



**Minutes of the 82nd AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
Holiday Inn, Padworth**

**Present:**

Fiona Rogers	Head of Corporate Communications, Acting LLC Chair
Cllr Lynn Austin	Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	West Berkshire
Cllr Dominic Boeck	West Berkshire
Cllr Mike Broad	Tadley Town Council
Cllr John Chapman	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holybrook Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Cllr Ian Morrin	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Charlene Myers	West Berkshire Council
Madeleine Adams	West Berkshire Council
Cllr John Robertson	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr Mollie Lock	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Keith Gilbert	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish Council
Cllr Steve Spillane	Silchester Borough Council
Cllr Jane Stanford-Beale	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Clive Vare	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Jonathan Richards	Basingstoke and Deane
Cllr Barbara Jones	Theale Parish Council
Mr. Jeff Moss	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Mark Hedges	Site Manager
Carolyn Porter	AWE – LLC Secretary
Philippa Kent	AWE
Nick Bolton	AWE
Liz Pearce	AWE
John Steele	AWE
Peter Caddock	AWE
Dave Griffiths	AWE
Kevin Cole	AWE
Supt James Russell	MDP

**Regulators:**

Andrew Pembroke	Environment Agency
Stuart Carey-Hodges	Environment Agency
Bruce Archer	Office of Nuclear Regulation

## Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Penee Chopping, Roger Gardiner, Gerald Hale, Marian Livingston, Royce Longton, Barrie Patman, Richard Smith and Carolyn Richardson. Apologies also received from AWE representatives Kevin Bilger and Haydn Clulow.

## Actions from the last meeting

<b>Action 1/81</b> Traffic in general to be one of the topics covered at the next LLC meeting.
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Covered by the Site presentation at this meeting.
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<b>Action closed</b>
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The Minutes of the 81st Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

## Membership Changes

Since June there have been a couple of changes to the LLC's membership. Cllr Dominic Boeck, representing West Berkshire, replaces Irene Neill who stood down in June. Jonathan Richards takes over from Marilyn Tucker, representing Basingstoke and Deane and Barbara Jones representing Theale replaces David Wood.

Members were introduced to Bruce Archer, Principal Inspector, from the Office of Nuclear Regulation who replaces Gary Booth.

## 1. Chairman's update

### Improving our operations

Members were told that work continues across the company to improve its operations. Some of the changes made to date include bringing new facilities on line which provide more efficient working environments for its people. AWE's new conventional manufacturing facility at Burghfield – known as Phoenix - is an example of this.

AWE has also looked at how changing its working patterns can lead to greater efficiencies. In June LLC members were briefed on AWE's plans to move to a new nine day fortnight working pattern. This was introduced in August and has been operating successfully, with no reports of adverse impact on the local community.

At the end of July, AWE also announced its plans for reviewing the shape and size of its workforce. This will result in a reduction in roles in some support functions and activities of the business where appropriate. Under no circumstances will the safety, security or quality of the product or programme delivery be compromised by these proposed reductions.

The company is committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies as far as possible and is continuing consultation with its Trades Unions. There is a comprehensive programme of support for those whose roles are affected. AWE will explore alternative opportunities including staff re-deployment, part-time working and job sharing where this is appropriate. Voluntary redundancy and outplacement support is also in place.

Critical areas such as Science, Engineering and Technology and Production are not affected and investment in AWE's capability remains a key priority. Recruitment to fill critical skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics is ongoing and AWE's Graduate and Apprentice programmes continue. In fact 42 new apprentices joined the Skills Academy earlier this month and AWE's educational outreach programmes remain key to supporting the recruitment pipeline.

### **Company awards and memberships**

AWE was delighted to be awarded the Institute of Physics (IOP) Best Practice in Professional Development Award and its industry-leading graduate programme has been reaccredited for the next three years.

EMCOR, a key supplier to AWE, won the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Award (industry sector category) in recognition of their environment, safety and health performance across our sites. This achievement is also testament to the strong collaborative working between both parties.

AWE has become an industrial member of the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) Membership of the MTC gives its scientists and engineers unprecedented access to world-leading experts - through its strong network of academics and links to different industry sectors. This is expected to strengthen AWE's programme delivery, which is an important facet of its corporate change programme.

### **Community engagement**

The last three months have been a busy time for AWE out in the community. In addition to the highly successful Community Showcase event which took place in June and the launch at the beginning of September of the new AWESome Education Zone, AWE also launched the digital community story book on the website. This project captures the rich history and heritage of AWE's sites, alongside the breadth of work carried out over the past 60 years, through stories, pictures and film from members of the community and ex AWE staff.

Last Friday (25th) AWE was delighted to be part of the Aldermaston and Wasing Parish WW1 Centenary Plaque Commemoration service. The new plaque, commissioned for the village of Aldermaston, Berkshire, by AWE includes the names of 44 servicemen who gave their lives in the defence of this nation.

David Whithorn, AWE historian, was instrumental in bringing this cross-community project to life. His research using contemporary records identified 16 additional names alongside those from existing memorials. Children from Aldermaston Church of England (CoE) Primary School were invited to hand-write the names of these local men and with David's help, learn about the stories and sacrifices, made by so many during the Great War.

Members were advised that the fieldwork for AWE's Voice of the Stakeholder survey has started and will continue through October.

**Finally, AWE is sad to report the death of Kate Pyne, AWE's leading technical historian. Members may recall Kate's excellent presentation last year on the history of the nuclear deterrent. She provided a unique information bridge between the inside world of AWE scientists and technicians with outside scholars. Her passing is a great loss to our organisation.**

## Environment, Safety and Health Update

**Nick Bolton, ESH Service Delivery Lead**

### Performance during the period

Nick Bolton gave an overview of the perfect day performance covering the period April to June 2015. He reported that there were 29 perfect days in the period.

There have been zero permit breaches in the period and no upheld community complaints. The OSHA First aid rate shows a 16% improvement over last year. The OSHA Total Recordable Injury rate was 0.48 and we continue to strive towards a world class performance rate of 0.35.

### Annual Reports

Members were advised that both the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and Defence Nuclear Site Regulator (DNSR) publish an Annual Report detailing performance through the past year and focus points for the coming year. These are available on their websites. In addition, summaries ONR's Intervention reports for AWE sites are also available on the ONR website.

### Questions on Environment, Safety and Health Update

**Cllr Shirt** asked for clarity and definition over what constitutes a 'valid community complaint' **Fiona Rogers** advised all community concerns are reviewed carefully in accordance with our Community Concerns policy. She took an action to provide a definition of those that are assessed as genuine to all members.

Action 1/82 Definition of community complaint to be provided to all members
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<b>Action ongoing</b>
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### Site Update

**Mark Hedges, Site Manager**

Mark Hedges updated the meeting on protestor activity over recent months.

This has included the AWE Women's Peace Camp' peaceful protest on the second weekend of each month which coincided with the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Both protests passed without any disruption to site operations.

A known protestor caused some criminal damage to the outer fence line at the Burghfield site in August. The protestor was arrested and subsequently bailed with conditions set.

As is the case to date, members will be advised of future known protest activity that may impact on our local communities.

## **AWE's Higher Activity Waste Programme**

**Geoff Druce, HAW Programme Lead**

Geoff Druce gave an overview and understanding of AWE's Higher Activity Waste (HAW) programme which includes Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and certain Low Level Waste (LLW). (See supporting presentation on the AWE website)

He confirmed the organisation does not generate or hold any HLW and that its HAW is largely created as a result of decommissioning of legacy facilities.

AWE is committed to hazard reduction and focus on waste minimization, improved segregation and good storage and surveillance. Delivering safe and secure operations is a core priority for AWE as is continuous improvement in environmental performance. This includes an enduring commitment to manage its waste in a safe and compliant manner. ONR acknowledge that AWE's arrangements for managing the storage of Higher Activity Waste at its Aldermaston site does not give rise to significant risk to the health and safety of the public or its workforce in the short or medium term.

### **Questions arising from HAW presentation:**

**Cllr Bridgman** asked why AWE failed to meet License Instrument 511.

**Geoff Druce** explained that AWE accepted that they would be unable to deliver what they agreed to within the set timescales. He added that AWE's commitment to managing its waste safely and in compliance with regulations is enduring.

Licence Instrument 511 was issued in 2007 and relates to medium and long term management of accumulated Intermediate Level Waste (ILW). AWE undertook to provide a facility to carry out these operations at the Aldermaston site. In 2011 the Company reached the view that the proposed option was unlikely to be the best solution to the ILW problem. In August 2011 AWE Plc informed ONR that it would not be able to meet the terms of the LI511 due date of February 2014. An investigation by ONR followed and in April this year the ONR concluded that it was satisfied that the current short term conditions under which waste is stored are acceptable and do not give rise to significant risk to the public or the workforce.

**Cllr Chapman** asked whether both Aldermaston and Burghfield sites have a storage facility.

**Geoff Druce** confirmed only Aldermaston has storage facilities.

**Cllr Whittaker** asked where Pangbourne Pipeline (PPL) fits in terms of 'waste' categorization and decommissioning priorities.

**Mark Hedges**. Residual waste in the pipeline is low level waste. AWE's decommissioning programme is under constant review with both the customer and regulator.

**Cllr Robertson** asked what impact the decision over the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) will have on AWE's waste programme.

**Mark Hedges** confirmed that the decision is not due to be made until 2016 and discussions over the impact will not take place until that decision is made.

## **Planning and Estate Development Briefing**

**John Steele, Planning & Development Manager**

### **Planning Applications**

John Steel gave members a quick update on planning applications. He advised members that the flood alleviation scheme has started and that James Lane is due to be closed in about six months for a period of time yet to be confirmed.

### **Off-site Developments**

Members were told of the proposal by a private developer to build c250 houses on the grounds of Aldermaston Manor and consequent demolition of Portland House and Oxford House. The pre-application is with West Berkshire Council; consideration will include the impact of this proposed residential development on the WBC Emergency Plan.

### **Travel and Transport**

John Steele reported that the introduction of the 9 day fortnight on the 17 August this year has not had any additional impacts on local roads. The A340 gate is closed and a new internal access and egress gate by Orion became operational.

The new travel plan (to be published in October 2015) includes a statement relating to both onsite and offsite behaviours, accompanied by regular AWE portal announcements.

Speed identification Devices (SIDs) are available on loan to LLC parishes with an approved Community Speed Watch Scheme. Currently Ashford Hill with Headley and Silchester Parish Councils benefit.

### **Questions on Planning and Estate Development Briefing**

**Cllr Chapman** asked if the roundabouts are to be demolished  
**John Steele** confirmed that they would remain

**Cllr Spillane** mentioned that he had been unable to find the 2014 travels plan on the AWE website.

<p><b>Action 2/82: Fiona Rogers</b> to ensure 2014 Travel Plan is accessible on the AWE website; <b>John Steele</b> to provide copy direct to Cllr Spillane</p>
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**Action ongoing**

**Cllr McGarvie** asked whether there is a 'Cycle to Work' component within the travel plan.  
**John Steele** confirmed this to be so.

## Ministry of Defence Police – Overview

### Superintendent Jimmy Russell

**Superintendent Jimmy Russell** representing the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) gave an overview of the MDP role and collaboration with AWE. The purpose of the MDP is to deliver unique specialist policing to protect the nation's defences and national infrastructure.

The MDP are not military but a civilian force providing a service to the Ministry of Defence. Over recent months, there has been a conscious increase in local community MDP traffic patrols. Whilst not empowered to police traffic offences, their presence on local roads often acts as a deterrent to potential speeding offenders. Supt Russell confirmed patrols cover most of the parishes represented on the LLC.

### Ask the Regulators

**Bruce Archer, Principal Inspector** from ONR introduced himself and briefed members on his background. He drew members' attention to the latest issue of ONR's Site Report and asked for questions.

**Cllr Bridgman** asked for ONR's position on the reason for the recent improvement notice.(ref LI511)

**Bruce Archer** endorsed the answer Geoff Druce gave earlier during the meeting. It had become evident that the option chosen had not produced the expected result. The ONR concur that current storage does not pose significant risk to the health and safety of the public or AWE's workforce in the short to medium term.

**Cllr Richards** asked the ONR about their influence over the proposed housing development on the Manor House grounds.

**Bruce Archer** told members that they are a statutory contributor to the planning application process and in due course will be assessing the impact such a development would have on the emergency plan.

**Cllr Shirt** asked when the review of the DEPZ would be finalised.

**Bruce Archer** was unable to provide an answer due to his limited time in the role.

<b>Action 3/82</b> Bruce Archer to confirm expected timescale for completion of the review
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<b>Action ongoing</b>
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**Cllr Gilbert** referred to Section 4 of the ONR report for the period and asked for clarification on LI531 regarding the agreement to modification of the MENSA stack design.

**John Steel** advised that the amendment relates to a reduction in the number and size of stacks.

**Cllr Chishick** referred to the paragraph in the Environment Agency (EA) report relating to the Pangbourne Pipeline (PPL), and asked if 'short term' could be defined.

**Andrew Pembroke** of the EA advised that that this has not been defined.

**Mark Hedges** added MOD, EA and AWE had met during the summer and agreed next steps. The existing BAT assessment is being reviewed and updated; this will include a preferred option. This updated BAT assessment will be submitted to the customer for review and response. Once an agreed way forward has been reached by all parties, close stakeholders (affected land owners) be updated on current status, options considered, preferred option and likely timescales.

### **Community Engagement Update**

**Fiona Rogers, Head of Corporate Communications**

Fiona Rogers gave an overview of the showcase delivered in June, its success and the positive feedback received. She went on to explain some of the statistics in relation to the recent customer survey and told members that these results confirmed the event more than met its objectives.

Members were told about the launch of the AWE's Digital Storybook early in August which captures AWE's scientific and engineering achievements and innovations both past and present.

A Centenary Great War Plaque commissioned by AWE for the parish of Aldermaston & Wasing, Berkshire, was dedicated on 25th September in a special ceremony attended at St Mary's Church Aldermaston.

Wave 2 of the Community Survey is underway and follows the same themes as the survey conducted in 2014. It will compare community stakeholders' perceptions and attitudes of the organisations against Wave 1 results in 2014 and provide a measure of the impact of the increase activity over the last few months. Results should be available at the March 2016 LLC meeting.

### **AWEsome Education Zone**

**Philippa Kent, Chair, AWE Schools Liaison Scheme**

Philippa Kent talked to members about this new resource for STEM students and teachers. A dedicated section has been set up on the AWE website which is now the single 'go to place' for information and downloadable resources. Feedback has been very positive both from local teachers and those further afield. Members were encouraged to visit the zone and spread the word.

### **Any other business**

**Cllr Vare** asked whether there are any planned changes to the times of future meetings.

**Fiona Rogers** confirmed the timing of today's meeting was a result of the need to reschedule the date. Future meetings remain scheduled for Wednesday mornings and some will be held at offsite

**Cllr Shirt** commented that communications from Scottish & Southern Energy Power

Distribution (SSEPD) in connection with the new sub-station have been very poor and asked if AWE could register collective disappointment with SSEPD.

**Fiona Rogers** acknowledged Cllr Shirt's comments and confirmed these will be followed up direct with the contractor involved.

**Cllr Montgomery** asked about the status of the AWE ML contract

**Fiona Rogers** advised that commercial arrangements in place between the MOD and AWE ML are a matter for the MOD.

**Cllr Spillane** asked why there were only four females in this years' apprentice intake, Fiona Rogers confirmed this represented 10% of the total and is an important demonstration to our support to the national WISE (Women In Science and Engineering) programme. AWE is also a member of the 5% Club, an initiative that requires companies to commit 5% of their workforce to apprenticeships, student or graduate training programmes. Our current level is 5.4%.

**Remaining 2015 Meeting Dates**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**2016 Meeting Dates**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

*Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June*

*Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September*

*Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December*

**Carolyn Porter**  
**LLC Secretary**