

D&CPC LIAISON GROUP MEETING – Tuesday 26th September 2023

Present	John Jennings, D&C PC (JJ)	Andy Pratt, D&C PC (AP)
	Sadie Clarke, D&C PC (SC)	Chris Gigg, D&C PC (CG)
	Mike Pigott (MP)	Samantha McKenzie (SM)
	John Shevelan (JS)	Samantha Ward (SW)

Apologies Martin Walkingshaw (MW)

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies on MW's behalf, introductions were made around the table. AP had called ahead to say he was running late and was happy for the meeting to commence without him present. There were no issues raised from the last meeting (03/08/2023).

Safety Share

MP shared images sent over from local haulier Tyson Burridge. There was an incident at their Distington depot on Friday 15 September where 7 wagons and 12 trailers caught fire, believed to have been compounded by a lithium battery. The vehicles were parked closely together which is thought to have helped the fire to spread. The incident meant local houses had to be evacuated while the fire was brought under control. MP noted that although NWS use this haulier to transport waste, the vehicles allocated for our use were parked in the Penrith depot. A full investigation into the fire is underway and any learning from experience will be shared across the industry.

Outstanding Actions

- **Further assurance on the mineral rights on land identified. Explore potential for letter of comfort to be issued - SM/ MW.** This has been escalated and is currently with our legal team. Once there is an update, this will be shared with the Parish Council. **Action ongoing SM**
- **Invite Laura Hogg (NDA) and Paul Skelton (NWS) to future meeting to discuss NDA perspective on potential NSD siting, and potential cost of an NSD vs savings against a GDF – SW.** Due to personal circumstances and availability, it was suggested arrangements should be made for the invitation to attend and present should be extended to our November meeting. Parish Council members were in agreement. SW to continue to plan for attendance to future meeting. **Action ongoing SW.**
- **Produce report to show the benefits LLW Repository brings to the Drigg and Carleton Parish – SM.** JJ queried where the request originated, as was originally a request for those employed at the LLW Repository site who lived locally. This heatmap was provided at a previous meeting, and without breaching GDPR, we were unable to drill any further beyond local postcodes. SC explained the request was of interest to her and some other members of the Parish, as they some weren't residents when the Section 106 agreement related to Vault 9 was put in place. MP agreed that this report could also help to re-establish a starting point for any future discussion on support given to the community. **Action ongoing SM**

- **HGV data, changes to be made to graphs to show actuals as well as the forecast on the same graph – SW.** Due to sickness in the team, this report was unavailable at this meeting. This will be looked at for the next meeting. **Action ongoing SW.**
- **Clarification on land ownership of the pathway being blocked on the bridge by the Stubble Green area – SM.** We are still awaiting clarification from the NDA regarding the land ownership. JJ said he didn't believe this was a public right of way, but it would be good to understand who the land belongs to going forward. SM agreed if the information was made available, this would be updated outside of these meetings. **Action ongoing SM.**
- **Printing of A0 size maps for use in Drigg Village Hall - SC/ SW.** Maps were printed and given to SC. However there were additional maps which the Parish Council would like to be able to display in the Village Hall. The origin of these maps was not apparent, however JS offered to see if any were held on any of the databases NWS have access to. SC agreed if she was able to locate, she would send these over for printing. **Action ongoing SW/JS/SC**

Nuclear Waste Services update from Mike Pigott

NWS has just won our 18th consecutive RoSPA Gold award for Safety, noting this is the first as NWS, not just as the LLW Repository. Time was taken on site to celebrate and acknowledge this with the team who have contributed to this, as well as conducting a safety pause and to revisit the human performance tools.

We were able to sponsor Whitehaven's first Pride and Diversity event held on 16 September. This was a well-attended event showing our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as a company. We would like to express our thanks to the Drigg and Carleton Parish Council, for the loan of the marquee. It was a great asset for the event and drew many compliments throughout the weekend.

NWS have just concluded sustainability week. This included the opportunity for the workforce to try out some electric vehicles, take part in a biodiversity walk around the LLW Repository site and take part in some community activities at Clints quarry, clearing brash to assist the ranger.

This week, we are partnering with CIWM (Chartered Institute of Waste Management), looking at the 'world beyond waste'. This is focusing on the waste hierarchy and the successful diversion story at the Repository, with some opportunities for cross industry learning.

We also have just launched our next employee survey across the business and continue into National Inclusion Week.

Site Operations Update from Mike Pigott

MP went through the key highlights since the last meeting, noting the continued focus on Nuclear and Conventional Safety, Compliance, and Responsible Stewardship of the site.

General

Continued busy period of activity including:

- Southern Trench Cap Interim Membrane (STIM) procurement has gone to market.
- Capping Operations - herringbone drainage is now well underway, including the previously communicated Lagoon C root removal. *On-screen images were shared with the group.*
- Key activities in August included:
 - West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) meeting held in Cleator Moor.
 - Mid and South Copeland Community Partnerships site visit.

- Second residents tour this year.
- Mark Jenkinson site visit.
- NWS EHSS&Q team site visit.
- Key activities in September included:
 - RoSPA safety pause and celebration on site.
 - Cumberland Nuclear Sector Tier 2 meeting with Darren Crossley and Jane Meek.

LLW Operations

Containers

- The grout campaign continues to make progress. Intermittent issues have prevented consistent and uninterrupted operations however we are continuing to work through.
- 4 Receipts year to date, with 51 expected this financial year.
- Current statistics: 60 grouted, 18 groutable, 35 on-hold. 160 overweight top ups, 75 grouted, 63 groutable, 22 on-hold.

Treated Radwaste Store Drums

- TRS drum emplacement is progressing to plan.
- 748 of 800 drums now emplaced of those on site. Gap C is now full with preparations for emplacement in Gap D now underway. *An aerial image was shown on screen of the drums in place while being grouted in-situ.*
- Next deliveries: 100 expected in September, and another 100 in January, 68 in February.
- TRS infill work up to date with disposals.

Infrastructure

- Recharacterised drum export first shipment due January 2024, to newly assigned waste route.

HGV summary

Following our last meeting, HGV summarised data is as below:

- Actual HGV Deliveries: 30
- Actual Rail Deliveries: 1
- Curfew Breaches: 1 (Furnells arrived on site at 8.57am)
- Unplanned deliveries: 0

Repository Asset Care, Enhancement, and Remediation

Leachate Management System (LMS) enhancement programme continues:

- LMS 6 manhole repairs has progressed well. Accelerating the project in early September has meant we were able to offset the inclement weather later in the month. We remain on target for December for completion.
- LMS2 Vault 9 pumping system improvements progressing well. Target completion of January 2024.

Capping Operations (capping of the existing vaults and adjacent trenches – previously referred to as Repository Development Programme (RDP))

- Herringbone drainage work has progressed well and is on track to complete in October. However, deteriorating weather is starting to impact schedule.

- The removal of tree stumps on the Eastern side of the Interim Trench Cap has commenced to create space for future construction of a run-off water lagoon, required ahead of capping.
- Noise monitoring stations have been bolstered while carrying out the stump removal at Lagoon C to aid us interpreting noise data.

AP asked about what communication was required/appropriate when we are carrying out operations, as some noise was to be expected in general by those living adjacent as it continues to be an operational site. SC confirmed she was appreciative of the letter referring to the Lagoon C root removal, and was able to link this to the limited increase in noise that could be heard at her property. SM noted that in this instance, we had decided to do a more focused comms based on the location of properties to the specific site operation. This had been well received but also, we are open to any suggestion where it is felt this could be done differently.

Priorities and focus for next period

- The continued focus on Nuclear and Conventional Safety, Compliance, and Responsible Stewardship of the site.
- Preparation for storm Agnes, predicting heavy wind and rain.
- The geophysics survey work as detailed in the letter issued dated 19 September 2023.
- TRS drum deliveries to site.

Geophysics Survey Update

JS joined the liaison meeting to talk through the planned geophysics survey work that was recently communicated in a letter to the community. This work supports the development of the Repository site's Environmental Safety Case, a Regulatory requirement for our nuclear site license. He shared slides with images, as well as bringing the equipment along to display to the meeting and explained that although we have a great deal of data from onsite, we have very little data from offsite. The receptor points were selected to be able to set the data that has already been accumulated onsite, into context. This will give information about the bedrock and how the on-site geology sits alongside that offsite.

JS explained that the points on the map included in the letter were indicative of the locations to be used but were only approximate. All areas were public and were identified to be easy to access. The additional surveys were offered to us by the contractor to support the trial of their new equipment. These methods have not been used previously by us, but the benefits could be great as the surveys will be passive with no disturbance being created from noise or vibration.

JJ asked if this would give detail on the effects to the water table and the construction works long term effects. JS said it wouldn't directly but the data would feed into the next review of the ESC, however this is continually reviewed as work progresses. MP suggested including the ESC in the newsletter, or covering at any future drop ins might be helpful to those who do not have prior knowledge of the site and its history. CG noted that it is helpful to be reminded of the language used in our communications, ensuring wherever possible this can be kept in layman's terms.

AOB

- SC asked if there was any progress on the working hours on site. AP said he believed there was a planning condition associated with this and associated working hours should have ceased when the PCM work was complete. MP is keen to progress and intends to pick this up again with trade unions as well as looking into seeing what information may be attached to the aforementioned planning condition. **New Action MP/SM**

- AP asked that it be noted when an abnormal load is planned to travel through the village, that the Village Hall is not to be noted as an alternate parking solution as they may have other bookings requiring the space.
- Initially there was some confusion over the group named 'Egremont Wildfowlers'. AP has been in talks with the group who up until the land lease transferral, were believed to be paying for access to land to enable culling as well as carry out monthly bird counts in support of English Nature activities. NWS have so far, found no evidence that this was in a previous lease however are continuing investigations and if the Parish Council wish, NWS would be happy to meet with the Egremont Wildfowlers and the Parish Council to discuss further. **Action AP to facilitate meeting.**
- AP advised a meeting had taken place between him and NDA properties regarding the current situation with the Gun Club. NDA have been reviewing whether they own any land that could possibly be suitable, further investigations are to be made by the NDA to see if this is able to progress. SM confirmed, this would be with the NDA to action this and deem any feasibility, not NWS.
- Location for the next liaison meeting is to be confirmed outside of this meeting, to tie in with the WCSSG NWS working group. Potential locations are Drigg Village Hall or Pelham House. **New Action SW**

New actions

- Location of the next D&C PC liaison meeting to be confirmed. – SW (post meeting note: location will be Pelham House)
- SM to liaise with NDA to gain information on any potential land to be made available to the Gun Club for relocation and any expected timescales – SM
- Detail on planning condition and contract terms associated with PCM working hours MP/SM

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Tuesday 24th October 4.30pm, Pelham House

Current Vacancies

All current vacancies can be found at <https://rwm.hireserve-projects.com/current-vacancies.html>