Sean Marshall (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Archie Dryburgh (representing Annandale East)
Cllr Len Moore (Federation of Community Councils)
Cllr Ian Carruthers (representing Annandale South)
Nick Woodcock (Chapelcross Deputy Site Director)
Paul Giles (Chapelcross HR Manager)
Pam Duerden (Chapelcross ESS&Q Manager)
Marianne Cook (Scottish Executive)
Keith Riding (NDA Chapelcross Site Programme Manager)
Les Davies (Chapelcross Site Inspector – NII)
Steve Southam (D&G Council)
Murray Bainbridge (Scottish Enterprise D&G)
Paul Allan (Creca Hall Chair)
Insp Robert Gibson (D&G Constabulary)
Fergie Bell (Civil Nuclear Constabulary)

Apologies:

Cllr Gail McGregor
Cllr Richard Brodie (representing Annandale South)
Cllr Michael Dickie (representing Annandale North)
Alan Hill (Civil Nuclear Constabulary)
Dave Orr (SEPA)
Elizabeth Gray (Scottish Executive)
Janice Rough (D&G Education Department)
Cllr A Graham (representing Annandale East)
David Mundell – MP
Elaine Murray – MSP
David Gurney (D&G Council)
Cllr Ted Brown
Jill Callander (SSG Secretary)

Present:

Claudia Beamish
Willie McNairn (Blackhills Farm)
Chick McKenna (D&G Economic Regeneration)
Sharon Liptrot (D&G Standard)

Michael Derrington
David Lessels
Harvey Freemantle (Annandale Observer)

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 7th December 2007

The minutes were endorsed by Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie and seconded by Cllr Archie Dryburgh

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- Overview on Environmental Improvement Plan and Safety Review – covered in Site Director's presentation.
- Report from SSG Socio Economic Sub Group Meeting on 10 January 2008 – covered in presentation by P Giles, HR Manager
- Review of the formation of the SSG Sub Groups – Sean Marshall confirmed that he was looking to bolster some of the representation in the sub groups in the new financial year, as well as looking at the overall roles of the sub groups and how they dove-tail into CORES.
- Sean Marshall also noted that they were awaiting NDA guidelines regarding the constitution of the main SSG, and he hoped that by the next SSG meeting, information regarding the constitution of the main and sub SSG groups would be available to members. Cllr Carruthers and Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie expressed an interest in joining one of the sub groups.
- W.McNairn noted that despite Cllr Ogilvie comments, the public attend the SSG meetings as interested parties, and their intention was not to "gripe at the members". Cllr Ogilvie apologised but it was not his intention to infer that was the case.
- The Chair noted his disappointment in the public attendance at the SSG meetings, as Chapelcross was so important to the local community. Sean Marshall reported that in order to raise the profile of the SSG public meetings / presentations were planned for the new financial year, where members of the public within a 2km radius of Chapelcross would be invited to attend.

5. Matters arising NDA Business Plan Meeting with Terry Selby

Action on Elaine Murray to gather information on what plans the Scottish Government has to change how low and intermediate-level waste from civil nuclear industry is dealt with.

The question was answered on 12 January 2008 in the Scottish Parliament as follows, "*The Scottish Government has no plans to change how low-level radioactive waste from the civil nuclear industry is managed. We continue to support the UK-wide policy for the Long Term Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste published in March 2007. The Scottish Government's policy for higher activity waste in Scotland was announced on 25 June 2007 and supports long-term "near surface near site" storage facilities. We are developing this policy in conjunction with the regulators, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and others and have no plans to change it.*"

6. Chapelcross Site Director's Report

The Chair welcomed Dave Wilson to the SSG as the Chapelcross Site Director, having taken over from Mike Travis. He also welcomed Nick Woodcock (Deputy Site Director) and Pam Duerden (ESS&Q Manger) to their first SSG Meeting.

Westlakes Health Study

Before Dave Wilson gave his quarterly report he briefed the meeting on the recent Westlakes Health Study, which had been carried out to investigate non-cancerous deaths in workers in the nuclear industry.

Questions and Observations on Westlakes Health Study

- Cllr Dryburgh noted although that the health and well being of the workforce at Chapelcross was the main priority, he was surprised that more money and resource was being spent on another health study. D Wilson explained that the decision was taken by a panel funded by the NDA.
- Cllr Marshall asked where the enquiries from the workforce/public should be directed. Keith Riding confirmed that the Westlakes Group Company Doctor should be contacted, and would provide Cllr Marshall with details in due course.

Site Director's Presentation

Dave Wilson gave his quarterly report using the attached presentation slides (see attached to the minutes). In summary:

- **Safety** – One lost time accident (less than three days) occurred in the last quarter.
- **Environmental Performance** – current performance has been reviewed, improvement plan now in place.
- **LTP** – review funding levels
- **S3 Programme** – contingency plan currently being progressed as an alternative if NDA decided to allocate funds from Chapelcross (and other Magnox sites) to the high hazardous sites ie Sellafield and Dounreay.
- **Review of current projects** - defuelling, asbestos, shipment of MDU.

Questions and Observations

Lost Time Accident (LTA)

Cllr Dryburgh asked D Wilson to clarify the position regarding the LTA. D Wilson confirmed that the recent LTA was less than three days and although national Health & Safety statistics would record an LTA if an employee had been off work for more than three days, the internal recording mechanism was triggered because it was day away case caused by an injury at work.

Voluntary Severance Terms (VST)

Cllr Dryburgh asked D Wilson to confirm the plans for VST in relation to the fixed term contract employees. D Wilson stated that funding had not yet been secured for a VST programme, however, if the funding request was successful, the plan would be to let as many of those who wanted to go, but would also ensure the safe delivery of the plan. That given, the aspiration would be to deploy as many as possible of the fixed term employees into the roles vacated by those who chose to take advantage of the VST option. D Wilson also confirmed the site's commitment to provide the opportunity for the employees to take on the roles currently filled by agency / contract supplied workers where possible.

Funding

Cllr Ogilvie and Cllr Marshall shared their concerns regarding the NDA's commitment to fund the Chapelcross LTP for no longer than Year 1.

P Allan also noted that Chapelcross enjoys considerable local support, however, any change to the funding profile could see this support diminish.

Cllr Marshall noted that it was not only a concern of the Chapelcross SSG but the National SSG that the NDA had potential plans to moth ball the decommissioning sites and plough funds into the high hazard sites such as Sellafield and Dounreay.

D Wilson confirmed the funding profile and noted that the best way to alleviate any concerns regarding moth balling Chapelcross was to deliver the defuelling programme this year, of which Sellafield's capability to reprocess fuel would be crucial.

Keith Riding confirmed that the NDA's priority was to follow the Government's policy to reprocess fuel. The NDA have spent a lot time, effort and money on the aging plant at Sellafield in order to make the plant more reliable.

K Riding also noted that in terms of guarantee funding for Chapelcross, the NDA were following Treasury guidelines. The Government provide the NDA with their funding levels which need to be followed. The NDA are, however, making progress with the Audit Committee and the Treasury department regarding securing future years funding. K Riding took Cllr Ogilvie's comments on board and will feed these back as appropriate.

Westlakes Health Study

W McNairn requested further information on the recent health study. If there was a public demand for more information the technical authors would be invited to present their findings in a public forum.

ACTION – S Marshall to coordinate the distribution of more information regarding this study to the members of the public.

The Site Director's report was endorsed and the Chair thanked Dave Wilson for the very informative presentation.

7. NDA Chapelcross Site Programme Manager's Report

K Riding reported that since taking over as Site Programme Manager on the 1st January, the same time D Wilson took over as Site Director, the Site's project delivery had improved significantly. K Riding explained how the NDA report on Site's performance, noting at the end of January, project delivery had been marked at "amber" due his concerns in this area. However with progress being made in the Asbestos and Defuelling projects the five ambers had change to one, and was hopeful that by the end of the financial year that Chapelcross's project delivery would be reporting green.

K Riding updated the meeting on the changes taking place within the NDA, noting that Steven Henwood had taken over as Chairman as of the 1st March 2008.

Land Asset Sale

K Riding reported that on 6th March 2008 the NDA announced the sale of land / real estate for development for new build. Any company / utility can register an interest in purchasing land and have 6 weeks to do so, with the revenue being ploughed back into decommissioning projects.

This proposal has been put out for consultation and the NDA have written to their stakeholders, requesting a response back by 1st April 2008. For information members can visit www.assetuse@nda.gov.uk, and all members will be written to, to provide them with more information.

K Riding confirmed the proposed 15 acres development at Chapelcross would not be affected by this land asset sale.

Questions & Observations

Land Asset Sale

Len Moore enquired had the original owners been approached in order to return the land back to them. K Riding noted that was being considered and the NDA would be taking legal guidance on this matter.

K Riding accepted Cllr Marshall's comments that more time for public consultation should be given to such proposals, and would feedback accordingly.

W McNairn enquired whether planning permission would be required for the business park developments on land around the Chapelcross site and also enquired about 17 acres of ground in the area that belonged to Dumfries & Galloway Council.

ACTION - S Southam confirmed that appropriate planning permissions would be required, however he would investigate and report back at the next meeting the issue about possible land holdings by D&G Council.

P Allan stated that he believed that a precedent had been established where by the original land owners could have the first option to buy back the land (Critchell Downs).

Cllr Marshall suggested that D Atkinson, Asset Director be invited to a SSG meeting where he will be able to answer any queries the members have. This suggestion was endorsed. **ACTION** – S Marshall to arrange for D Atkinson to attend SSG Meeting in the near future.

Socio Economic Funding

M Bainbridge responded to Cllr Carruthers's query regarding money set aside for the local community. M Bainbridge confirmed that GLA fund was in place and local groups through CORES / Scottish Enterprise could submit proposals to request grants / funding.

Shared Services

Cllr Ogilvie noted his concerns regarding the Shared Services initiative, stating it was another project that did not support local businesses as it would see many of the contracts being awarded to the large national companies.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that the main driver for CORES was to up-skill the local business community to supply Chapelcross with skilled resource by way of compensating for the loss of skilled jobs in the area and had been disappointed that this had not been the case.

8. Other reports from SSG Bodies

Local Economic Assessment. – Murray Bainbridge, SEDGE

A workshop had been held with representation from Magnox North and other stakeholder groups in attendance. The main premise behind the workshop was to determine what the effect on the local economy would be, if Chapelcross was selected as the lead site for accelerated decommissioning. Cllr Ogilvie reported that the workshop had proved to be very worthwhile and noted that Chapelcross had a very good chance of being selected at the lead site.

The meeting endorsed its support for Chapelcross's bid for the lead site. Cllr Marshall noted that this project was seen as being vitally important to the Site and the local economy and hoped that the NDA were able to deliver on the expectations that had been set.

Scottish Government – Marianne Cook (representing Elizabeth Gray)

Movement of Waste in Scotland

A verbal update was given on the current situation with regards to movement of waste in Scotland. The tritium exemption order was currently being reviewed jointly by the Scottish and UK Governments along with a range of other exemption orders. The process will include consultation and representations to be made in 2008, and the current timetable was for the new guidelines to be published some time in 2009.

Scottish Sites Meeting

Marianne Cook reported that the first meeting had been held in September 2007 concentrating on new build. The second meeting was scheduled to take place on 11 March and would focus on skills and socio economic policies / projects.

Murray Bainbridge had a query regarding the Nation Planning Framework Agreement and asked if there was any update. M Cook confirmed that this point was only to identify a need a waste storage facility in the agreement.

NII – Les Davies

The latest NII Inspector's Report had been issued along with the agenda. Les Davies informed the meeting that due to resource changes within the NII, he would now be Site Inspector for Hunterston A as well as looking after Chapelcross. L Davies confirmed that two thirds of his time would be allocated Chapelcross.

Questions & Observations

Cllr Ogilvie asked if L Davies had any concerns regarding the NDA's comments regarding the Site's project delivery. L Davies noted that could not comment on the NDA's views, his job was to raise any issues with the site's processes and procedures, which the site would have to address in order to remain compliant.

The Chair asked L Davies with the resources changes, if he felt that he would have enough time to look after Chapelcross. L Davies stated that Chapelcross would still be adequately covered by the NII.

D&G Constabulary

Insp D Irving reported that a successful joint security exercise with CNC & D&G Constabulary had taken place on 28 February 2008. Both constabularies will also be involved with the Radwaste exercise due to take place in July.

Scottish Enterprise – D&G

M Bainbridge updated the meeting on the organisational changes taking place within Scottish Enterprise. Scottish Enterprise D&G and Borders are to amalgamate to become Scottish Enterprise – South. New Directors will be taking over operations, but the office in Dumfries will remain in place.

9. Chapelcross SSG Sub-Groups update

Socio Economic

P Giles / M Bainbridge presented the funding proposal to the NDA. In summary the proposal covers: projects which will cost approximately £8M, of which £5M is being sought from the NDA.

Industry Park - £1.5M requested

Business Incubation Centre - £1M requested

Deliver a Supply Chain Support Programme – £0.6M requested

Employment of Business Liaison Officer - £250K

Establishment of GLA Community Fund - £1.5M

The Chair thanked those who had worked on the proposal, noting a lot of hard work had been put in to prepare the proposals. S Marshall confirmed that key stakeholders had been involved with the Socio Economic Sub Group.

The Chapelcross SSG formally endorsed the submission of the 5 projects to the NDA Socio Economic Fund.

Questions & Observations

Cllr Dryburgh asked if a training facility would be part of the proposed Business Park. M Bainbridge confirmed it would be and the University of Lancashire and the University of the South of Scotland had already expressed an interest in locating a campus at such a Business Park.

It was also agreed that because the Business Park would not be part of the Site Licence Company, there would be business opportunities for Chapelcross in terms of providing training facility. K Riding confirmed that this was an area that the NDA were keen to explore further.

Cllr Carruthers noted his concern that Katalyst were involved with the project. M Bainbridge and S Marshall stated that they were confident that Katalyst would deliver and believed the module put forward was correct, and perhaps the recent misfortunes of Katalyst were not down to their inability to deliver, but because they had chosen the wrong projects to be involved with.

The Chair requested that the NDA Funding Proposal be endorsed, motion was carried.

Community Support

The minutes for the previous meeting had been circulated. S Marshall reported that during the £25K had been spent, with various groups benefiting.

Education Support.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. £10K had been spent in the year.

10. Ad-Hoc Subgroup – NDA Business Plan

S Marshall confirmed that the SSG had formally responded to the NDA, and were currently awaiting comments back.

K Riding confirmed that 126 responses to the draft business plan had been received, and was now currently being redrafted, and would go before the Minister at the end of the Month.

11. AOB

Funding – Annandale & Eskdale Back to Work – funding proposal has been submitted to Chapelcross SSG Socio-Economic Sub-Group.

SSG formally recognised the TV award achieved by John Wallace for his Cooling Towers documentary.

Work is underway to arrange the Chapelcross SSG Annual Site Visit. A visit to Trawsfydd and Wylfa is also being planned. Information will be issued to SSG members in due course.

12. Date of Next Meeting – Friday 6 June 2008 at 10am