



**Minutes of the 94th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday 7th November 2018
AWE, Aldermaston**

Present:

Mark Hedges	Director Site Operations (Chair)
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Dominic Boeck	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Penee Chopping	Ufton Nervet Parish
Cllr Sophie Crawford	Aldermaston Parish
Cllr Debbie Fisher	Wokefield Parish Council
Cllr Roger Gardiner	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr David Livingstone	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish
Cllr Royce Longston	Burghfield Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr John Miller	Padworth Parish Council
Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Jonathan Richards	Basingstoke Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Nick Bolton	AWE
Philippa Kent	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Anna Markowska	AWE
Scott Davis-Hearn	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE
Michele Maidment	AWE
Carolyn Porter	AWE
Gemma Wilson	AWE
Sarah Maskell	AWE
James Melton	AWE
Paul Pritchard	AWE

Charities

Gini Blesky	Bucket List Wishes
Paul Scott	Thrive

Regulators:

Gary Cook	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Rob Green	Environment Agency

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Avril Burdett, Stuart Coker, Jan Gavin, Gerald Hale, Ian Montgomery, Ian Morrin, Barrie Patman, Richard Smith, Tim Whitaker and Jane Stanford-Beale. Carolyn Richardson of West Berks Council sent her apologies and Haydn Clulow, AWE sent his.

Actions from previous meetings

2/90 John Steele to present on an updated AWE Travel Plan.

John will be presenting on this today.

Action closed

Action 1/93 AWE to confirm statistics for the level of waste being recycling and directed to energy consumption.

Action closed

Anna Markowska referred to action 1/93 regarding the waste and advised members that 2.3% of AWE's waste goes to landfill where there is no other safe route. Waste incinerated amounts to 2.6% and consists of non-recyclable waste such as chemical, sanitary and clinical.

95% of AWE's waste is recycled and includes office waste (paper) and construction waste. Waste recycled and re-purposed represents 5% of AWE's volume of waste

Action 2 /93 To find out what happened with the previous fleet of cars

These were taken back by the contractor partner who owned them.

Action closed

Action 3 /93 Site Context Development Plan – AWE to confirm dates for presentation to dates to Cllrs Bridgman and Morrin.

John Steele is in dialogue with the Councillors to arrange a date.

Action closed

Approval of the 93rd Meeting minutes

Councillor Bridgman pointed out an error in the last paragraph on page 5. The post meeting note should have read "Councillors Graham Bridgman and Ian Morrin requested a joint presentation to their Councillors".

Other than the above the Minutes of the 93rd meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Chairman's update

Introduction

Mark Hedges welcomed members to the 94th meeting. He also welcomed Gemma Wilson and Sarah Maskell from AWE's Environment team and Paul Pritchard, Project Manager on the Burghfield Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Operational update

Members were updated on the prosecution in September where AWE pleaded guilty to offences under the Health and Safety at Work Act. The charges were brought by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in relation to an electrical incident which occurred on 27 June 2017.

The incident happened during routine electrical inspection and testing work at a manufacturing facility on the company's Aldermaston site. An electrician suffered a minor burn to his forearm following exposure to a live circuit. The ONR has stated that this was a conventional health and safety matter and they are satisfied there was no radiological risk to workers or the public.

Mark told members that the case was adjourned for sentencing and that this is to take place at Reading Magistrates Court on Friday 9 November 2018. AWE takes its health and safety responsibilities extremely seriously and deeply regrets that a member of staff was injured. As legal proceedings are ongoing AWE can't make any further comment at this stage but after the hearing AWE will update members on the outcome through its News Brief newsletter. This will be emailed out to all members who have opted in to receive it.

Physics Conference

More than 20 physics undergraduates from 14 universities across the UK attended AWE's Physics Undergraduate Conference in October to explore the exciting world of physics. The attendees had the opportunity to visit AWE's world-leading Orion laser facility – to understand how high energy density physics supports the UK's nuclear deterrent. The students were given a unique opportunity to present their research to our physics and science experts and to find out more about the diverse range of careers available. Examples of their research areas ranged from investigating the properties of matter at extreme pressures, through optical fibres and pressure sensors, to random number generation.

AWE Wins UK Challenge

AWE's employees achieved an amazing 6th win at UK Challenge, giving it the 'Most Decorated Company' record. Three AWE teams competed against 83 other UK/International teams in the UK Challenge, held in the Brecon Beacons. The stages involved running, cycling, canoeing, map reading, puzzle solving skills and a build stage. Team one romped home in 1st place, beating the likes of Accenture, GCHQ, Airbus and PwC. AWE has now won or been runner up in the competition 11 times since 2005. As well as demonstrating their ingenuity the teams also raised around £4,000 for this year's challenge charity, Cancer Research UK.

Community Outreach

Our community magazine Connect was circulated to 56,000 homes and businesses in September. It is also posted on our website.

AWE's STEM outreach programme at schools and colleges continues to flourish. This year is the Year of Engineering and AWE have run a whole series of schools' outreach events to support this national initiative. Highlights this term have included AWE's annual schools' engineering challenge.

Festival of Engineering

Taking place on Friday November 9th, AWE's apprentices are taking part with 400 pupils from schools in West Berkshire and North Hampshire. It will be hosted by MPs Richard Benyon and Kit Malthouse at Xtrac in Thatcham.

AWE Charities

AWE have linked up with two new charity partners Thrive and Bucket List Wishes – these were nominated and chosen by AWE staff and will be the focus for AWE'sr charity activities going forward.

Teams taking part in the AWE Team Challenge – which is like a local version of the UK Challenge- raised around 15,000 for the charities and with other fund-raising efforts were able to give each charity £10,000 at our presentation evening in September.

Questions arising

Cllr Shirt queried whether the LLC had been notified of the ONR's intention to prosecute. **Mark Hedges** advised that the incident and associated investigation had been covered at a number of LLC meetings. AWE had been unable to comment on the details of the prosecution because it was an ongoing legal case.

Post meeting note. As well as regular updates about the incident itself LLC members were sent a newsletter as soon as ONR announced its intention to prosecute. A further newsletter detailing the outcome of the proceedings was sent out on the day of the hearing.

Environment, Safety and Health Update

**Nick Bolton,
ESH Service Delivery Lead (SET)**

Nick gave an overview of the performance during the period advising members that a total of 21 OSHA Recordable Events occurred during the 12 months to the end of September 2018.

35% were slip / trips / falls occurring due to commonplace pedestrian hazards encountered when walking around our sites. Actions include Ongoing Stop for Safety Events – Spatial Awareness.

There were three Process Safety Events recorded between July and September 2018 which will undergo investigation.

Questions arising

Cllr Gardiner asked if there are statistics breaking down the injury rate between sites. **AWE** advised that a check can be made on the availability of statistics.

Action 1/94 Retrieve statistics breaking down injury rates between AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield sites.
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Action: Nick Bolton

Supporting our Environment

Nick told members that like many other companies AWE supports the need to reduce waste at source and that AWE will be phasing out the use of disposable cups by 1 January 2019. They will be offering a reusable AWE travel cup at its Cafes.

Environmental Monitoring

Gemma Wilson and Sarah Maskell

Gemma talked to members about permits and consent conditions, telling them that AWE is permitted by the Environment Agency to dispose of radioactive waste via the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 (as amended).

AWE fulfil the requirement of the permit by defining, documenting and carrying out an environmental monitoring programme.

Sarah gave an overview on Air Samplers, explaining how discharge activities are managed across sites using High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) and Tritium Air Samplers.

Samplers were on display during the meeting and members were invited to look them over and ask questions.

Questions Arising

Cllr Shirt asked about the role of the Environment Agency (EA) in terms of sampling. **AWE** advised that the EA are directly involved with the interpretation of results and take their own samples to validate AWE's results.

Cllr McGarvie enquired whether there is monitoring around nuclear sites. AWE reported that Sellafield use some monitoring equipment and that AWE have joint working and collaboration in terms of Best Available Techniques (BAT).

Cllr Chapman asked whether AWE monitor Tritium from just moisture in the air or also in gaseous form
AWE advised that both are monitored.

Site Update

Mark Hedges
Director of Site Operations

Mark reported that there have been no complaints or concerns reported during the Period.

Members were told about the protestor activity that took place on the 24 November at AWE's Burghfield site, locking down the site for that morning. There had been no prior notification received about the activity which involved protestors locking themselves onto cars. It was well contained and disruption to the local community kept to a minimum. By 13:00 all protestors were moved and roadways clear. Seven arrests were made.

Cllr Shirt asked whether it had been one of the normal group of protestors.
Mark Hedges advised that it was the Trident Ploughshare protestor group.

Cllr Gardiner asked what the 7 protestors were arrested for
Mark Hedges said they are permitted to protest but were arrested for breaching the peace.

Cllr Gardiner asked if AWE could report to the LLC on occurrences and actions taken.

Action 2 /94 AWE to report back to the LLC on the above.

Action: Mark Hedges

Planning and Development

John Steele
Planning & Estate Development Manager

Aldermaston Manor

John gave members an update on Aldermaston Manor, telling them that the new build element of their development proposal is likely to be removed. Praxis, the current owners of Aldermaston Manor, is now considering conversion of the Manor and Portland House to residential. A planning application may be submitted later this year.

Grazeley Housing Development

AWE continue to work with Wokingham Borough Council and West Berkshire Council over the housing proposal for Grazeley. Planners appear to have accepted that there should not be any new houses constructed within the Emergency Planning Area. The MOD will be making representation to the local plan consultation the next step of which starts in November 2018.

AWE Travel Plan

John updated members on the AWE Travel Plan advising them that its overall aim is to reduce the number of vehicles on the public highway and across AWE sites. The targets agreed in 2006 with West Berks Council for reducing single occupancy vehicles (SOV) have not been met and a review in conjunction with West Berks suggests that there is no single cause behind this.

AWE will concentrate on refreshing initiatives that have been successfully implemented in the past, including agile working, raising the profile of the Travel Plan and car sharing, improved public transport routing and encouraging local residents to walk or cycle to work by improving routes to and within site.

Additionally, it is planned to undertake a staff travel survey early in 2019, the results for which will be used to refine the Travel Plan into a tailored version in an update in 2019.

Questions arising

Cllr Fisher mentioned the isolation and accessibility of the Burghfield site and whether improved transport connections would be considered.

John confirmed that this would be covered in the survey.

Cllr Boeck reported that local commuter routes are blighted by inconsiderate drivers and asked whether AWE could make its staff more road safety aware when travelling through built up areas. He referred to the route through Brimpton.

John Steele advised that notices raising awareness are published on the staff portal and that Project Servator patrols during peak commute times have had a positive effect. John added that AWE have funded Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) for local parishes Ashford Hill and Silchester. It is recognised that Brimpton is a major commuter route and AWE would support safety campaigns in the parish.

Ask the Regulators

**Gary Cook Lead Site Inspector
Office for Nuclear Regulation**

Gary Cook gave members an overview of the ONR report covering the period 1 April to 31 July 2018. He reported that during routine inspections at Aldermaston and Burghfield monitoring AWE's arrangements under several Licence Conditions, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented in response to safety requirements to be adequate in most of areas inspected.

Members were updated on the Burghfield Periodic Review of Safety and advised that AWE continues to progress work to close out the its shortfall findings. AWE will produce a PRS Close Out Report which ONR will assess. This will inform ONR's ability to support long term operations.

There was adequate demonstration of AWE's on-site LC11 emergency arrangements in the Annual Burghfield Level 1 emergency exercise during June. ONR observed strong performances including well demonstrated Command and Control.

**Rob Green
Environment Agency**

Rob summarised the Environment Agency report for the period since the LLC meeting in July and the inspections completed. These covered: the management of mobile radioactive apparatus; environmental monitoring and analytical laboratories; gaseous radioactive waste management arrangements; AWE's arrangements for inspection, maintenance and monitoring of the Pangbourne Pipeline (PPL); and the issue of an inspection report covering an asset management themed inspection. One non-compliance with the environmental permit authorising radioactive waste disposals from Aldermaston Site was identified during the PPL inspection. This was a minor non-compliance that related to the availability of inspection records.

I also provided an update on the HEPA filters (ageing management of) issue, stating that we are undertaking routine engagement with AWE on this matter, working jointly with ONR, and are in the process of reviewing submissions made by AWE in response to previous commitments it has made to address previously identified shortfalls.

Questions arising from Ask the Regulators

Cllr Chishick referred to PPL and asked what was meant by 'maintenance'.

Mark Hedges advised that AWE have a duty of care to monitor and maintain visual inspection of the pipeline. Maintenance is checking and surveillance not dismantling parts and/or repair.

Cllr Chapman asked whether there is anything currently flowing through the pipeline.

Mark Hedges confirmed that it is capped and not in use.

Community Programme

**Philippa Kent
Community Engagement Manager**

Philippa introduced James Melton, Production Engineering Graduate who presented to members on AWE's Schools Engineering Challenge.

James told members that there has been over 20 years of challenges, delivering engineering themed events for local schools, inspiring interest in STEM subjects and strengthening AWE's relationship with the local community.

The 2018 Challenge was themed around Submarines – design, build and trial. The event was hosted at the Aldermaston Recreational Society, seven schools took part and eight AWE apprentices provided support to the students as well as the graduates who were leading the project

The challenge was won by Little Heath School in Tilehurst.

AWE Charities

Bucket List Wishes Gini Blesky

Gini talked to members about local charity 'Bucket List Wishes, telling them why and how the charity was set up and the range of wishes granted. The charity is run by part time volunteers who work and have families whilst donating their time and skills to fundraise and organise wishes.

Thrive Paul Scott

Paul presented on Thrive – using gardening to bring about positive changes in people's lives. He told members about the history of the charity which has 3 regional centres, 10 trustees and over 9000 supporters. It offers social and therapeutic horticulture to people living with long term illness, impairment or disability, promoting physical exercise, social engagement and improved mental health.

Burghfield Flood Alleviation Scheme

Paul Pritchard Project Manager

Paul Pritchard updated members on the progress with the Burghfield Flood Alleviation Scheme. He referred to the 2007 flood event which identified the need for prevention and told members about the scheme designed through 2012- 2014, tender process through 2015 and design implementation in 2016.

The scheme, designed to be sympathetic to planting and wildlife saw improvements to the Brook profile allowing a fourfold increase in volume of water. A total of 55,000 tonnes of earth has been removed to create new formations and 40,000 tonnes of earth has been put back in earth-bank construction.

Members were given a bus tour of the scheme area.

Any other Business

Cllr Shirt mentioned his concern over the lack of information cascaded from AWE to LLC members about Project Servator presence in the local areas.

Mark Hedges explained that there are MDP officers patrolling in the areas around AWE. There are Project Servator security operations in the local community around AWE regularly,

they can happen anywhere and at any time, random and not publicised in advance, even to AWE.

Close

2019 Meeting Dates

Wednesday March 13th

Wednesday July 10th

Wednesday November 6th