

West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG)

Community Engagement Co-ordinating Sub-committee

Minutes from the ninth Meeting of the Community Engagement Co-ordinating Sub-committee held on the 28th April 2006 at the Copeland Centre.

1 Welcome and apologies

Attendees:

Core members

Cllr Elaine Woodburn (Copeland Borough Council, Chair)
Shirley Williams (British Nuclear Group)
Prof Steve Jones (Westlakes Research Institute)
Ron Hargreaves (Parish Council)
Martin Forwood (CORE)
Felicity Wilson (UKAEA)
Stuart Bowe (West Cumbria Business Community)
Cllr C McCarron-Holmes (Allerdale Borough Council)

Others in attendance

Karen Dickens (NDA)
Amanda MacMillan (British Nuclear Group – WCSSG support)
Zena Bergmann (Copeland Borough Council)

Apologies received:

Paul McKenna (Isle of Man Government), Tim Heslop (Cumbria County Council),
Christina Cornall (CALC representative), Adrian Dalton (CALC), Rev John
Hetherington (Cumbria County Council) Frank Duffy (Copeland Borough Council),
Richard Mrowicki (NDA), Peter Kane (TU)

Watching brief: Not in attendance NII and Environment Agency representatives.

Engaging with the Community

Chairman Cllr. David Moore **Vice Chairman** Cllr. Elaine Woodburn
Secretary Shirley Williams

2 Ratification of minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

3 Actions from previous Community Engagement Co-ordinating Sub-committee held on the 24th February 2006 (Meeting 8)

All actions were completed.

4 Discussions from the meeting

The WCSSG Chairman's sub-committee in March identified an issue with responding to current consultations. The original remit of the CECSC – to identify issues of interest to the community and initiate consultations – was thought to have been by-passed by events. Groups such as the NDA now have mature processes in place that identify issues; it was felt that the role of the CECSC should be re-examined in light of this.

As an example, the WCSSG's site end point consultation had been a worthwhile exercise that can be fed into the main consultation undertaken by the NDA. However, this process generates a collation of views rather than a definitive preferred community option.

It was discussed that it may be prudent to take a step back and look at the process and timescale of consultations. With national consultations increasing there is often no time to ask the community to review issues in depth. There is also the danger of duplication. Comments on responses may raise questions and may require a response from the WCSSG. It may be worthwhile to identify all the consultations that are being undertaken.

The WCSSG secretariat commented that it would be difficult for SSGs to produce a consensus response to consultations, but that it could provide a focus for raising awareness of issues at grass roots level, and provide a mechanism for the expression of opinion. Should this sub-committee be working towards providing a forum for the community to understand existing consultations?

The sub-committee could identify if there are any gaps in communicating with the community and address them. It was noted that the Terms of Reference had now been overcome by events and that these should be reviewed (see attached draft revised ToR for comment).

With the site end point consultation there was still a concern regarding the level of inclusion and representation. Is this aim of this sub-committee to gather views from wider community; broad feedback and messages? A comment was made that the Sellafield site was slightly unique in that local issues are entwined with national issues e.g. disposal of waste; making the role wider.

Should the CECSC engage with the community and draw attention to developments and provide assistance with understanding and co-ordinate contributions.

An annual plan will be on the web-site and further information available but who will translate information from technical to layman's terms?
It may be possible to produce a summary review from the external community experts (CECSC). A group of experts could be used as a resource pool to give information; possibly pull a small group together to undertake actions.

Who will raise awareness of consultations to the community; representative's feedback but who tells the man the street?

The scrutiny of issues and concerns from the community will be picked up in the agenda at the quarterly meetings; however, there may be a requirement to generate more awareness of this process.

A programme to raise awareness of mechanisms of issues and consultations must be established. Perhaps display stands to be manned at various times and places. Neighbourhood Forum is a good forum to utilise and well attended but important to get views from harder to reach groups.

Comment was made about the transport sub-committee that it was a waste of time to be reactive to regulatory scrutiny and why look back better to be proactive. Aim should be to look ahead rather than at past incidents. The Secretariat commented this sub-committee was set up at the request of the WCSSG chairman to address specific concerns.

Going forward must look across the programme of industry consultations to prioritise and identify their importance. Will the Chairman's sub-committee prioritise consultations?

Action 9.1: Identify the 12 month programme of industry consultations.

There is a requirement to pro-actively look at the NDA and Tier 1 contractors' programme of consultations and identify stakeholder dialogue and input requirements. Prioritisation may be important with the success of consultations producing an array.

The question was raised should the CECSC be disbanded or reviewed (when and meet how often?).

Unanimous consensus that there is value in the group' dynamic views and ideas are helping to develop and improve process.

Suggest different mode of operations; meeting less formal, give guidance, make better use of people time, brainstorming sessions, drop in sessions for

the community, surgery type forum. Mixture of static displays, contact points, leaflets, suggestion boxes; to aid information giving.

Action 9.2; WCSSG secretariat to review the CECSC terms of reference.

Action 9.3; NDA representatives to provide some lessons learned from previous engagement campaigns.

At present there is not enough debate being generated; need to get more interest from the public. Concerns and suggestions should be continually picked up to ensure the community do not have to wait until the main meeting to draw attention to the concerns.

It was suggested it may be advantageous to gather some informal feedback from the NDA to understand how they view the SSG workings, to allow any gaps to be addressed.

5 AOB

The Windscale sub-committee will provide 2 members to visit the UKEA site to experience the developments.

The next meeting will now be held on the **2nd of June** as opposed to the 26th May.

Geraint Williams, the NII representative will take up another role within the NII and will no longer attend future meetings.

Summary of actions from meeting 9

Action 9.1; Identify the 12 month programme of industry consultations.

Action 9.2; WCSSG secretariat to review the CECSC terms of reference.

Action 9.3; NDA representatives to provide some lessons learned from previous engagement campaigns.