

Helensburgh
Advertiser

Council demands answers

Councillors have demanded a meeting with the Commodore Clyde for answers to a number of questions about safety at the submarine bases.

The decision, by members of the policy and resources committee came in the wake of a meeting of the Clyde Local Liaison Committee.

Council convener, Ian Leitch (Lab., Dumbarton North) said he was still not satisfied with the safety situation and had not obtained the answers he wants about the recent incident involving a supposed radiation leak from HMS Resolution.

Now the Commodore Clyde is to be asked detailed questions about the incident despite a plea from Councillor Norman Glen (Con., Helensburgh Central) the questions had been fully answered.

"There is a serious problem and it is not being addressed by the Clyde Public Safety Scheme, said committee convener, Councillor Ben Morgan (Lab., Dumbarton Central).

Councillor Les Robertson (Lab., Bonhill East) said the base spokes-

man had not given a true account of incidents involving submarines.

"The one person who we rely on to give us information about the base is stating facts that are patently untrue," he said.

A further fear was expressed by Councillor Jim Bolland (Lab., Renton and Alexandria South) who said he had reason to believe that someone was contaminated by radiation during the HMS Resolution incident and that they lived in his ward.

Councillor Glen said the council had received a letter from the Commodore Clyde saying it had been an electrical malfunction and there was no danger to the crew or public.

"There is far too much panicking and shouting," he said. "None of us is an expert. The matter has been gone into thoroughly and I think we should take no further action."

In response, Councillor Leitch pointed out that the public were only finding out now about a nuclear accident which happened at Winscale 30 years ago.

"We were told nothing was wrong at the time," he said. "I am not prepared to accept these blind assurances from the Ministry of Defence. Their conduct over the years has proved they have lied to people."