

**West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group
Minutes of the 20th Meeting of LLWR Committee
Wednesday 9th December 2009 held at the Drigg Village Hall**

Attendees

Sue Brown, Chairman	Cumbria County Council
Sue Brett	Cumbria County Council
Jimmy Naylor	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Adrian Dalton, Vice Chairman	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Kneale Thompson	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Andrew Fairhurst	Environment Agency
Elaine Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council
David Moore	Copeland Borough Council
Dick Raaz	Low Level Waste Repository
Cath Giel	Low Level Waste Repository
Paul Pointon	Low Level Waste Repository
Bob Churchill	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
Mike Robbins	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate
Matthew Clark	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
Richard Cummings	Low Level Waste Repository
Amy Huntington	Low Level Waste Repository
Michael Egan	Quintessa

Apologies

Nigel Lister	Low Level Waste Repository
Stephen Shepherd	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Eileen Eastwood	Copeland Borough Council
Mike Davidson	Allerdale Borough Council
Dave Weatherburn	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
Richard Evans	Cumbria County Council

Observers

Tim Hedahl	Low Level Waste Repository
John Jennings	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Dave Rossiter	Low Level Waste Repository
Derek Shepherd	Drigg Resident

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked those around the table to introduce themselves and acknowledged apologies.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting held on the 9th September 2009

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no amendments.

3. Actions from Previous Meeting held on 9th September 2009

Action LLWR/019/002 “Karl agreed to arrange to meet with Cllr David Moore and visit Seascale to review traffic issues at a mutually convenient date”.

This has not taken place and the committee asked Cath Giel to chase progress.

ACTION ONGOING

Action LLWR/019/003 “Karl Melville to consider inspection of local ‘B’ roads for deterioration and damages. To provide a response to the December Sub-Committee meeting”.

Sue Brown reported back on this action stating that following discussions with CCC the suggestion is that the Parish Council commissions a survey to look at the suitability of the road.

4. General update on LLWR Activities – Dick Raaz

Dick Raaz distributed the 2nd issue of the Sites’ quarterly newsletter and went on to give a summary of key activities since the previous meeting in September.

- Implementation of the waste hierarchy - Work is progressing in this area with the shipment of 12 half height ISO containers of metallic waste to Studsvik for treatment. This has resulted in 98% volume reduction and only 5 small drums being returned to LLWR for disposal.
- The UK LLW National Strategy - The consultation period has concluded and LLWR and NDA are working on the responses to consultees and ensuring that the final document reflects the comments received. The final strategy document will be submitted to government early in 2010.
- Vault 9 - Progress on the earthworks and subsequent concreting activities has been delayed due to the adverse weather. Structural works are now scheduled for late February to early March 2010 and the aim is to complete a functional vault by the end of March 2010. The delay in the construction programme does not impact on waste shipments because of the availability of the “island slab” which was handed over to LLWR operations team in July.
- Traffic Calming Scheme – A very successful and well attended (approx 75 villagers) open day was held in the Village Hall on 4th November. There were no objections to the siting of the Vehicle Actuated Signs and the overall response from the villagers was very positive. Legal documents have been drafted and are currently being discussed between CCC & LLWR solicitors. Monies have been deposited with CCC for the scheme.

- Birse Community Support - Birse had two operatives cleaning the village w/c 2/11/09 for 6 hours. The proposed programme going forward is:

16th December – 2 men x 8 hours
 20th January – 2 men x 8 hours
 17th February – 2 men x 8 hours
 24th March – 2 men x 8 hours

Activities will include cleaning pathways and surrounding areas from Stubble Green through to the Holmrook Junction.

Adrian Dalton raised concerns about noise levels and requested an independent assessment. He explained that there was persistent noise at the end of the LLWR working day and asked what was causing it.

Paul Pointon explained that there was a standard practice for monitoring noise levels which included both on site and off site positions. As part of the planning conditions for Vault 9, LLWR must provide noise level monitoring data at pre-agreed locations during core hours to CCC.

New Action

LLWR/020/001	Paul Pointon to make the noise monitoring statistics available to the LLWR Sub-Committee.	Paul Pointon
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Sue Brown asked if LLWR monitor noise levels when the site has stopped operations for the day – say between 6pm and 8pm.

Paul Pointon confirmed that they did as it was a requirement of the planning consent.

John Jennings informed the committee that the Parish Council were receiving an increasing number of complaints about noise levels.

Kneale Thompson said the noise levels were more noticeable early morning and the end of the day. He suspected it could be attributed to a road sweeper. This was corroborated by Mr Derek Shepherd.

Those LLWR personnel present were unaware of any scheduled road sweeper activities but agreed to look into the matter and report back to the Parish Council.

New Action

LLWR/020/002	Paul Pointon to investigate claims of road sweeper activity, early morning and at the end of the day and report back to D&C Parish Council.	Paul Pointon
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5. LLW National Strategy Consultation update – Matthew Clark

Matthew Clark reported that the NDA had extended their consultation period for the National Strategy to the end of November 2009 to encourage local authorities, particularly in Scotland, to reply. The extension period had been successful in generating a further 10 responses from local authorities including Scotland.

He went on to say that most people are supportive of the strategy, particularly the implementation of the waste hierarchy.

The key themes coming out of the consultation and currently being incorporated into the strategy are:

- Waste treatment and/or recycling – this was considered important.
- Waste avoidance.
- Re-use within the industry.
- Metal treatment and recycling considered appropriate for external supply chain.
- Call for more clarity around these concepts.
- Reduce reliance of disposal at LLWR to extend the life of the facility was supported.
- Alternative disposal options – strong view on where that should take place.
- Clarity sought on how waste developers/managers work with planning authorities.
- Integrated waste management – not just about the waste you manage but also the waste you generate.
- Better quality information to inform decisions.

It is NDA's intention to submit the strategy document to government at the end of January 2010 for publication and subsequent adoption towards the end of March 2010.

Matthew added that the strategy would be accompanied by a post adoption document.

Kneale Thompson asked if the strategy identified any new locations for LLW. Matthew Clark advised that the strategy does not identify specific sites.

Sue Brown invited Matthew Clark to present the post adoption statement to the LLWR Sub Committee in 2010.

New Action

LLWR/020/003	Cath Giel to liaise with Matthew Clark regarding appropriate date to present Post Adoption Statement to LLWR Sub-Committee.	Cath Giel/ Matthew Clark
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6. Copeland Community Fund – Bob Churchill

Bob Churchill explained that a Management Board had been set up comprising representatives from the NDA, CCC, CBC and 2 independent members. The Board is chaired by Cllr Elaine Woodburn. Bob confirmed that the 2nd instalment has been paid bringing the fund to £10M and that NDA have budgeted for an annual payment of £1.5M to be made available when Vault 9 is open for business.

Bob confirmed that the Board were now in a position to start releasing funds but reminded the committee that projects submitted must be in accordance with the NDA's Socio-Economic Policy. He added that Gillian Elliott from CCC has been working with the Parish Council to help identify suitable projects.

Elaine Woodburn asked the Parish Council to provide an update on how they intend to spend their £50k contribution from the Copeland Community Fund.

John Jennings explained that Bob Williamson was leading on the projects along with 4 or 5 others. They were currently reviewing the Parish Plan to identify which projects would meet the funding criteria.

The committee agreed that Bob Williamson should be invited to attend the next Sub-Committee Meeting and update the group on progress to date.

New Action

LLWR/020/004	Bob Williamson to be invited to present an update on potential projects for D&CPC fund. Plus any additional projects for submission to the larger Copeland Community Fund.	Cath Giel
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David Moore informed the meeting that the Copeland Community Fund was currently looking to employ people who could work with community groups to identify potential match funding sources.

Elaine Woodburn agreed to be the point of contact for requests to the Copeland Community Fund until further notice.

7. Environmental Safety Case Progress and Optimisation Studies – Richard Cummings and Mike Egan

Richard Cummings set the context of the presentation by summarising the history of the site and the work that had been done towards the Environmental Safety Case to date. He reported that good records and an extensive understanding of historical waste existed. He explained that in response to scepticism from local people regarding the accuracy of records and inventory, LLWR had commissioned the Recall study. This involved interviewing over 30 people who were involved in operations at the site during its early days. The interviews generated 45 issues which have all been investigated and where necessary addressed. Mike Egan went on to cover design optimisation. The presentation can be viewed at www.wcssg.co.uk

Adrian Dalton asked what impact Thorium could have on the public. Mike Egan replied that the concern from a Safety Case perspective is the fact that the isotope is long lived. He said that intrusion or erosion into the Repository after site closure could be an issue.

Adrian Dalton asked if the safety case took into consideration sea level rises. Mike Egan confirmed that it did. Specifically what threat sea level rise presented to the site and also the impact on the design.

Richard Cummings added that coastal defences were not relied upon in the safety case. The safety case must demonstrate that if the site erodes away it still meets the risk challenge.

Both Elaine Woodburn and David Moore stated that they wanted the best and safest option; they were not interested in the cost.

8. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the LLWR Sub-Committee will be held on Wednesday 10th March 2010, at 2.00pm in Drigg Village Hall