

Minutes of the 25th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Held Thursday 14th June 2001

Present:

Dr John Rae	AWE	Chairman
Alan Brandwood	AWE	
Adrian Marks	AWE	
Frank Winter	AWE	
Graeme Hammond	AWE	
Avril Burdett	AWE	Secretary
Mike Jeal	HSE/NII	
Martin Sayers	HSE/NII	
Gareth Beard	Environment Agency	
Darren Baker	Environment Agency	
W Cane	Mortimer West End PC	Community Liaison Officer
DA Leeks	Tadley Town Council	
MR Broad	Tadley Town Council	
T Faulkner	Tadley Town Council	
BJS Patman	Wokingham Unitary Authority	
Mrs M Dadswell	Aldermaston Parish Council	
A Ferguson	West Berkshire Council	
J Parfitt	West Berkshire Council	
J Priest	West Berkshire Council	
P Hobbs	Sulhamstead Parish Council	
MRP Eden	Holybrook Parish Council	
CJS Bridges	Beech Hill Parish Council	
D Hoad	Theale Parish Council	
PE Taylor	Brimpton Parish Council	
Dr AM Roberts	Padworth Parish Council	
A Sumner	Wokefield Parish Council	
J Mazillius	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	
T Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council	
J Southall	Purley-on-Thames Parish Council	
Mrs P Bale	Pangbourne Parish Council	
M Bryant	Wokingham Unitary Authority	
D Mundy	Burghfield Parish Council	
A Campbell	Aldermaston Parish Meeting	
C Thomson	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	
F Kirkham	Woolhampton Parish Council	
J Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council	
K Holyer	Reading Borough Council	
B Hamilton-Hewett	Silchester Parish Council	

1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Apologies for Absence: G Eddy; R Longton; A West; G Traynor; R Meredith; R Waite.

New members: John Rae welcomed returning member Terry Faulkner representing Tadley Town Council and expressed AWE and the LLC's thanks to Tadley's former representative, Jo Slimin.

Dr Rae also welcomed Nigel Hey, Manager of the National Outreach Programs at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who was present as an observer with agreement from Bill Cane on behalf of the LLC.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Actions from the last meeting:

There had been three actions, all on Alan Brandwood who covered them in his presentation:

- 24/1: To provide sampling data from the Falcon Fields stream discharge point
- 24/2: To provide the 2001 Performance Targets; **action completed.**
- 24/3: To provide data on trends in contractor injuries

Dr Rae reminded members that at the last LLC meeting he had told them that one of AWE's premier inventors, John Gardener had been awarded the MBE. He announced that John had died suddenly of a heart attack three weeks previously. This was a very sad loss to John's family and also to colleagues and friends at AWE.

Also since the last meeting, John Cross, formerly a Personnel Director of Hunting-BRAE, had sadly lost his battle with cancer.

Action 25/1 John Rae: Bill Cane asked John Rae to pass on LLC members' condolences to both families.

Cabinet re-shuffle: In the recent cabinet re-shuffle, Geoff Hoon remained as Secretary of State for Defence. The Rt Hon Adam Ingram became Minister of State for the Armed Forces. Dr Lewis Moonie became Parliamentary Under Secretary for Defence and Minister for Veterans. Lord Bach of Lutterworth became Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Defence Procurement. Baroness Symons was now Minister for Trade with responsibilities at both the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Department of Trade & Industry.

Sitex: AWE's annual site exercise had taken place on Wednesday 16th May. NII had given AWE a "pass". Some areas for improvement had been noted. This had included the condition and situation of the zone control point, and this was already being addressed. John Rae said that in November there would be another major exercise involving the local authorities. This would focus on the information flow and media management arising from an imagined incident with a potential for off-site consequences. AWE had already held tabletop exercises with Thames Valley Police and the local authorities from which some valuable lessons had been learned. AWE staff were now working to ensure that AWE's plan dovetailed smoothly with that of the Thames Valley Police.

Ev Beckner's nomination: Dr Rae said that members may have read in the local papers that US President George Bush had nominated AWE's Deputy Chief Executive, Ev Beckner to be the Deputy Administrator, Defense Programs of the United States' National Nuclear Security Administration. (This is the part of the Department of Energy which handles military and nuclear weapons). The appointment was dependent upon Congressional confirmation. Part of his job would be to take charge of the United States nuclear weapons laboratories. John Rae said that he was very pleased that Ev had been selected for this prestigious post and hoped the position would be confirmed by Congress. He also told members that he was looking at what changes would be needed at AWE.

Safety Report on AWE by Steve Gibbs, Non-Executive Director of AWEML responsible for Safety: John Rae was not able to give the LLC this report. Steve Gibbs had taken longer than anticipated to put the report together. It was now complete but owing to the General Election, had not yet been seen by the appropriate Defence Minister and so could not be released. John Rae had seen the report which made a number of suggested improvements, none of which were unexpected. Dr Rae promised that members would have a presentation on this report at the earliest meeting possible.

MoD Tritiated waste: there was no further news on the MoD tritiated waste. Any further outcome on this issue was also delayed by the General Election. John Rae undertook to keep members informed.

Ploughshares demonstration: the demonstration by anti-nuclear protesters known as the Ploughshares Group had taken place as expected between the 10th and 14th May. AWE had worked very closely with MoD and Thames Valley Police to minimise any disruption to the local community and as a result there had been very little impact locally. Around 120 protesters had gathered at AWE and attempted to blockade the Aldermaston site. A joint operation between the two police forces resulted in 51 arrests and no disruption to the normal work of AWE Aldermaston.

RoSPA award: AWE had won a prestigious award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for an outstanding record in health and safety. AWE was judged to have had the best performance in health and safety within the 'Public Service and National Defence' sector during 2000. This reward also recognised AWE's continuous improvement in safety culture over the last five years having shown consistent excellence and improvement in health and safety performance together with exceptional standards of health and safety management. Only 16 of these awards are made by RoSPA across the UK in any year, one for each sector of industry. John Rae thanked David Leeks for his kind letter of congratulation to all of AWE's staff in achieving this award and David gave his permission for the letter to be reproduced in the company newspaper.

Richard Aldworth School Laboratory: As part of their training, a group of AWE Graduates had taken on a project to refurbish an old-style science laboratory at the Richard Aldworth School in Basingstoke, which John Rae had opened on 26th April. The team had worked closely with staff at the school and with the local education authority and had transformed the lab into a stimulating modern working environment for both teachers and pupils. The octopod design incorporated facilities for disabled students and afforded greater flexibility. The laboratory was named after the late Lord William Penney, who was AWE's first Director in 1950. As a world-class centre of scientific and technical excellence AWE was very keen to promote the teaching of science. In July AWE would again be sponsoring an engineering challenge competition for local schools which had been organised by another group of AWE graduate trainees.

Visits: Since the last meeting Vice Chief of Defence Staff (designate), Air Chief Marshall Tony Bagnall had visited AWE. Katrine Sporle Chief Executive of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and Stella Manzie Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council had also visited on separate occasions. Dr Rae reported that a number of community issues had been discussed with them and a good basis for future exchanges had been established.

Food Standards Agency had just produced a consultation paper giving the results of their study of the modelling system used for maximum potential radiation dose to the public. AWE currently used two phantom people to determine maximum possible dose, one who lived on the banks of the Thames and ate only on fish caught from the river near the Pangbourne Pipeline out-fall, the other had a smallholding close to AWE's fence, and ate only his own produce and drank water from the stream. The Food Standards Agency had been looking at a more realistic system of modelling which would show what dose a more orthodox member of the public could expect to get from nuclear establishments and other sources. A copy was passed to Bill Cane and members asked for further copies. Secretary's note: Bill Cane has since raised concerns that the Food Standards Agency said they had invited LLC members to the workshops on this topic, but he could find no LLC members listed, nor had he been contacted. He is also concerned that the report had not been written in a way that would be comprehensible to the general public.

Action 25/2 Graeme Hammond: to provide members with a personal copy of the Food Standards Agency report.

Tony Ferguson said that he understood why the Food Standards Agency wanted to make this change but was concerned that this would result in it not being possible to compare old data with new data. John Rae assured members that it was not the intention of the Food Standards Agency to replace the old system, but to add a second system. He added that this was not exclusively for AWE but was national system.

Drugs and Alcohol Policy: AWE had been reviewing the drugs and alcohol policy recently and a two-month pilot scheme was being carried out on 60 senior managers. When that study had been completed it would be evaluated and a way forward planned.

Phone in/out systems: During the Ploughshares Demonstration AWE's Public Information service had been tested using a limited group, LLC members included. This had enabled local people to phone in and receive up-to-date recorded messages or situation reports. The system had worked well and would be expanded for future use. AWE staff had visited Sellafield to look at their proposed public alerting system which was expected to be piloted by the local police and not by Sellafield itself. Comparison was difficult, as their system would need to serve some 40 homes.

AWE had evaluated three systems, Rapid Reach, Critical and Pewit; the preferred system was the BT Pewit system which was in use by the Metropolitan Police.

John Rae said he would ask Ken Saint to give members an update at a future meeting.

Annual Report: The AWE Annual Report was expected to be available about a month hence. Members would be sent a copy as soon as it was available. This year the technical data had been combined into the body of the report as it was felt that Environment, Safety and Health issues could not be separated from the core business. The new style report should be seen in conjunction with the new quarterly reports on which Alan Brandwood gave more details in his presentation. The detailed technical data would be posted on AWE's website. (www.awe.co.uk)

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology: John Rae informed LLC members that the Environment Agency had contracted the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to carry out dispersion trials in the River Thames. During the following week they would be looking at the area adjacent to the Pangbourne Pipeline outfall and would be using a red dye in the water.

The purpose of the trials was to gather quantitative data on the dispersal of liquid into the Thames to validate the current assumptions of dispersal patterns. This formed part of a larger study of industrial outfalls along the Thames. The dye used was non-toxic and expected to be invisible once more than about 200m from its point of introduction. The operation would be carried out from a boat. The procedure was expected to start at 6:00am on Tuesday 19th June and the dye was likely to persist in the water for about an hour.

John Mazillius asked permission to tell members about a team of AWE cyclists who were planning to cycle to Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch to raise money for St Michael's Hospice in Basingstoke. John was a volunteer worker at the hospice and wanted to appeal for support from LLC members.

2. Health, Safety & Environmental Issues

Alan Brandwood, Director Assurance

Abnormal event: on Monday a site Contractor had been driving a mobile crane under a pipe bridge and had struck the bridge with the jib of the crane. The pipe was isolated and there was no spread of contamination. AWE was treating this as a very serious incident and was investigating why the crane was being driven with the jib up.

RoSPA Award: Alan Brandwood showed the silver salver which had been presented to AWE in recognition of five years' continuous improvement. He said he was very pleased to accept the award on behalf of all AWE employees. This showed that the improvement over the previous four years had been built on and improved during 2000.

EA team inspection report: the first draft of the Environment Agency's team inspection report was expected during the next two weeks.

NII team inspection report: this report was complete, but had been held up due to election protocols and was embargoed until 21st June. Alan Brandwood said that there were no surprises in the report but at this point he could say nothing specific.

AWE Quarterly Report: Alan Brandwood said that following last year's workshops for LLC members, a new-style of report had been developed in an easier to understand format. Topics were now grouped together under the headlines of Environment, Safety, Health, Security and Quality, with a separate section on abnormal incident reports. He said that essentially this was now the same information which was given to the AWE Executive and other stakeholders. He said that he realised that some data which had been in the old style report was not in the new. However he emphasised that anything abnormal would still be reported as an abnormal event and, if categorised as level 2 or above, would be included in the report to the LLC. He asked members to give comments and feedback and said he had already had one letter of praise. He felt that one of the key improvements was that trends in issues could be clearly seen.

Bill Cane queried the correction on page 12 "the over reporting of tritium discharge". He asked for clarification. Alan Brandwood said that there had been an error in sampling and calibration which had been noted later and the figures had therefore been adjusted. He accepted that errors of this sort should not happen.

David Leeks asked the meaning of "security index". Alan Brandwood replied that in abnormal event reporting, impacts on security were also considered; each event had a score and these were summed up. He said this was a new mechanism to give the Executive an overview of security. He explained that breaches included leaving documents out or not locking a safe. A low score was good.

Peter Taylor asked whether the graphics now used rolling data. Alan Brandwood confirmed this and said it gave a better indication of trends. Mr Taylor was concerned about exactly what these graphics were showing, he spoke to Alan Brandwood outside the meeting. Secretary's note: Some adjustment or clarification may be needed in these graphics. This will depend on comments from members.

Targets - (graphics from section 2: Safety) The new targets all have programmes underpinning them. The chart shows the target and the performance against it to the end of March. **Lost time accidents** - defined as being off work for three or more days as a result of an accident at work. **Total injury events** - again shows trends and gives a fuller picture. This chart showed that AWE was doing quite well but the reduction achieved in the previous 12 months was tailing off and AWE needed to continue pushing the culture improvement work.

Event index -(graphic from page 17) The event index covered all assurance matters except security. Serious incidents were given a high score. The graph showed abnormal events were still being reported but the severity was decreasing.

Incidents -(graphic attached) This graphic showed a breakdown of incidents into radiological, environmental and conventional. Conventional safety was shown as the most significant problem area.

Tritium to air/ tritium to the Pangbourne Pipeline Both these levels were up, but were still only a small percentage of AWE's consent levels. Alan Brandwood said that the increase was due to decommissioning of plant and was always anticipated and allowed for in AWE's new authorisations.

Peter Taylor expressed concern that the rolling twelve month data only worked on week-to-week and month-to-month variations. Alan Brandwood said that he had responded to members' requests for trends and would consider further changes to the information provided based on members' comments.

Action 25/3 LLC members: to feed back comments on the new style AWE Quarterly Report to Avril Burdett by 17th August 2001.

Actions from the 24th meeting:

24/1: to provide sampling data from the Falcon Fields stream/discharge point. Discharge via this route was only run-off water from site. Legacy issues on site had meant that very low levels of some material could be picked up and discharged. In the past the most significant was solvents and as a result AWE had put in carbon filters which reduced the problem. The solvents were also diluted by the rain, and therefore higher concentrations occurred during low rainfall. **Action complete**

24/2: to provide the 2001 Performance Targets. This had been provided with the minutes of the last meeting. **Action complete.**

24/3: to provide information on trends in contractor injuries. Alan Brandwood said that contractors had a significantly worse record of lost time accidents compared with AWE staff. Taking the MOD Police as a separate group, their record had been worse than that of the contractors. AWE was already working in close liaison with the MDP to address the problem.

During the week of the LLC meeting Alan Brandwood had met the contractors on site and told them what the Company expected in terms of safety. In general the contractors carried out a greater number of hazardous tasks, but in Alan Brandwood's view that meant they had to put more effort into training and hazard assessment to prevent accidents. **Action complete.**

John Southall said that a lost time accident rate of 0.06 was extremely credible and congratulated Alan. He was however concerned that the rate amongst contractors was at a factor of more than 10 higher, he felt that this was a worrying trend. Alan Brandwood said that Assurance and Infrastructure staff were working together with the Contractor Management staff to spell out what was expected. He said that AWE had an excellent programme with its own staff, some good progress had been made with MDP and now the Company needed to work hard with contractors. MDP had already improved from a baseline where they did not realise they had a problem. Alan reminded members that, although AWE's current performance was excellent the data showed signs of the improvements tailing off - see above.

John Mazillius expressed concern about the three abnormal events on electrical safety (see page 19 of the report). He noted that the causes were listed as overheating of wiring or fuses. He said that this was what had happened and was not actually the root cause. Alan Brandwood agreed and said that he would endeavour to get the report to provide the most up-to-date data on root causes.

John Southall said that the AWE's staff record was good but that public perception was that an incident on site was an AWE incident, whether this had involved contractors, staff or MDP. He asked how AWE could control contractor staff or the police to prevent accidents

and ensure that they followed AWE's safety policy. Alan Brandwood said AWE was considering interviewing MD's of contracting firms, looking at the safety record and management systems of current and potential contractors, and visiting sites where those contractors were currently working. Frank Winter added to that he had held workshops with all the contractors on site. The first had looked at workloads and at what AWE expected of the contractors. The second had focused on safety and how they could work together to make improvements. He said in the future he hoped to be entering into working partnerships so that there was a greater sharing of common goals.

John Southall agreed that this was a good way forward but pointed out that AWE controlled its own staff and long-term planning but not that of the contractors. Frank Winter said that one possibility was to include performance measures in contracts and make it clear to contractors what competencies were needed at the start of the contract and in the future. Poor performance and ineptitude would be penalised and AWE and contracting companies could then work together for continuous improvement.

At this point John Rae was called away and Adrian Marks took on the role of chairman.

Alan Brandwood referred back to the incident with the crane and told members that he was inviting the Managing Director of the company concerned to meet with him and go through the investigation report and find a way forward.

Chris Bridges said that on a visit to Sellafield in 2000 he had been concerned about security. In particular the way staff were allowed to park their cars close to buildings and under pipework. He asked if the same happened at AWE. Alan Brandwood answered that AWE safety cases assessed all external hazards to a facility including vehicles. He said that the sites already had strict control of parking especially in vulnerable areas and around buildings. Policy on parking was enforced, both by MDP and a system whereby staff must register any vehicle they brought onto site in the same way as members were asked to give their car registration numbers on arrival in reception. One part of the future development plan included a review of future car-parking needs and how they could best be addressed. Problems with parked cars were often exercised at both facility and site level.

Tony Ferguson asked whether AWE had considered using external assessors and whether the company used the EFQM score. Alan stated that at that moment in the development of the Company internal assessments were adequate. However in the future AWE might consider external assessment. Frank Winter said that there were some benefits in the EFQM model but he was concerned that some companies chased the score whereas process and delivery were much more important. Adrian Marks added that process and delivery were the drivers, EFQM gave an overview.

Tony Ferguson asked if the Company's baseline EFQM score could be provided to the LLC.

Action 25/4 Alan Brandwood: To provide AWE's baseline EFQM Score at the next meeting.

Peter Taylor raised an issue which he had written to Alan Brandwood about. He said that the Quarterly Report reported quoted a doses to the public resulting from AWE's discharges which, he agreed were clearly not at a level to cause concern. He asked what hazard there was of most significance. Alan Brandwood replied that the most significant hazard to members of the public from AWE's operations was that associated with the movement of traffic to and from AWE's sites. He added that the company had an environmental strategy which included a measures to try and reduce the volume of traffic.

3. Infrastructure Issues

Frank Winter, Director Infrastructure

Fire certificates: Fire certificates had been issued by HSE for Aldermaston and Burghfield in 1990/91 under the Fire Certificates (Special Premises) Regulations 1976. Fire certificates now needed to be re issued. This would be achieved following programmed reviews by HSE specialist fire inspectors in conjunction with NII site inspectors.

As part of AWE's safety management system, over 80 people had been trained as Fire Risk Assessors to perform assessments to the requirements of new European regulations. They would also identify any corrective and improvement actions required. This would include the uses of buildings and their potential fire loading as well as looking at all fire protection equipment. Improvement actions required for the issue of the fire certificates would be agreed with HSE/NII under formal written notification. The programme was expected to take four to five years to complete at a cost of several hundred thousand pounds, leading to the issue of new Fire Certificates in approximately 2006.

Tony Ferguson asked whether AWE used Berkshire Fire and Rescue or their own staff for this project. Martin Sayers said that under the Special Premises regulations AWE was covered by the HSE. Frank Winter pointed out that AWE's Chief Fire Officer had been a Chief Fire Officer with the Lancashire Brigade, he was therefore experienced in this field.

North Ponds: Frank Winter reminded members of an incident in the old North Ponds where water had been lost. Most of the water had drained into the wet wells of the new North Ponds complex and had been pumped into the water management system. The walls to the old ponds dated back to the 1950s and early 60s. An engineering review of Pond One and Pond Two walls had been completed. AWE was considering the best environmental option to either repair the existing walls or install a new sheet pile wall, in line with the data gathered by the characterisation study. He said that the water management system had coped well with the large influx of water.

The Pond 1 breach Abnormal Events Report had been produced. Its main findings had been accepted by both the regulators and plant operators. Land under the sheet pilings had eroded and water had found its way out. Revised plant operating procedures had been introduced and a new alarm installed at wet well 2. The Environment Agency had witnessed AWE's response to a simulated wall failure and was happy with the outcome and with the improvements which the Company had made. A review of the North Ponds safety case was under way with an expected completion date of October 2001.

At the previous meeting the LLC had been given a presentation on a filtration system for the North Ponds Water Management System. This project had now been put on hold as the Company was undertaking a critical review of the project and its environmental benefits. Concerns had been raised when it was found that the filter manufacturer had never built a filter as large as this. The Environment Agency was fully aware and Frank Winter said he would keep the LLC informed.

John Southall asked whether AWE was going back to the short-list of providers or right back to first principles. He was told that AWE would be looking again at the overall approach.

Tritium Strategy: The Company tritium strategy had been prepared and internally approved for issue to the Regulators for their comments. This covered operations, decommissioning and storage. In addition, an external review by a third party had also been commissioned. It was anticipated that following feedback from the regulators and the external review, a revised document would be produced which would then be available for presentation to the LLC, probably towards the end of 2001.

Flammable pallets: There were now no flammable pallets on the AWE site. They had been recycled in a way which stopped them being used as pallets by anyone in the future. AWE

was now back to normal operations in carrying out movements from the old stores to the new one. The drums were now stored on steel pallets which had passed regulatory requirements.

Sludge tanks: The contents of the first sludge tanks had been sent to Drigg. The second set was expected it to be sent very shortly. The low-level waste had now been taken out of the tanks and many lessons had been learned on how best to do this. The process had not been as complicated as had been expected.

Road Safety: AWE had recently completed £200k of remedial works to the Aldermaston site roads at a number of locations identified during an independent inspection. Discussions had been initiated with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council regarding improving the interfaces between AWE sites and public highways and also the appropriateness of the speed limits on local roads near to the Aldermaston site.

Secretary's note: West Berkshire is the authority for local roads but both Tadley Town Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council had expressed a wish to facilitate a meeting between AWE and all authorities to look at the problems from a wider perspective. West Berkshire Highways Department will be contacted in the near future.

Regular proactive inspections of the site roads were being undertaken to identify areas in need of maintenance. A programme of inspection of the site road markings and signage had recently commenced. This would be followed by a review of on-site parking arrangements.

The recent rationalisation of speed limits at both AWE (A) and (B) had now been fully implemented bringing both sites into line with a 20mph maximum speed limit. This had been the subject of consultation with employees and a multi-media communication campaign. Passive speed detectors had also been installed at key locations to indicate to offenders that the speed limit had been exceeded. Whilst there had been a large number of activations of the units these were beginning to decrease as employees adapted to the new lower limit. There had already been a notable decrease in the speed of traffic on the sites.

In addition, AWE had introduced the compulsory wearing of head protection for all cyclists on the AWE sites and had provided cycle helmets for any staff who required them.

David Leeks asked whether disabled persons' requirements were being taken into consideration during the roads upgrade project. Frank Winter confirmed that they were and thanked Councillor Leeks for his help in this matter. The needs of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists were all part of the improvement plan. He asked David Leeks if he would kindly review the plans, and David Leeks agreed to do so.

Pangbourne Pipeline: Following the publication of the PPL decommissioning proposals, a number of external presentations had been given and the responses had been broadly very positive. Frank Winter said that work would now continue to develop the proposals for implementation, but the published proposals and the consultation provided a good basis to build on. He reminded members that the closure of the pipeline was contingent on having a new effluent treatment facility available and this project was being progressed as a priority. A more detailed progress report on this work will be provided at the next LLC meeting.

Tony Ferguson said that West Berkshire Council supported AWE's proposals, the view of the council was that they were well thought-through.

Legacy Issues Frank Winter said that there would be an update of the Land Quality Survey document later in the year. He told members that on the north-east corner of site a carbon filtration plant had been brought into operation to remove organic solvents from groundwater in the area.

John Priest asked about solvent contamination off-site. Frank said that confidential agreements had been made with the landowners concerning remediation. This had been discussed with the Environment Agency and local authorities. Borehole sampling results had been shared with the LLC members. Most of the problem was on the immediate edge of site, but he could not give details as he needed to respect the confidentiality of the landowners. The new Land Quality Survey document would give updated information.

John Parfitt asked for confirmation that the Environment Agency was fully informed. Frank Winter said they had been informed. In answer to a further query he said that he would make sure that the company was speaking to the right people in the local authority.

4. Any Other Business

John Parfitt offered congratulations to AWE on the Pangbourne Pipeline project for the thoroughness of their approach. He asked for this to be conveyed to all those involved. Representatives from Pangbourne, Purley-on-Thames and Mapledurham added their thanks.

Mr Parfitt then asked the date of the launch of the company's annual report. He was told that the report would be ready in approximately three weeks time. This year, instead of a presentation to a large audience made up of diverse groups, presentations would be made to smaller groups having common interests. Tony Ferguson asked that copies of the report be circulated to LLC members as early as possible.

Action 25/5: Avril Burdett to send copies of the AWE Annual Report 2000 to members as soon as possible.

Bill Cane pointed out that three developments were expected in the area in the near-future, all of which were likely to add to traffic problems: the Tesco supermarket in Tadley, 5 office blocks to be built at Valentine Wood and a recent application for gravel extraction at Raghill. John Rae said that AWE would look at all these in respect of safety issues. He said that the Company could not make any other comment. In each case staff would look at the impact on safety plans which included traffic. He added that with the number of employees at the Aldermaston site reducing, this might negate the impact. He also said that he had no doubt that AWE's plans were robust enough to cope.

Frank Winter said that one of his main concerns was to integrate AWE's future site development with the local community and make sure that what he was doing did not have an adverse impact and vice versa. AWE was reaching a point where existing buildings could be demolished and new ones built, which might also impact on traffic. He said that this was why it was important that there was a two-way exchange during the planning stages.

Bill Cane asked whether the NII had raised any more questions on the Tesco application. Mike Jeal said that there was a section within the NII which reviewed these type of plans. He said that the section would report back to him once they had reviewed the latest documents.

Terry Faulkner reported that Tesco still intended to build its store in Tadley and that Sainsbury's had purchased the Budgens site and would be submitting plans for housing and business development on the site. He expected the question of Tesco's store to be resolved within the next few weeks.

David Leeks said that any development of over five dwellings in the area was now referred to the NII as a matter of course.

Doug Mundy asked for clarification on MDP escorted vehicles. He said he had been asked on occasions why these vehicles used their sirens, and that there was some public concern. Frank Winter answered that there were standardised arrangements between the MDP and

the local Chief Constable with regular discussions, he undertook to find out more information.

Action 25/6: Frank Winter to find out the rules governing the use of sirens by the MDP on escort duties.

John Parfitt asked whether any more thought had been given to holding LLC meetings in other venues. Avril Burdett reported that she had been looking at this possibility and following discussions with members over lunch undertook to gauge members' opinions on the issue. John Parfitt said his council was willing to host a meeting.

Action 25/7: Avril Burdett to ask all members opinions on the venue of future meetings.

5. Date of Next Meetings

Thursday 13th September 2001

Thursday 29th November 2001

Thursday 28 February 2002

6. Closing Remarks

John Rae said that he would relay the LLC is message assembly to the families of John Gardner and John Cross. He said that he hoped members would look closely at the Quarterly Report in its new format and let the Company know their opinions. He thanked members for attending.

The meeting ended with a buffet lunch.

Actions from the 25th Meeting of the LLC

Action 25/1 John Rae: John Rae to pass on LLC members' condolences to the families of John Gardener and John Cross.

Action 25/2 Graeme Hammond: to provide members with a personal copy of the Food Standards Agency report

Action 25/3 LLC members: to feed back comments on the new style AWE Quarterly Report to Avril Burdett by 17th August 2001.

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