



Minutes of the 106th AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday 23rd November 2022
AWE, Recreational Society, Aldermaston

Present:

Janine Mantle	Chair
Cllr Dominic Boeck	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Avril Burdett	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley-on-Thames Parish Council
Cllr Sophie Crawford	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Kevin Cross	Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Robert Jones	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Mark Keeping	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Peter Markwick	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Clarence Mitchell	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Jo Slimin	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Cllr Jim Thompson	Wokefield Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Cllr Paul Woodley	Wasing Parish Council
Nick Bolton	AWE
Suzanne Chenery	AWE
Chris Daniels	AWE
Scott Davies-Hearn	AWE
Claire Lockwood	AWE
Lucy Millington	AWE
James Platt	AWE
Allan Russell	AWE
John Steele	AWE

Regulators:

Gary Cook	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Ian Rogers	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Rob Green	Environment Agency

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors: Phillip Bassill, Mark Binns, Jonathan Chishick, Pennee Chopping, Stuart Coker, Suzie Ferguson, Stuart Frost, Chris Johnson, Malcolm Large, David Leeks, David Livingstone, Royce Longton, Carolyn Richardson (West Berkshire Council)

Actions from previous meetings

- **Action 105/01:** Provide the LLC members with more information regarding children travelling to and from school in the event of an emergency and where school transport has failed to provide a reliable bus service leaving children to walk home possibly through DEPZ areas. (Carolyn Richardson)

Outcome: Topic to be made an agenda item at the next meeting.

- **Action 105/02:** Set up an Emergency Plan 'Awareness Session' (to include Development Control Reviews if possible) for LLC Members (Carolyn Richardson - WBC)

Outcome: Topic to be made an agenda item at the next meeting and dates for the 'Awareness Session' to be sent to LLC members.

- **Action 105/03:** Find out if there is a partnership between Teen Tech and EBP West Berkshire and if so, suggest that West Berkshire schools are included. (Claire Lockwood)

Outcome: On 13 October AWE attended Destinations Expo, West Berkshire's equivalent to Hampshire's TeenTech event. Destinations Expo, a large interactive careers fair, was held at Newbury College for 1,600 West Berkshire students showcasing local businesses/organisations and the opportunities within them. Funded by Greenham Common Trust and run by Education Business Partnership West Berkshire, the aim of the event was to raise awareness of the wide range of industries and sectors available locally, encouraging future generations to review the varied opportunities and consider a career in West Berkshire. The event focussed on the various pathways into these professions from entry-level jobs, university courses and training to apprenticeship opportunities.

This was a great opportunity for AWE to promote our organisation by gaining direct access to up to 1,600 Year 12 and 13 students (15-17 yrs) who are making pivotal decisions about their career/next steps in the months following the fair. It was a fantastic opportunity to get the AWE brand in front of our target Apprentice/Graduate audience locally.

The interactive task on the AWE stand in the STEM employer section was a short demo for 'learning the basics of virtual reality and how virtual reality may be used for tool based tasks/procedures'. The interactive task on the AWE stand in the Pathways employer section was with Spheros (small round programmable robots). The task was to programme a Sphero to the corner of choice in the Sphero maze.

We recently received feedback from Education Business Partnership West Berkshire that AWE were the most popular organisation at the event being twice as popular as the second most popular organisation to visit.

Approval of the 105th meeting minutes

Questions arising from 105th meeting minutes:

Cllr Bridgman: In the last minutes a commercial development in Grazeley was mentioned which was possibly within the DEPZ. Please can it be clarified that the proposal is a Wokingham proposal and not a West Berkshire proposal ?

John Steele: Yes it's within the Grazeley Gardens settlement area contained within Wokingham Borough Council.

Action 106/01: Meeting to be arranged with Cllr Slimin to discuss AWE's relationship with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. (John Steele)

Chairman's update

Introduction

Janine Mantle who is the Corporate Affairs Director chaired the meeting and Chris Daniels who is Senior Manager, Environmental, Social Governance Corporate Affairs welcomed members to the 106th meeting.

Membership Changes

AWE would like to welcome one new LLC member:

- Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – Cllr. Jo Slimin

Organisation Update & Site Operations

AWE continues to take all actions necessary to keep the sites secure during this period of escalated tension in Europe. Situations like this bring an increased threat of cyber and other security and the Security team has been monitoring the situation as it has escalated, ensuring preparations to protect AWE are robust.

At the last LLC meeting it was stated that a Prohibition Notice for the Plutonium Technology Centre at the Aldermaston site had been issued. Since the notice was served AWE has had no events within the area of the facility to which the prohibition notice applied. ONR inspectors have engaged with AWE on multiple occasions within the period to provide advice and guidance and to visit the facility. This will continue in the next reporting period to gain further assurance that updated arrangements remain robust and adequately implemented.

AWE has been announced as 21st in the list of Best Companies to work for. The results and rankings are based on responses from the Best Companies colleague engagement survey which means that the results are based on AWE's own people stating that AWE creates a good work environment where they feel safe and where they can flourish.

'Voice of the Stakeholder' Survey

In a few weeks AWE will be asking LLC members to complete a 'Voice of the Stakeholder' survey which will provide valuable feedback on how AWE is perceived in the local area.

Portals, Overton.

Historic papermaker, Portals, has announced it will be 'winding down' its business in Hampshire as its bank note printing contract has come to an end. AWE's recruitment team has successfully been working with Portals who recently announced a number of redundancies on resourcing outplacements.

Community News – Connect

All LLC members should all have seen a copy of the latest edition of Connect, AWE's community magazine, that was circulated in October. An online version of Connect can also be found [here](#).

Environment, Safety and Health Update**Nick Bolton****ESH&Q Service Delivery Lead**

Nick gave an overview of performance in personal and process safety during the period, advising members that the OSHA TRI rate to the end of October 2022 was 0.208 with a comparison on the best rate ever achieved which was in February 2021 at 0.162.

There was a total of 16 Recordable Injury Events that occurred in the 12 months to the end of October 2022. In the same period to end of October 2021 there were 14 OSHA Events recorded at 0.177. A total of three Reportable Injury Events occurred in the 12 months to the end of October 2022 at 0.019. In the same period to the end of October 2021 we experienced 8 RIDDOR Events at 0.051. The best ever RIDDOR rate was achieved in the 12 months to September 2022 at 0.006 with one Specified Injury event.

Since the last LLC meeting in July 2022, there have been no Process Safety events raised during the period. Process safety training for supervisors remains an ongoing focus, increasing Process Safety knowledge across the organisation.

The Process Safety Team are also working to develop virtual reality training that can be used to raise hazard awareness amongst staff at all levels of the organisation.

The quarterly figures on Waste Management from July – September 2022 is 99.8% waste diverted from landfill with the Environment Management Target for diversion from landfill being 98% (1.6% re-used, 97.7% recycled, 0.5% recovered and 0.2% disposed).

The calculated radiation dose generated from both Aldermaston and Burghfield sites show minute fractions of the dose constraint set by the Environment Agency of 500 µSv per year for a nuclear site showing there is no hazard to members of the public.

Questions arising:

Cllr McGarvie: Have you decided to keep the OSHA rate?

Nick Bolton: Yes, as it is a good benchmark to use with external organisations. AWE also continue to track our RIDDOR rate too.

Action 106/02: Cllr Bridgman asked why there is a chunk of waste incinerated for energy recovery rather than being recycled/reused? AWE to provide a breakdown (Nick Bolton)

Cllr Crawford: Why is it that the discharge to air is much higher in Aldermaston than Burghfield?

Nick Bolton: It's due to the number of facilities that AWE have in Aldermaston as opposed to Burghfield. The discharges to air are from the radioactive facilities through the filtration systems and the stacks of which there are more on the Aldermaston site than on the Burghfield site.

Cllr Shirt: In relation to the discharge to water which is based on the Aldermaston stream. How is Burghfields discharge to water measured? Also, is the discharge surface water from the site due to heavy rainfall?

Nick Bolton: There is not a radiological discharge to surface water. AWE have monitoring of the outsource to Burghfield but there is no radiological discharge to water as it is to sewer. Yes the discharge is from rainfall.

Action 106/03: Discharges to be added as an agenda item at the next LLC Meeting. (Suzanne Chenery)

Site Operations Update

Allan Russell

Head of Asset Operations Management

Allan Russell covered the presentation on behalf of Johann Walker in her absence.

Protestor activity continues with the 'Womens Peace Camp' on the second weekend of each month. There is no other planned activity scheduled at this time.

With regards to community concerns, a report was received regarding an alarm sounding, however the call was not received via the community concerns process but through another channel. The alarm activation was separately identified, investigated and reset. Corporate Affairs dealt with the enquiry to the satisfaction of the resident.

On 12th October, a major site exercise was carried out on the Aldermaston site. This was the annual level 1 exercise to test LC/AC 11 Emergency Arrangements.

The exercise was observed by regulators from Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR), Defence Fire Service, MoD, Defence Nuclear Security and also the AWE Internal Regulation Team.

The exercise was assigned as an 'adequate' (green) assessment of the arrangements in place which is a positive outcome.

Questions arising:

Cllr Burdett: How often do you plan to do these exercises / tests?

Allan Russell: The major site exercise is an annual event and that tests how all of the organisations respond at a site level but AWE does have a very demanding facility based programme where exercises take place in particular facilities.

Cllr Burdett: How much warning do you give prior to your tests?

Scott Davies-Hearn: AWE tend not to do 'no-notice' exercises as there will be events that happen that will provide that type of exercise, although these have been done in the past to the regulators. There is however, scenario planning where the contents of these exercises are not widely known, only the planners and the regulators will know the full details.

Cllr Shirt: Did you use any external bodies in this test? Why I ask is I remember about 5 years ago an external fire brigade had problems with security.

Allan Russell: External response agencies can feature for example SCAS (South Central Ambulance Service), depending on the scenario under exercise and their operational priorities.

Scott Davies-Hearn: AWE plan to have them involved but there may be times when they have to respond to real life emergencies which will take priority. The response will always take priority and

AWE will deal with security issues as they happen. A lot of learning takes place from the incident that you identified.

Cllr Littlewood: Are you able to describe the nature of the exercises?

Scott Davies-Hearn: An example would be a scenario testing a criticality event at one of the radiological facilities with a volume of material coming together creating a high energy event, confusion as to whether it is a single event or a repeating event, complexity of locating casualties and assessing the safety for the responders. Each scenario has a different objective. AWE also hold 'silent hours' exercises which can be of an evening or weekend depending on what the exercise objectives are.

AWE Emergency Planning & Preparedness

Scott Davies-Hearn
Manager Emergency Response

Sadly, Carolyn Richardson was unable to present due to Covid-19. Scott Davies-Hearn presented on her behalf in her absence.

1 – Brief on behalf of WBDC (Provided by Scott Davies-Hearn)

During 2021/22 a number of modular exercises were undertaken covering a wide range of topics relating to the AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan, learning obtained from these exercises have been transferred to a forward action plan. The AWE Off-Site Emergency Plan has just been approved taking into account some of the learning from the forward action plan. It is however a 'living' document and as and when further recommendations are matured the plan will be updated again. This is in part the reason why the AWE Off-Site Emergency plan (OSEP) is not made public since it is continually being reviewed and updated as things change. The OSEP is also targeted at the responding agencies and not the public. As a result, a version which is more helpful to the public is being considered. The Off-Site Emergency Planning Group Meetings continue as part of the routine, now working with all the responding agencies.

The revised Schools Guidance has now been completed. This will be shared with the schools in the area soon. The Local Plan Development and Guidance continues using engagement with a number of responders in order to ensure the guidance is clear and helps prospective developers, members of planning communities and the communities themselves.

Activities which are due to take place in the next 6 months include:

- Supporting the Councils Local Plan.
- The Council is confident that a review of the DEPZ will be done within the 2 months required with confirmation being provided in Jan 2023. At this stage the information is not public since the information has just been received and therefore the process required has just started.
- Following the redetermination of the DEPZ then the OSEP may need to be revised, the website and REPIR the Public Information Booklet will be updated with the booklet being sent to all properties in the DEPZ areas by April 2023.
- A date for training about the plan to the LLC will follow as soon as the Public Plan is developed. This is likely to be late February or March 2023. This is based on current work including potential changes therefore it was considered that to do it sooner would not provide the same benefit.

- Aldex 23. Planning for this exercise is well underway. It is due to take place w/c 24th April. This will be testing a number of elements of the Off-Site Plan in particular the command, control and coordination.

2 – AWE Update

AWE A ran a (Level 1 Demonstration Exercise) which was successfully delivered and assessed by the regulators as an adequate demonstration of the AWE emergency response arrangements. The outcome identified some learning opportunities which are being considered and developed into a forward action plan.

During the past few months there has been a roll out companywide Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to compliment those held by our emergency responders.

Activities which are due to take place in the next 6 months include:

- In December 2022 a Level 1 Demonstration Exercise will take place at AWE B.
- The Aldex 23 exercise is due to take place W/C 24th April. This will be testing a number of elements of the Off-Site Emergency Plan, in particular the command, control and coordination. More information will be provided at next LLC.

Questions arising:

Questions to Scott Davies-Hearn (For WBDC)

Cllr Slimin: I'm a local governor and chairman at two local schools in Tadley and we have our own evacuation plan but there was nothing in that plan of evacuation about keeping children indoors and I am concerned that local schools are not updated with the most recent procedures.

Scott Davies-Hearn: I will need to speak with Carolyn on this subject. I do know that West Berkshire Council do have plans that deal with vulnerable centres whether it's rest homes, schools etc. Carolyn liaises with other councils with regards to the emergency plans as the DEPZ is larger than the West Berkshire Council area.

Action 106/04: Details to be provided on how schools are contacted regarding updates to the emergency plan. (Carolyn Richardson, WBC)

Cllr McGarvie: Regarding the school emergency plan, my concern is the school transport. Children who live more than three miles away under Hampshire's catchment area are all safe on a bus and the drivers know they either divert or commit to a building, but what is in place for the children that have to walk to school eg from Pamber Heath, through Tadley to The Hurst School which is roughly 3.2 miles. If for example, ten minutes after a child starts their journey on foot, an onsite emergency arises, what is the plan to make that child safe? This isn't just one child this could be around 1,000 children. I don't think the plan covers this.

Scott Davies-Hearn: This is a question that needs to be addressed by Carolyn Richardson at WBC. If there is an incident at AWE and a consequence coming from the site, the impact will generally travel in a certain direction. The focus of the response will be on the downwind area. Whether people are sheltering or people are outside, the focus will be on the area at risk.

Action 106/05: Details to be provided of emergency plans for school children who walk to school within the DEPZ in the event of an emergency. (Carolyn Richardson, WBC)

Cllr Crawford: Obviously the DEPZ is heavily populated. Can you tell us about the resources available within West Berkshire Council for this function?

Scott Davies-Hearn: There are a number of individuals in the emergency planning team although I know they are currently recruiting. I will ask Carolyn to provide an update. Jonah Maddocks is the replacement lead for Amy who was our lead contact for AWE and the emergency plan.

Action 106/06: Details to be provided of the WBC team dealing with the emergency plan. (Carolyn Richardson, WBC)

Questions to Scott Davies-Hearn (For AWE)

Cllr Burdett: Do you still have a call-out system by phone?

Scott Davies-Hearn: Yes AWE do still have telephone alerting which facilitates landlines and texting with an opt-in system.

Cllr Bridgman: Do we assume someone other than West Berkshire Council (WBC) draws a circle and then WBC draws a line outside that circle so that we don't split communities? What consultations take place as to where that line is drawn?

Scott Davies-Hearn: AWE do the technical (calculated) assessment and create the minimum distance for urgent protective actions (the circle); This circle is what gets issued to the local authority via our formal submission. This process is the same nationwide and in accordance with the legislation that AWE, Sellafield and other operators all follow. WBDC then determine the DEPZ.

Cllr McGarvie: Regarding the automatic defibrillators, is there a training enhancement that goes with that?

Scott Davies-Hearn: There is an awareness programme that goes out to the business, but you do not legally have to be trained. Training videos have been rolled out and AWE have a basic life support awareness and 'Restart a Heart' campaign so there are a number of things that are done as part of BAU. The awareness is also soon to be turned into mandatory training for everyone.

Cllr Crawford: There seems to be a shift in what is and isn't acceptable with new developments within the DEPZ. We assume the management of these developments take responsibility of the new developments with regards to the evacuation process to look after the residents?

Cllr McGarvie: I would like to add that a block of flats waived the DEPZ concern by saying that they would take care of the safety issues and then did nothing.

Cllr Crawford: Emergency planning's immediate response to a new development is due to the proximity to the DEPZ but then they go away and things get left. ONR and AWE seem to have more power and I don't understand why you are not doing something about it.

John Steele: AWE's position now is that it is very likely to object to any development inside the DEPZ which will increase the numbers of people or present a hazard or potential constraint on AWE. We are developing a process to make sure that we get to know all the planning applications and pre-apps which are coming into West Berkshire and the other local authorities. However, even if AWE/MoD does object, that doesn't mean that a planning application won't be granted. However if we object

along with WBC Emergency Planning and ONR then this is very possible the planning application will be refused.

Action 106/07: DEPZ to be made an agenda item for the next meeting (Suzanne Chenery / Scott Davies-Hearn)

Estate Development Update

John Steele

Head of Estate, Development & Planning

Following on from the last question, AWE considers all possible impacts of proposed new developments.. AWE can explain this further to the LLC if requested.

The Hub Development was granted consent in August. West Berkshire Planning Department consulted fully and received approximately ten responses to the planning application. The planning application was approved under delegated powers. AWE presented the application to Aldermaston Parish Council and a detailed discussion took place in respect of the AWE travel plan. As a result a commitment was given that AWE will work with the local Parish Councils with regards to the investigation of sustainable travel options.

Future developments over the next couple of years will be focussed at Aldermaston, with a consolidation and rationalisation of facilities located within the centre of the site.

Action 106/08: Future planning to be added as an agenda item at the next LLC Meeting (Suzanne Chenery / John Steele)

There will be no planning applications at AWE Burghfield in the next 12 months.

Regarding development within the DEPZ, AWE has submitted three letters of objection at The Hollies in Burghfield, one in Tadley and one for a proposal in Three Mile Cross. Two objections have gone to WBC and one to Wokingham.

Questions arising:

Cllr Burdett: There is a concern about the inconsistency of any objection going forward. There were some applications on Tadley Hill, one was for one house which I wouldn't have expected you to object to and the other was for four houses to which there was no response at all and it went through because there was no objection made. We get asked by members of the public who are trying to get some development on their properties, and they get told they can't because of the DEPZ but then find out that others in the vicinity had theirs approved. What you are saying now is that the MoD will object to anything within the DEPZ, this will provide some consistency?

John Steele: AWE, on behalf of the MOD, will consider each proposed development on its own merit. If an objection is made then a detailed explanation behind that objection will be provided. It's bold in planning to say that AWE will object to everything but it is likely that most developments within the DEPZ are likely to attract an AWE/MOD objection. We are working at improving the way AWE becomes aware of planning applications within the DEPZ as we are not a statutory consultee.

Cllr Bridgman: I supported a community application within the DEPZ in Burghfield which was passed against officers advice. Carolyn put in a formal objection. My concern is the total number of people that enter that area as a result of the planning application. This was for a community café outside the circle and so there is a question of community engagement and local members taking a different view. My next point is about landlines and getting the message out to events such as the May Fayre in Burghfield where there are a few thousand people attending these events which are well within the DEPZ. How do you communicate with those attending these events to inform them of what they should be aware of and where to find shelter?

John Steele: This comes down to understanding the UPA (Urgent Protective Area) within the DEPZ and that's why risk planning is involved. It's about balancing those factors.

Ask the Regulators

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

The ONR report was circulated prior to the meeting and covers the period from 1st June 2022 to the 30th September 2022.

The ONR have carried out a range of inspections, all of which were rated as 'adequate'. Regulatory issues were raised as part of these inspections but all were rated at Level 4 which is the lowest priority and are dealt with as part of BAU.

Inspection LC26 which deals with control and supervision within operations. Previous inspections had raised a Level 2 regulatory issue. ONR has subsequently downgraded that to Level 3 given the progress that AWE has made.

Regarding the prohibition noticed that was served, ONR acknowledged the comments made in the opening remarks. AWE's performance against the Notice since it was served has been good with no events. ONR are confident that the revised arrangements are robust. ONR will keep close oversight of that area and the work that it entails until such time as it's no longer designated as a confined space. AWE are working towards having an engineering detective system in place.

ONR had a 'Holding to Account' meeting with the AWE Exec during September from which AWE were held to account over the lack of progress against decommissioning. An enforcement letter was sent which is covered in one of the previous LLC reports and a response was received from AWE in March, but the commitments made in that response have not been met hence the 'Holding to Account' meeting taking place. There will be a review in early 2023 to see how those commitments are progressing and ONR will consider further regulatory action if that is appropriate.

Questions arising:

Cllr McGarvie: At the beginning of the meeting you mentioned a 'change in personal circumstances'. Would you elaborate please?

Gary Cook: I have been in this nominated role since 2017. ONR's policy is to rotate inspectors after 3-4 years but because of Covid that period has been extended. During that period there was a general policy to keep people in place. I am moving out as from 1st December so I am taking up the equivalent role at Sellafield and Ian Rogers will be taking over from me here.

On behalf of AWE and the Local Liaison Committee we would like to thank Gary Cook for his 5 years of service and we would like to provide a warm welcome to Ian Rogers.

Rob Green
Environment Agency

The EA report was circulated prior to the meeting for the period 24th June 2022 to 11th November 2022.

Over the period EA have undertaken four compliance inspections at Aldermaston, three of those were against the radioactive substances permit that AWE holds. These covered: test and trials facilities, environmental leadership and sustainability, and AWE's management arrangements for high efficiency particulate air filters. There were no non-compliances raised, although regulatory recommendations and observations were provided for AWE to take forward.

For the combustion permit inspection, it was noted in the report that EA was waiting for further information from AWE before being able to finalise that report. EA has now received that information from AWE and is in a position to judge that non-compliances with the permit have been confirmed. Actions will be placed on AWE to bring about a return to compliance with the permit.

EA undertook a regulatory assessment against an abnormal event that AWE reported which related to the offsite disposal of some very low level radioactive waste to an authorised disposal facility. AWE found that the activity of the item that had been disposed of had been undercalculated. AWE has since corrected the actual quantity and we noted that, had the correct value been used by AWE originally, it would not have altered the disposal route for the waste. Nevertheless, the event identified inadequacies in AWE's management. In response to this, EA recorded two non-compliances with the permit and is monitoring improvement actions being undertaken by AWE.

In addition to previous discussions on radioactive waste discharge monitoring, AWE undertakes a programme of environmental monitoring, which is something they are required to do under the environmental permit. Separately to that programme of work, the regulators including the EA undertake their own independent environmental monitoring. The outputs of that monitoring and the results of the independent environmental monitoring done at other nuclear sites in the UK, are captured in the annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment Report (RIFE). RIFE-27, which covers the 2021 period, essentially brings together the data from the environmental and discharge monitoring programmes. The highlights from that report are that concentrations of radioactivity in food and the environment remain consistent with previous years and shows that radioactivity in food and the environment is safe, at very low levels and is well within legal limits. Specific data covering Aldermaston and Burghfield are included in the report. The data showed that the total dose to the representative person, during 2021, remained at a very low level. For 2021 it was 0.008 mSv. This is a slight increase on the dose from the previous year, which was 0.005 mSv. The legal annual dose limit on exposures of ionising radiation to members of the public is 1 mSv, so you can see that the doses from the Aldermaston and Burghfield monitoring was a fraction of that.

Regarding habits surveys, which I referenced in my report, the information from these surveys is combined with data on the levels of radioactivity found in locally produced foods and the environment to calculate the level of radiation that members of the public are exposed to. The findings are used to confirm the adequacy of current monitoring programmes, to strengthen and update them with a better representation of relevant exposure pathways, and to improve the assessment of doses to members of the public near nuclear licensed sites.

A habits survey covering the areas around the Aldermaston and Burghfield nuclear was jointly commissioned by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the Environment Agency (EA) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and undertaken, on behalf of the Regulators, by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) between 21st and 29th July 2022.

A report of the Aldermaston and Burghfield habits survey will be published by Cefas in 2023.

Questions arising

Cllr McGarvie: Was the root cause analysis of that non-standard disposal because the process wasn't in place or wasn't followed? How was it captured?

Rob Green: The EA's root cause analysis came up with a slightly different answer to AWE's root cause analysis. AWE did a very thorough analysis and judged that its procedures were not adequate. Our view was that the issue was more down to the procedures not being followed correctly. AWE has since provided us with information regarding a number of improvement activities that they are undertaking to prevent a recurrence of a similar issue. EA has reviewed AWE's proposals and has agreed that they are appropriate. EA will continue to monitor AWE's progress against those improvement actions as part of its routine regulatory engagement.

Cllr Slimin: Regarding the habit survey, presumably you select 'real' people, but how do you choose them?

Rob Green: I do not have all the details on how the habit surveys are undertaken, they look at groups of people undertaking certain activities eg. consumption rates of certain food types in certain areas such as those eating river-caught fish. Habits surveys are usually done roughly every 5-7 years.

Cllr Boeck: I noticed a comment about discharge in water into the Burghfield Brook. Does the EA have any responsibility in terms of telling AWE how to maintain watercourses that pass through their premises.

Rob Green: Responsibility for maintenance of watercourses depends on how the particular watercourses are classified. The EA's main role or rather AWE's role is to ensure that what it is discharging from its sites to surface water is appropriately managed and in accordance with its environmental permits. These permits typically include limits on things like suspended solids. In terms of maintenance of the watercourse running through AWE's Burghfield Site, that is not something that the EA is involved with, as it would normally fall to the landowner to maintain.

Community Update

Claire Lockwood
Senior Manager Community Engagement
Corporate Affairs

Due to the sudden end to the meeting Claire was unable to present, but a brief of her presentation is detailed as follows:

Volunteering

Staff at AWE are continuing to utilise AWE's 'Time to Give' programme by volunteering time to share their skills and support the local communities.

Festive Collection 2022

As AWE is now a Non Departmental Public Body, we are not allowed to fundraise as a company. AWE has a strong record of supporting local communities and every year members of staff volunteer to organise and donate to a Christmas charity collection.

Destinations Expo – Newbury

Destinations Expo was an interactive careers fair hosted at Newbury College to raise awareness of the wide range of industries and sectors available locally.

Chris Daniels

Senior Manager, Environmental, Social & Governance

Corporate Affairs

Due to there being a new LLC team and a few new LLC members it is necessary to review how resourceful these meetings are for everyone and if any changes are required.

After the last LLC meeting, a survey was sent to everyone to collect their thoughts. Only eight responses were received and from those it was recognised that everyone who responded was satisfied with the way things are formatted. In terms of the ways of working, three meetings have been organised per year taking place in March, July and November and during Covid these meetings were held virtually and pre-Covid these meetings were all face-to-face.

A vote was held and it was agreed that three sessions a year were adequate with maybe a few smaller sessions being added when necessary to update the committee. It was also agreed that meetings should be face-to-face in the future and that the current meeting length is adequate for the core meeting, however lengthen the meeting if there are more pressing matters to discuss. It would also be good if time was allocated to the members so they could discuss what is happening in the different parishes.

It was noted that although members would like visits to Aldermaston and Burghfield, it was much more convenient to meet at an off-site location without the process of obtaining security passes.

Action 106/09: A visit to the Historical Collection Museum will be arranged for LLC members next year.
(Chris Daniels / Claire Lockwood / Suzanne Chenery)

The ONR are in support of any changes that are made to the frequency of the meetings. Some parts of the industry hold meetings every 6 months and others are quarterly depending on the activities and risk. LLC meetings used to be held during the ONR site inspection weeks, if the meetings were to go back to that format then that would be helpful, however ONR will still support the meetings even if this does not happen.

Finally, in addition to the set agenda it was suggested that education was included as an additional topic, this however is covered in the Community News section.

Questions arising

Cllr Lock: Would it be possible to arrange visits to the Historical Museum for members of the general public. There is a lot of interest in our parishes to find out more about the history of AWE.

Cllr Shirt: Could I mention we recently set up an Aldermaston History Group that would also like to visit the Museum.

Chris Daniels: We shall look into this for you.

Action 106/10: Discuss arrangements for a visit to the Historical Collection Museum for members of the general public. (Chris Daniels / Claire Lockwood / Suzanne Chenery)

Cllr McGarvie: Historically, the LLC meetings were chaired by the CEO. It would be good if at least once a year we could be in the same room as those at a higher level and to see them support us and to let them get a sense of how the community feels rather than someone just from Comms chairing the meeting.

Janine Mantle: I report directly to Ali Atkinson, CEO to which I am here with her authority. I have a strategic role in terms of thinking about where AWE is going both internally and externally and looking after all the activities to prepare the way forward for the business. I shall talk with Ali to say that it would be appreciated if she attended these meetings sometimes but please appreciate that due to her time constraints, her direct reports are expected to do more on her behalf.

Proposed 2023 LLC Meeting Dates

25th April - AWE RecSoc, Aldermaston

18th October - AWE RecSoc, Aldermaston