



Site Stakeholder Group

Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

Minutes of the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group held on Wednesday 7th June 2006 at Council Chambers, Annan Town Hall, High Street, Annan.

In Attendance: Cllr Ian Lindsay (Chair)
Avril Mitchell (Secretary)
Cllr Sean Marshall
Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie
Cllr Chris Carruthers
Cllr Allan Graham
Cllr Tony Turner
Len Moore (Federation of Community Councils)
Isabelle Watson (S.E.P.A.)
Mike Travis (Chapelcross Site Manager)
Janice Rough (D&G Education Officer)
Billy McVinnie (D&G Fire Brigade)
Robert Gibson (Emergency Planning D&G Constabulary)
Randall Bargelt (Chapelcross Site Programme Manager - NDA)
Cllr Denis Male
Les Davies (Chapelcross Site Inspector - NII)
Maureen Course (Emergency Planning, Dumfries & Galloway Council)

Apologies: Paul Allan (Creca Hall Chairperson)
David Mundell MP
Elizabeth Gray (Scottish Executive)
Ashley Smallwood (Scottish Enterprise D & G)
Cllr Marjorie McQueen
Cllr Michael Dickie
Cllr Lavinia Vaughan
John Rogerson (Chapelcross)
Karen Dickens (Socio-Economic Manager NDA)
Steve Southam (Dumfries & Galloway Council)

Present: Paul Giles (HR Manager Chapelcross)
Andy Feltham (Head of Safety, Chapelcross)
Nigel Monckton (Communications Manager Northern Bundle)
Dave Wilson (Project Delivery Manager, Chapelcross)
Insp. Alan Hill (Civil Nuclear Constabulary)
John Wallace (Pile on Productions)
Elizabeth Codona (Pile on Productions)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the June meeting of the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group and introduced two new members Randall Bargelt, Chapelcross Site NDA Programme Manager and Les Davies, Chapelcross NII Site Inspector.

2. Announcement and Apologies

The Secretary gave apologies as listed above.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 3rd March 2006

The Chairman referred to the Actions arising from this meeting.

4. Matters Arising from meeting on the 9th December 2006

ACTIONS from the last meeting:

Mike Travis gave his answer to the query regarding a potential spillage within the Scottish Power compound by describing the arrangements put in place and has since provided specific information by letter to Cllr Turner.

Karen Dickens – Randall Bargelt gave the NDA View on the OJEU process by saying that the NDA follows the guidelines set down for the tendering and contracting process and on the socio-economic selections he explained that two of the proposals were being processed and a business plan was required for the third proposal.

Robert Gibson – Debrief on Emergency Exercise Zena. Robert explained that the debrief was not yet available but that he would bring the completed report to the next SSG meeting.

ACTION: Robert Gibson

5. Chapelcross Site Manager's Report

Mike Travis presented his Quarterly Report updating members of progress on the site since the June meeting. Main points of his presentation included:

- **Safety**

He opened his presentation by saying that since the last SSG meeting there had been no lost time accidents; no environmental issues; no Site licence compliance issues and explained that the safety statistics showed a positive picture. He added that Chapelcross had received a certificate following a very successful independent audit by Det Norske Veritas. The Site scored a level 7 against the International Safety Rating System (ISRS) version 7 which at the time was the highest score in the UK. Another successful operation was that of the Chapelcross Level 1 Site Emergency Exercise demonstration held on the 24th May.

- **Hazard Reduction Process**

Mike described the successful hazard reduction activities of two processes

1. the shipping of 93 tonnes of irradiated fuel from the Pond at Chapelcross to Sellafield and
2. the removal of 3,352 of 10,548 repackaged drums of Magnox Depleted Uranium to Capenhurst

- **Preparations for Reactor Defuelling**

Mike explained that there was approximately 100 tons of fuel in each reactor and work was progressing to prepare the mechanical equipment to remove the fuel and transport it to Sellafield. The target is to have the first fuel element removed by 31st March 2007 with all 4 reactors defuelled by March 2009. He added that the New Flask Handling building is now complete which will provide reassurance monitoring for the receipt and despatch of the flasks and avoid the need to use the existing ponds on site as part of the defuelling programme.

- **Decommissioning and Demolition**

The Site Manager explained that another 3 buildings had been demolished at Chapelcross bringing the total to 6 this year and 35 buildings demolished in total. Information was also given on the progress of the various projects concerned.

- Clearance of Hangar 45 with Low Level Waste having been sent to the Waste repository near to Drigg.
- Cooling Tower project – demolition planned for this financial year subject to agreement of Waste Disposal Routes and local Emergency Services.

Mr Travis added that a special Cooling Tower presentation would be given at the next SSG meeting in September. **ACTION: Mike Travis**

- **Waste handling**

Waste handling – Low level waste and intermediate level waste. ISO freight containers have now removed most of all the LLW waste to the Low Level Waste (LLW) repository near to the village of Drigg in West Cumbria. Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) has been sent to a miscellaneous store at Sellafield.

- **Socio-Economic Highlights**

Mike explained the statistics and information shown on the various slides:

- SSG Socio Economic Sub-group 2005/2006 submissions.
- A slide showing the proposal submission for funding for the Annan Area Regeneration projects
- A slide showing the amount spent to date on the Chapelcross Funded Projects

- **Chapelcross Staffing & Latest Recruitment Opportunities**

Mike stated at present, the staffing levels were 383 employees and 54 agency workers. He added that he was pleased to announce that there was to be recruitment announced in June offering 41 new job opportunities.

Alan Hill asked if the new recruits would be employees.

Mike Travis said that they would.

Cllr Tony Turner commented that it was terrific news for the local economy.

Paul Giles reported that approximately ten under graduates were coming to work in various departments at Chapelcross during their summer vacation period. Work was continuing in conjunction with Dumfries & Galloway College and with NDA to engage apprentices for the Chapelcross decommissioning mode which will be good for the site and the local economy.

The Chairman added that at the National Stakeholder Group meeting, it was remarked that skills in the Nuclear Industry covers all sorts of skills and trades - not just graduates, but builders, joiners etc.

Janice Rough continued by saying that some 5th and 6th year pupils, were keen to work at Chapelcross and had asked which university subjects they should study for work in the Nuclear Industry.

Mike Travis said that he would be happy to talk to them.

Miscellaneous questions arising from Mike Travis's presentation:

The chairman asked Mike Travis how long the MDU project would last.

Mike Travis advised him that there was three years of work ahead.

Len Moore requested that members of the local community should be involved in the Emergency Exercise e.g. a member of the community council or a member of the public.

Robert Gibson said that he would look at possible opportunities for this after attending the Steering Group. **ACTION: Robert Gibson**

Len Moore also asked if Chapelcross presentations could be made more available to the general public. The Chairman answered by saying that the SSG meetings were where presentations were made available to the general public.

Mike Travis added that Chapelcross provided an ongoing programme of presentations on request to local stakeholder groups.

Cllr Tony Turner asked if the NII could give a balanced view of the standard of compliance procedures and co-operation at Chapelcross

Les Davies confirmed the compliance but added that it was an ongoing process. He said that there were no major problems there.

Mike Travis announced that Chapelcross continued to operate an open and honest reporting culture.

6. Other Reports from SSG Statutory Bodies

SEPA- Isabelle Watson

Isabelle Watson commented that she had been on site a number of times since the last SSG meeting and gave a general update of her activities. She advised that there was now a SEPA update on current liquid authorisations.

Cllr Tony Turner asked if SEPA was involved with the asbestos waste which entails a different removal process.

Isabelle replied that both SEPA and the HSE were involved.

Les Davies added that there was a recognised means of dealing with the problem and that they are making sure that it is dealt with in the proper manner

Cllr Turner asked if Chapelcross was to store the asbestos waste on Site.

Mike Travis explained that there was a lot of material which is impregnated with tritium and at present there are discussions with SEPA on what the removal process will be. He added that there is a specialist contractor on site who is dealing with it.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked why the UK contamination control levels were higher than Europe or the USA.

Isabelle Watson answered by saying that there was a consultation on policy at the end of May and it would be the Government who would have to change the legislation.

Randall Bargelt said levels were ten times more lenient in the USA and Europe than in the UK.

NDA - Randall Bargelt

Randall opened by giving comments on DEFRA and confirmed that the NDA Guidelines for the Socio-Economic Fund should be out for consultation in October 2006.

Dumfries & Galloway Fire Service - Billy McVinnie

Mr McVinnie stated that there were no issues regarding Chapelcross.

Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary – Robert Gibson

Mr Gibson advised that the police are continuing to look at all CX Emergency Exercises with a view to enhancing resolutions which can help them improve the service of protecting members of the public.

7. Chapelcross SSG Sub-Groups update

Socio-Economic

Paul Giles announced that the Socio-Economic Group and the NDA were working well together and so far two of the three submitted 2005/06 requests had been successful in securing £58,000 of funding which was good news for the economy of the area. However, the final NDA criteria was still required so that future project applications could be determined by the Socio-Economic Sub-Group.

The Chairman consolidated this by adding that criteria is necessary to enable the SSG to know what projects they can and cannot submit to the NDA fund. He suggested that perhaps an application form could be designed by the NDA with the necessary criteria on it.

Randall Bargelt replied by saying that Karen Dickens was working on this.

Cllr Marshall added that it was gratifying that the NDA were recognising projects in the area and echoed what the chairman had said by explaining that schemes could be advanced by knowing the set criteria.

Community Support

The Chairman opened by saying that although the NDA would rather finance bigger projects from the central fund, he thought that it was very important that the smaller organisations were included in local sponsorships and donations in order to reinforce good community relations with Chapelcross. Reference was made to the two meetings which had already been held and to the minutes of these meetings.

Sean Marshall added that the Community Support Sub-group met monthly to look at all incoming requests for funding. The site budget for 2005/06 is £25K.

Education Support

Sean Marshall advised that the first meeting of the Education Sub-group was held on May 24th and explained that these meetings are to be held monthly to determine what projects to support from the £10K site budget for Education. Minutes from the meeting were available.

Janice Rough added that in the present financial climate there were lots of applications and that they needed to establish criteria for the Sub-group which would give best value and the most impact for skills development for young people. The criteria needed to be fair and to look fair in the selection process.

Mr Marshall explained that any funding would be endorsed by the SSG.

Janice Rough gave the example of the Determined to Succeed Ethics Pack funding which encourages a healthy debate and discussion on Nuclear Energy.

Site End States

The Chairman advised that no Site End State group meeting had been held yet but it was proposed that monthly meetings would be held later in the year. He added that several meetings would be required in order to submit an end state report to the NDA by 31st March 2007.

Cllr Marshall explained that it would be beneficial to the Group if the NDA could come along to give guidelines.

Randall Bargelt replied by saying that the Group should not see the Site as a Green Field or a Brown Field but to give their own perception of a Site-end state. He explained that the Group should see it as a vision and use the information as it is today. He added that the perception will not be absolute and that plans and politics will change. He continued by saying that the SSG's view was very important to the NDA and that he and an NDA HQ Communications person would be involved in any discussions.

Cllr Tony Turner asked if there could be a presentation of evidence of End state documents and Socio-economic goals.

Randall agreed to find information on this for the next SSG meeting **ACTION : Randall Bargelt**

Review of Constitution

The Chairman reported that a meeting had not taken place regarding the review of the constitution. He advised that there was to be a visit to Dounreay the following week to observe their SSG and constitution which would allow for areas of best practice to be identified.

8. SSG Chairman Feedback from National Stakeholder Group Meeting in April.

A summary report of the NSG meeting in Edinburgh was included in the SSG member's papers. The Chairman began by saying that it had been good to meet and talk with SSG members from other sites. He explained that other sites were well ahead in Socio-economic issues but said that the general thought was that the clean-up would take longer than 25 years. He stated that every Site requested criteria from the NDA for the Socio-economic Fund as well as a presentation on Site prioritisation. The general thought was that Sellafield and Dounreay were the NDA's main Priorities.

Randall Bargelt replied by saying that with regard to the 25 year strategy, each site would have to produce a Business Plan showing 'how much and how long will it take'. The information would then be compiled by the NDA and commented on. Funding will be staggered by looking at the priorities for each site e.g. hazard reduction.

Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie stressed that craftsmen would be required at Chapelcross for Decommissioning.

9. SSG Visit to Chapelcross

SSG Members who attended - Chris Carruthers, David Gurney, Allan Graham, Billy McVinnie, Randall Bargelt, Paul Allan, Sean Marshall.

Cllr Chris Carruthers announced that that the visit to Chapelcross Site on the 26th May was very interesting and informative and urged all SSG Members to have a tour of the site. He remarked on the complexity of the site with the different buildings having different functions. He had no concerns on the safety aspect and said that everything was performed to the highest possible standard. He concluded by saying that he could now give informed assurance when attending various public forums in the future.

Mike Travis thanked the Councillor for his comments and extended the invitation for other members to come for a Site visit. He commented that it would be a good idea for the SSG to visit other Sites to see the different stages of decommissioning.

The Chairman felt that this would also encourage all the Site SSG's to work together. He remarked that he would like a visit to Sellafield as one of the future sites to visit.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked if invitations could be sent out to other sites to come and visit Chapelcross. Cllr Ronnie Ogilvie stated that it would be better if the SSG's visited Chapelcross first.

Janice Rough proposed an evening visit to the Chapelcross site.

ACTION:SSG Secretary

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 6th September at 7pm

11. Proposed SSG Meeting dates for 2007

The dates were agreed by the members.

12. Any Other Business

The Chairman invited John Wallace to give a short report on the making of his 'Film about Chapelcross'. John Wallace explained that in his documentary film, he would like to deliver a daily view of life at Chapelcross by speaking to people to get their experiences. He stated that he would like to film the Cooling Towers and to perform follow-up interviews after they have disappeared. He added that he had a personal interest in Chapelcross and he did not want any financial gain by making this film.

Mike Travis announced that he would be delighted to help. Janice Rough added that she will circulate his film to all local schools.

On the issue of stakeholder engagement relating to the demolition of the Cooling Towers, it was confirmed that extensive consultation would be required on both sides of the Scotland / England border.

The Chairman advised the group that Dr Gary Littlejohn had written to the SSG with comments on future uses of the Chapelcross Towers.

Randall Bargelt answered by saying that in order for Chapelcross to reduce the hazards on site, the NDA had agreed that the Cooling Towers will come down. He added that the NDA had sent a letter to Dr Littlejohn advising him of this.