

## Wylfa New Build Project Liaison Group (PLG)

### MINUTES

Minutes of the Wylfa New Build Project Liaison Group held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 5.30pm in the Horizon Wylfa Office.

#### Attendees (in alphabetical order by organisation):

Organisation	Name	Surname
Amlwch Community Council	Val	Roberts
Anglesey Agricultural Society	John	Chamberlain
Bodorgan Trust	Melanie	Wymer
Chairman, PLG	Dennis	Evans
Cwmni Cemaes Cyf	Eric	Torr
Energy Island Programme	John Idris	Jones
Isle of Anglesey Council Children and Young People's Partnership	Arwel	Williams
Job Centre Plus	Damian	Hamilton
Llanbadrig Community Council	Elfed	Jones
Llanbadrig Community Council	Allan	Kerry
Llaneilian Community Council	Helen	Woodcock
Llanfachraeth Community Council	Bleddyn	Rowlands
Llanfaethlu Community Council	Peter	Jones
MP for Conwy	Guto	Bebb MP
Magnox	Gordon	Malcolm
Menter Mechell/Carrog Renewables/PLG Vice Chair	Jac	Jones
National Farmers Union	Will	Edwards
Public Health Wales	Sarah	Andrews
Tref Alaw Community Council	Anna M	Jones
Wylfa Retirees Association	Tom	Conway
Ynys Mon Citizens Advice Bureau	Karen	Garrod
Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones	Jean	Jones
Ysgol Thomas Jones	Aaron	Bailey
Ysgol Thomas Jones	Callum	Davies
Ysgol Thomas Jones	Naomi	Evans
<b>Members of the public</b>		
	Michael	Dodds
	Derek	Gadsdon
	Iorwerth	Gray-Parry

	Tim	Poole
	Steve	Roberts
	Cheryl	Griffiths
	Trevor	Jones
	J.C	Jones
<b>Apologies</b>		
Anglesey YFC	Elen	Jones
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales / YDCW	Gwynne	Morris Jones
Energy Island	Linda Wyn	Jones
Environment Agency Wales	Iwan	Williams
FUW (Farmers Union Wales)	Heidi	Williams
Holyhead Town Council	Clifford	Everett
Isle of Anglesey County Council	Carys	Edwards
Local Welsh Assembly Member	Ieuan Wyn	Jones
Member of Parliament	Albert	Owen MP
Member of the Public	Mel	O'Hara
National Assembly for Wales	Mark	Isherwood
National Trust Wales	Richard	Williams
PLG Vice Chair / Menter Mechell / Carrog Renewables	Jac	Jones
Representative of Anglesey County Council	Dylan	Williams
Representative of Conwy County Council	Stuart	Anderson
Welsh Water	Angela	Meadows
Ynys Môn Citizen's Advice Bureau	Jackie	Blackwell
Ysgol Uwchradd David Hughes	Brian	Jones

If your name has been inadvertently missed from this list or recorded inaccurately, please contact Horizon on 0800 954 9516 or at [wylfaenquiries@horizonnuclearpower.com](mailto:wylfaenquiries@horizonnuclearpower.com).

## **1 Welcome from the chair**

The Chairman, Dennis Evans (DE), welcomed everyone to the meeting. He felt that it had been some time since the last meeting and that the timing was very appropriate following speculation in the press recently regarding the purchase of Horizon Nuclear Power.

DE also welcomed Charlie Tasker (CT) and Alan Smith (AS) from Horizon, as well as John Idris Jones (JIJ), Energy Island Programme Manager, and Gordon Malcolm (GM) from Magnox.

## **2 Apologies and minutes**

Apologies were received and the minutes of the last PLG meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012) were agreed as a true and accurate record of events and approved by members.

### **3 Matters arising from previous meeting**

- DE stated that National Grid was preparing to announce its consultation into addressing capacity issues and network improvements in North Wales. As a result, National Grid would not be available at this meeting. DE encouraged members to attend National Grid's consultation once announced

*Post meeting note: National Grid's consultation has since been announced and more information can be found at [www.nationalgrid.com/northwalesconnection](http://www.nationalgrid.com/northwalesconnection)*

- Tom Conway (TC) stated he was not happy with the Government's commitment to new nuclear. He asked whether the issue has been raised with Charles Hendry
  - CT replied the issue had been raised but Horizon felt there was strong support from UK Government, the Welsh Government and locally.

### **4 Horizon Nuclear Power sale process update – Charlie Tasker, Director of Project Development, Horizon Nuclear Power**

- CT thanked everyone for their support.
- CT explained that Horizon had continued to work on the project since RWE and E.ON announced their decision to withdraw for UK nuclear power on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Horizon's main role had been to progress elements of the project in order to make the business ready for a sale. CT noted that local people may have seen some activity around the site as a result of ongoing survey work.
- CT emphasised the project has strong Government support. He said Government believe nuclear remains a key element of its energy policy and Wylfa is considered one of the very best sites. In June, David Jones, the Secretary of State for Wales, visited Wylfa and reiterated the Government's support for new nuclear.
- CT said Horizon's main aim is to support the sale of Horizon and ensure that once a new owner is confirmed, it is in a good position to progress the project.

### **5 Project and site development update – Alan Smith, Head of Site Development, Horizon Nuclear Power**

- AS said that site studies had been ongoing over the summer, including seismic work and ground water monitoring. AS explained that when applying for planning consent, several years' worth of data is required. He emphasised the site is known to be suitable from both a geological and geographical perspective.
- AS explained the A5025 was still being assessed, taking into account alignment, width, access and other constraints. This needed to be completed in order to develop proposals for possible improvements to the route. As part of this project, AS

said a letter outlining a series of walk-over studies along the Jam Factory Road (Cemlyn Road) would be sent to local residents.

- AS said that Horizon had formally taken over the Magnox Learning and Development buildings as their site office. The site had been identified as the best place for the office, and AS was pleased to be able to welcome everyone to the new site office for this PLG meeting.
- AS said that improvement works had been carried out to a number of properties on the land Horizon owns to ensure they meet the needs of current and future tenants.
- AS stated that Horizon had identified 11 derelict buildings (including boarded up houses, outbuildings and abandoned caravans) that needed to be removed due to health and safety concerns. Safety and security is paramount to Horizon.
- AS said that consideration had been given to ensuring protected species are not disturbed during these works, and that they can be relocated where necessary. Recycling materials and minimising waste is also seen as an integral part of the demolition works.
- AS said that signs had been put up by the empty properties to discourage unauthorised access. As a responsible landlord, it has to be ensured that people do not go into the properties. Contact details are provided on the signs, with Horizon site manager, Darren Hodges, listed as a contact point.
- AS said that public engagement was ongoing and Horizon has continued to hold its monthly Open Surgeries. These are important and the team has been encouraged by the number of attendees. Horizon was also at the Anglesey Show for the fourth year in a row and received a good level of support. AS also said a presentation was given at a Nuclear Industry Association and Welsh Government North Wales supply chain event in Llangefni in early September, to outline future business opportunities with Horizon.
- AS highlighted issues with fishing close to Wylfa Head. He said that a recent incident had resulted in a rescue operation and had prompted Horizon to install health and safety signs near the existing station's outfall.
- AS said that the National Grid connection remains in place and National Grid's forthcoming consultation will outline how the network could be strengthened across North Wales. Importantly, National Grid's project has changed significantly since 2008 and now involves the need to connect more sources of energy, including proposed offshore wind generation. AS encouraged members to be involved in the consultation.

- AS congratulated Horizon's Tom Hurford (TH) and the Wylfa Retirees Association's Tom Conway on their recent successes. TH has recently gained a first class honours degree at the University of Salford along with an Academic Certificate of Excellence by the Chartered Institute of Building. Lieutenant Commander Tom Conway – a PLG member and a former senior commissioning engineer at Wylfa – had received an Honorary Award from Swansea University, having originally graduated with a degree in Physics and Pure Mathematics from the university in 1951.

## Q&A

- Before commencing on the questions for items three and four on the Agenda, the Chairman referred to an article which had appeared in the Financial Times on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, suggesting that the closing date for bids was at the end of September. Horizon representatives present said they were unable to comment on media speculation as the sale process was being managed by their shareholders.
- TC said he was still very doubtful about commitment from the Government. He referred to the recent tender for the West Coast Rail contract which was worth billions of pounds and supported by private sector investment. He felt it was time for those working in the City of London to consider nuclear power as an investment opportunity.
  - DE said he had asked Mr Hendry why the Government wasn't 'tapping into' money from the city of London. The response was that Government was not financing new nuclear and it was therefore not appropriate
  - TC and AS also added that City investors generally looked for opportunities that would offer short term returns. Investing in nuclear power generation offers returns over a much longer period than would be acceptable to those investors.
- Damian Hamilton (DH) from Jobcentre Plus noted that his main interest is employment and helping people achieve the right qualifications. He raised concerns about the timescales for the project and what this meant for jobseekers and young people on Anglesey.
  - Claire Loveday (CL), Horizon Nuclear Power, said this is an important subject and Horizon is very keen to see progress when it has clarity on the project timescales
  - CT said that Horizon is looking to the first quarter of 2013 for clarity over timescales. CT said he expected to see around 5,000 people on site during peak construction and during the first few years of development, Horizon would be working with local colleges to promote the sector and the project.
  - CL said there will be around 800 jobs during operation, which include everything from the nuclear sciences to human resources and project management.

- Richard Foxhall (RF), Horizon Nuclear Power, said that promoting jobs in the sector has been a focus for Horizon recently and he has attended a number of skills events in North Wales.
- John Chamberlain (JC) asked whether the announcement that Japan is pulling back from nuclear power might lead to a negative response from both supporters of nuclear new build in the UK and from potential bidders for Horizon?
  - CT stated that they had been monitoring support for nuclear and did not believe that this would affect the UK's energy policy.
- JC said local coastguards were concerned that access via the Wylfa site would be maintained.
  - AS noted Horizon holds meetings with all the emergency services and protocols had been set up. Conversations are ongoing and updates would be provided. He said there was no issue over coast guard access but would happily speak with JC on the matter immediately following the meeting.
  - A representative from the Cemaes Coastguard Team confirmed they have no problems with access and had always enjoyed a good relationship with Horizon. They were keen to ensure access is maintained during construction.
- Derek Gadsdon (DG) asked whether a harbour facility would be developed to bring materials to site.
  - AS replied that a Materials Offloading Facility – MOLF – is an important part of the development. The team had assessed Porth yr Ogof, but Porth y Pistyll was now considered a better option. The exact proposals will be determined once a buyer is confirmed and the project is able to progress to consultation.
- TC asked whether Horizon and National Grid could share consultations and avoid the need for two sets of events.
  - DE replied that the National Grid has set their consultation strategies and there is a legal procedure they now have to follow.
  - CL noted that there would be representatives from Horizon attending National Grid's consultation events.
- Peter Jones (PJ) said that twelve months ago Horizon approached a lot of landowners along the A5025 to discuss potential plans for improvements to the road. He was concerned that the landowners concerned hadn't been kept up to date with developments and that more of an effort should be made to keep people informed.
  - AS said that a newsletter had been circulated to all 33,000 residential addresses on the island and the Open Surgeries continued on a monthly basis. One-to-one conversations had also continued.
  - Arfon Jones (AJ) felt that Horizon shouldn't be telling people what is happening, they should be consulting them.

- CT said that he welcomed the feedback and that Horizon was keen to address this issue.
- **Post meeting note:** *Horizon wrote to this particular group of residents on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – post the announcement from its shareholders – to provide an update and offer one-to-one meetings. Following the feedback at this PLG meeting, Horizon wrote again to these residents on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012 reiterating its offer to meet on a one-to-one basis and answer questions. AS met with PJ and AJ to discuss communications following the meeting.*

## **6 Any other business**

- DE welcomed John Idris Jones (JIJ), Head of the Energy Island Programme, to give an update.
- JIJ thanked everyone for the opportunity to talk about Energy Island.
- JIJ expressed that Energy Island isn't just about Horizon, it includes many other developments, such as the Rhiannon Wind Farm, marine turbine developments for the Skerries, a biomass power station in Holyhead, a new development near the Anglesey Aluminium site and many other projects to provide employment in Gwynedd, Anglesey and Conwy.
- JIJ said they were still looking to ensure that the community benefited from these developments.
- JIJ explained the importance of making sure that young people have skills. They were working with Prentis Menai, a company that is supported by Gwynedd, Anglesey and Conwy County Councils and Horizon, and the Welsh Government to take on 70 apprentices for three years.
- JIJ said that one core issue on Anglesey is broadband access. Through the Enterprise Zone, the Welsh Government says that Anglesey will receive next generation broadband over the next three to four years.
- DE introduced Gordon Malcolm (GM), Site Director at Wylfa for Magnox. He stated that Magnox was committed to safe and secure generation and that being a good neighbour is a priority. He mentioned a recent visit to site by new Secretary of State, David Jones MP. He felt it was clear that David Jones was interested in Horizon's work and found it very encouraging.
- DE suggested that the next PLG meeting could be held in November.

## **7 CLOSE**

- The meeting came to an end at 7.15pm.