

NWS/D&CPC LIAISON GROUP MEETING – Tuesday 23 January 2024

Present John Jennings, D&C PC (JJ) Andy Pratt, D&C PC (AP)
 Sadie Clarke D&C PC (SC) Martin Walkingshaw, NWS (MW)
 Mike Pigott, NWS (MP) Samantha McKenzie, NWS (SM)
 Samantha Ward, NWS (SW)

Apologies None

Minutes from the last meeting

SC requested amendments to the minutes from November's meeting which were emailed in advance. These were discussed and incorporated to the minutes which were then endorsed by the group and approved. The revised minutes were reissued post-meeting.

Outstanding Actions

- Share the memorandum of understanding regarding the Section 106 agreement and its funding allocation. **MW/SM Action Ongoing.**

No further update to provide at this time. SM will raise with legal to see if there is an update.

- Contact the owners of Sandy Acre to discuss property matters. **MP- Action Closed**
- Printing of A0 size maps for use in Drigg Village Hall. **JB/ SW - Action Closed**

A large print was provided to the Parish Council. SW issued the digital copy post meeting to AP. PS was given a CD with some historic images of the Parish, he asked if those at the liaison meeting would find these of interest, he was willing to pass this over post meeting. PS said that the records office in Whitehaven held numerous old maps and were interested in sharing these in the interest of future record conservation. MW noted this may be of interest to the Heritage Officer, Elizabeth Molyneaux at the NDA. **PS - New Action**

- Acquisition of a rock to mount slate plaque for the oak tree on shore road. **JB/ SW – Action Ongoing.**

A rock has been identified as suitable on site measuring approximately 60cm x 60cm. SW will liaise directly with AP and the Infrastructure team to arrange delivery of the rock to the desired location.

Nuclear Waste Services including GDF update from Martin Walkingshaw

April will see Nuclear Waste Services being formed as a single legal entity, Nuclear Waste Services Ltd. Externally there will be no noticeable change in the way we operate and there should be no direct impact to the community as a result. There was a suggestion that we may need to update the site signage to notate the new legal entity and this is being looked into. Post meeting update: there will be no change to the existing signage at the site as it does not include company registration information. Supply chain contracts

will novate, and this should be a smooth process with a limited amount of disruption as we combine the management systems and payroll etc.

There have been a couple of changes at executive level. Our Chief People Officer, Nicole Westcott, has taken on a secondment at Sellafield as Interim Chief People Officer. Claire Gallery-Strong has moved from the Integrated Waste Management Programme (IWMP) to take over Nicole's role in the short term under the title of Corporate Services Director with Paul Tuohy stepping into Claire's IWMP role on an interim basis. It is important for us to support Sellafield as they undergo changes in their leadership team, both as our neighbour and also our biggest customer. Claire will work closely with Simon Hughes in the Stakeholder function so you may see more from her in the near future.

Two big procurements are out to tender, with social value having a significant weighting; the major permissions support to assist with the next stage of the GDF siting process, and we're currently assessing tenders for the main Southern Trenchcap Interim Membrane (STIM) work on the Repository site which is set to last 5 years. The major permissions delivery partner will work closely with the community partnerships and support community vision work.

The Environment Agency have introduced specific milestones around capping as part of our environmental permit. They understand where we are but are keen to see this progress. NWS may need to make some adjustments to priorities to fit with this and are more than happy to work to this. AP asked if there was a specific incentive linked to this, MW said in this case, it would be to simply maintain and keep our license and avoid any fines imposed (which is a rare occurrence).

We are awaiting publication of the new Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear decommissioning Policy which we are hoping will be around mid-March but this is dependent on Government processes and priorities. We understand that it is currently being translated into Welsh which is part of the standard process. This policy is for England and Wales alone, Scotland is currently going through its own process with wording incorporating near-site of origin disposal. AP asked for a time frame on when there might be any communications. PS has asked the NDA for this clarification also and if we receive any information, we will update at future meetings.

Site operations overview and look ahead from Mike Pigott

General

Continued focus on Nuclear/Conventional Safety, Compliance, and Responsible Stewardship. Continued busy period of activity and as we know, increasingly so on site, with key highlights since the last meeting noted as:

- LLW Grout Campaign set to conclude next week, with over 200 containers now grouted and ready for permanent disposal.
- Over 940 TRS drums are now disposed of on site with the final shipment to be delivered this week. This will see us move closer towards the closure of Vault 8. AP asked if there was any intention to stack containers higher. MP confirmed the cap profile would now be done with aggregate as the containers cannot be higher stacked following testing. The gaps (or voids as we refer to them) will be filled between the containers in the next phase.
- Leachate Management System enhancement programme has progressed to handover to commissioning.

- Capping operations peat window sampling continues. A letter associated with the works was sent to residents living adjacent to the work and to the Parish Council prior to commencement. There have been no noted issues. Pressure testing is ongoing and concludes this week.
- CNC rail sidings and road training went well, with CNC passing on thanks for the use of the facility.
- Recent storms Isha and Jocelyn have been without major impact. We had a short power outage but otherwise it was business as usual.

Infrastructure

We have had two curfew breaches in December. The first was an AA vehicle collecting a works vehicle, the second was GGR a company who were collecting some rental items where the contractor had not passed on the curfew times. These breaches have us feeling frustrated and courses of action and implementation are currently being pursued. MP suggested the option to put up some signs in the village, noting the curfew times and signposting laybys to encourage drivers to wait in. AP and JJ were unsure as to if this would make much impact but was something to consider. MP noted that this was being worked through within the team as well as potential contracting mechanisms to reinforce this commitment.

Priorities and focus for next period

- Continued focus on Nuclear/Conventional Safety, Compliance, and Responsible Stewardship.
- Conclude grouting campaign and TRS disposal.
- Undertaking readiness reviews to start organising the shipment (by rail) of the recharacterised drums of VLLW off site.
- STIM procurement in February, with potential mobilisation on site around July.

AOB

- JJ mentioned with the move to a single legal entity, there was some signage remaining at the village hall (information board) which remained in LLWR branding. This may need to be updated. SW and SM agreed to pick this up once the change to a single legal entity had transferred with a refresh on the detail, will work with JJ (or a nominated person) to progress. **New Action SW/ SM.**
- AP thanked the group for the support at the Warm Hubs. It has been nice to see a number of the workforce engage with the community and the help is appreciated.
- AP mentioned that the 'turret' type structures along the shore have been boarded up and were unable to understand who had been responsible. SM agreed to speak to the NDA or John Shevelan to see if they may have any ideas on who may be responsible. **New Action SM.**
- Dr Richard Cummings is moving on from the business at the end of the financial year. MP has agreed to take his seat at the Copeland Community Fund and as SRO (Senior Responsible Officer) for Operations on Site. AP passed on thanks from the Parish Council for Dr Cummings' work with the Parish over the years.
- SW asked if there was an update on the potential loan of the marquee for the Proud and Diverse event in Whitehaven. JJ confirmed that they should be able to give an answer after the March meeting where all standard applications for use should have been provided. **New Action SW/JJ.**
- SM advised for information only, there will be a comms piece that will go out on social media in the next few weeks relating to the TRS project.

- AP asked if the image that was used for the print of the map could be sent to him for the Parish Council's use. *SW provided a copy post meeting.*

New actions

- Signage outside the village hall requires updating to Nuclear Waste Services branding as well as a refresh. JJ to work with SM and SW to implement once the change to a single legal entity has been established (April 2024). **New Action SW/SM**
- Loan of the marquee to be discussed at future meeting for Proud and Diverse Cumbria (April 2024) **New Action SW/ JJ**
- Investigate internally and with the NDA on the work to secure the beach 'turrets' and who may be responsible. **New Action SM.**
- CD of historic images to be passed on to the Parish Council. **New Action PS.**

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting Tuesday 5 March 2024.30pm, location: Pelham House.

Current Vacancies

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