

Wylfa Newydd Project Liaison Group (PLG)

MINUTES

Minutes of the Wylfa Newydd Project Liaison Group held on Thursday 15 October 2015 in the Eleth and Eilian Rooms adjacent to the Wylfa Newydd site office.

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Cllr Aled Morris Jones	Twrcelyn ward
Alun Roberts	Môn CF
Anna M Jones	Tref Alaw Community Council
Anne Jones	Morgan Evans & Co LTD
Dafydd Rhys Thomas	Ynys Gybi
Daryl Williams	Unite the Union
Cllr Elfed Jones	Llanbadrig Community Council
Eric Torr	Cwmni Cemaes Cyf/ Ynni Talybolion
Gwilym Williams	Clough & Co
Jeffrey M. Evans	Ynys Gybi
Margaret Thomas	Ynys Môn- Citizen's Advice Bureau
Sarah Andrews	Public Health Wales
Tom Conway	Wylfa Retirees Association/ Cemaes Bay Football Club
Cllr Trefor Jones	Tref Alaw Community Council
Will Edwards	NFU (National Farmers Union)
Cllr William Thomas Hughes	Twrcelyn ward
Wyn Thomas	Coleg Menai/ Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Director Resources & Development
Trefor Jones	Prifysgol Bangor
Simon Jones	Morgan Evans
Neil Gore	Welsh Water
Craig ab Iago	On behalf of Rhun ap Iorwerth AM
Members of the public	
Mel O'Hara	Member of the public

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Abi Hughes	Taran Disability
Adam Williams	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi
Aled Roberts	Welsh Assembly Regional Member for North Wales
Alli Hunt	Nuclear Skills Academy for Nuclear
Alun Ffred Jones AM	Assembly Member - Arfon
Annette Jones	Anglesey Federation of the WI
Arthur Owen	Director of Sustainable Development, Isle of Anglesey County Council
Carys Edwards	Head of HR, Isle of Anglesey County Council
Dafydd Elis Thomas AM	Dwyfor Meirionnydd

David Shepherd	Prifysgol Bangor
Dewi Morgan	Representative of Gwynedd Council
Enid Williams	Isle of Anglesey Youth Service
Guto Bebb MP	Aberconwy
Cllr Gwilym O Jones	Llifon ward
Gwynne Morris Jones	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales/ YDCW
Helen George	Food Standards Agency
Hywel Williams MP	Arfon
Jackie Blackwell	Ynys Môn – Citizen’s Advice Bureau
Janet Finch Saunders AM	Conwy
Jean Jones	Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones
John Chamberlain	Anglesey Agricultural Society/ Holyhead Rotary Club
Cllr John Jukes	Llannerch y medd Community Council
Cllr Kenneth P Hughes	Talybolion ward
Llyr Gruffydd AM	Welsh Assembly Regional Member for North Wales
Mark Isherwood AM	Welsh Assembly Regional Member for North Wales
Maurice Core	NDAQ Site Representative/ OCNS
Melanie Wymer	Bodorgan Trust
Meryl Davies	Merched y Wawr
Paddy McNaught	Unite the Union
Phil Scott	Anglesey Tourism Partnership
Simon Roscoe	North Wales Police
Steve Graham	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Trevor Howes	CNC- Stakeholder Liaison Officer/ Nuclear New Build Single Point of Contact
W Raymond Evans	Anglesey Federation of Small Businesses
Members of the public	
Jill Evans	
Michael Dodds	

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.

For general project information or to ask Horizon any questions, please contact the team on 0800 954 9516 or at wylfaenquiries@horizonnuclearpower.com and visit www.horizonnuclearpower.com

You can access these minutes and all the presentations from the PLG meeting via www.wylfaplq.com

1. Welcome from the chair

- The Chairman, Dennis Evans (DE), welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Dr Tom Conway (TC) noted that he had not been included in the attendees list. Other than that the minutes of the last meeting (21 May 2015) were agreed as a true and correct record of proceedings and approved by members.

3. Matters arising

- Members raised Conygar's recent acquisition of land at the former Shell site near Rhosgoch from The Isle of Anglesey Charitable Trust and asked if more information was available. Greg Evans (GE) from Horizon Nuclear Power advised that Horizon was aware of the development too but wasn't in possession of any more information than had been made available in the public announcement. He committed to keeping PLG members informed on this point.
- TC asked whether anything could be done about local bus services in relation to Horizon's traffic and transport plans. He described the bus services to and from Cemaes Bay at the moment as 'atrocious', with no improvements likely. Even though there is a bus between Bangor and Amlwch every 30 minutes, the same service is not available between Amlwch and Holyhead and there is no connection between the Arriva 62 service and the Lewis y Llan 61 service. He asked whether the PLG could help resolve this issue. DE noted that several county councillors were in attendance at the meeting and he urged TC to speak with his local councillor if he hadn't done so already.
- DE said that information regarding the National Grid North Wales Connection Project consultation had been distributed recently and he hoped that everyone had received the related information through the post.
- DE advised that Martin Kinsey, National Grid, has moved on to a new role. TC asked that the PLG put on record their thanks to National Grid for his valuable contribution during his tenure.

4. Presentation from the new vice chair - Wyn Thomas, Coleg Menai / Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

- Wyn Thomas (WT) thanked everyone in the PLG for his election as the new vice chair and promised to fulfil the role to the best of his abilities.
- WT briefly explained the structure of Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (GLLM), stating that the College was established as a result of a merger between Coleg Llandrillo and Coleg Menai. It is the largest further education college in Wales and about the fifth largest in the UK, with approximately 27,000 students enrolled and around 2,000 paid staff.
- WT said that the purpose of Grŵp Llandrillo Menai was to equip people with skills for jobs. He stated that nine out of 10 jobs during the construction phase would require a technical or vocational qualification rather than a degree. The same would also be true with eight out of nine jobs during the operational phase. WT added that there would be a £12m to £14m investment in the Llangefni campus by September 2018, in effect doubling the size of the campus. The Welsh Government had been very supportive in this regard.
- WT went on to explain his role in the PLG, which is constructive engagement – with particular regard to training and skills. He said he needs to glean an understanding of the skills needed for the Project to ensure that the right skills are delivered at the right time and on the right scale. WT emphasised that the aim was to prioritise and support the procurement of relevant skills in the local community, and that they would be pushing hard for local people to take advantage of employment opportunities.

- WT said that there was no reason for people not to take advantage of this huge opportunity, both in the short and long term. WT reminded the meeting that this project would be bigger than the London Olympics in terms of investment.
- WT explained that Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, as a public body, has no political position regarding nuclear power and that their aim and passion is to equip young people with the skills necessary to gain good jobs in the area and make a real difference locally. Currently, 600 young people are leaving the area every year and not returning. This is a major concern which is making the local communities less sustainable.
- Dafydd Rhys Thomas asked what learning opportunities exist for people who work between 9am and 5pm but want to learn new skills to benefit from these new opportunities.
 - WT advised him that the first port of call is the College prospectus. He added that there are short courses available, usually over 2 or 3 days. People sometimes take a short holiday off work to attend these. There are also evening courses (the facilities are now open until 7 or 8pm) and e-courses available that fit around full-time employment or childcare.
 - The College also provides training courses for businesses with local employers approaching the College to up skill the workforce.

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5. Wylfa Newydd Project progress update – Greg Evans, Site Operations Director

- Greg Evans (GE) opened by saying how pleased he is to be back at Wylfa. He believes Wylfa Newydd is the right development, at the right time, in the right place. It has a real role to play as part of the UK's diverse energy generation mix.
- He reminded the meeting of the difficulties the existing Wylfa Power Station had faced during his first few years at the power station, most notably a 15 month period of shutdown. GE admitted that it was a difficult time, requiring a massive effort both in terms of engineering and maintaining morale. They had recovered well and operations started again but those fond memories from his earliest days at the station remain as the decommissioning date now approaches.
- GE discussed the important role the existing Wylfa station played in the local community and the fact it was part of the local cultural fabric. He said 81 – 85 per cent of the workers while he was at Wylfa spoke Welsh, compared to 56 per cent of the Anglesey population. He said English was the language of business and used as the lowest common denominator. His suggestion was that people shouldn't be scared Wylfa Newydd will impact negatively on the Welsh language.
- GE explained that for the last six years he had been working in London with Centrica, an energy and services company. He said that his family had remained in Anglesey during this time while he commuted to London, so he was delighted to be back.
- GE discussed job creation and said that the university, schools, colleges and service providers should start building the training pipeline in order to secure rewarding careers for local people. GE said that the most in-demand skill at the moment was the right sort of attitude and behaviour. He added that

he wanted to create a supportive environment where people took the initiative and started to consider what they could do to make the most of the opportunities that would be created.

- GE said that the aim was to attract and retain talent for the next 80 years. He noted that many of the future plant reactor operators for Wylfa Newydd were probably between 12 and 18 years old at the moment.
- GE discussed the supply chain event that was held in Llandudno in July. The feedback had been overwhelmingly positive and it was a useful event for outlining the opportunities and challenges posed by the project. He admitted that Horizon can't deliver this project on its own. They will need to integrate with the market – but businesses need to start preparing immediately too.
- On education and training, GE said that now was the time to train up young and inexperienced people to the required standard and beyond. They will need to be ready for employment in 2019/2020.
- GE added that raising interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects in schools/colleges/universities is key. The new Horizon apprenticeship scheme will launch in 2016, and GE said that Horizon is still funding Coleg Menai's Cwmni Prentis Menai apprenticeship scheme, to the sum of £360,000 to date.
- GE concluded by saying that he hoped the community felt engaged in the process of developing Wylfa Newydd, but he always wanted to know if Horizon could be doing more. He said that he welcomed difficult questions, and if anyone wasn't happy, they should contact him, preferably by e-mail. GE promised to reply to any queries within 24 hours.
 - DE thanked GE and asked if there were any questions.
- Jeff Evans (JE) raised the issue of young people leaving Anglesey to find work. He said that the underlying problem was that there's no definitive timeline to be able to 'sell' to potential employees. He said that people need money now, and that he is getting asked when these jobs will be available. People are unsure if it will be in 5, 10, or 20 years. JE added that people would be much more likely to engage in skills training if they knew for certain that a job would be available in 5 years, for example, and unless he was able to provide them with a timescale, they would end up leaving the island.
 - GE explained that he was unable to provide certain dates because Horizon had not yet reached its final investment decision or agreed funding for the Project. Until that funding had been agreed, it would be impossible to provide a cast iron timeline. There is a check-list of legal requirements regarding the funding such as the GDA process, planning permissions etc, and all of these are achievable. However, there are some intangible factors that are impossible to measure – community support, political support and supply chain skills.
 - GE suggested that people should be taking their own decisions to start training and developing their skills now, so they would be ready when the time does come, not wait for a certain job or timeline to be formally announced and then start preparing for it.
 - GE added that he did not think they would have any trouble attracting people back to Anglesey, as he himself was receiving at least one message a day from former local people who have moved away to work but are now hoping to return to work on Anglesey.
- TC expressed his disillusionment with the nuclear industry, mainly due to the Government's attitude to industry support.
- TC also said it was not acceptable that nuclear waste would be stored on site at Wylfa Newydd.

- He welcomed the apprenticeship scheme as he recollected that the first people employed on the original site were apprentices who then developed to fill senior roles.

6. Site Development update - Charlie Tasker, Site Development Director

- Charlie Tasker (CT) started by noting the immense commitment Hitachi-GE have made to the project, in terms of investment and staffing. He added that everyone is excited about the progress being made but that Horizon will still have to take this project one step at a time.
- CT discussed Horizon's ongoing survey work, saying a lot had already been completed but there's more to do. The size of the site, 280 hectares, made this a complicated and lengthy task.
- Extending the site office is another priority - as well as applying for planning permission for the improvements Horizon would like to make to the A5025. If consent is received and the improvement works can start then this will be the first time people will be able to see the physical effects of the Project on the Island.
- CT mentioned Horizon's forthcoming archaeological evaluation work. These are essential excavations so that the site can be explored in as much detail as possible and any aspects of archaeological interest can be recorded and managed properly. It's better to be aware of any archaeological interest in advance rather than stumble upon them during the construction phase which could then delay the construction work significantly. The exploration work is about to start. CT explained these studies were part of the critical path to enabling the main construction process could start in 2018.
- CT explained that as Horizon hopes to construct a Marine Offloading Facility (MOLF) near the site (so that construction materials can be delivered by sea), offshore ground investigation works are needed to understand more about the seabed. These are due to start around the end of October 2015 and will be finished by around Christmas / the New Year.
- CT said that visual impact assessment work is a significant area of focus for Horizon as the landscape will be changing as a result of the Project. Horizon is keen to minimise the visual impact on the local community.
- CT added that environmental and ecology studies are ongoing, and have been since 2009. There is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the site boundary and Horizon has worked with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and local farmers to improve this area and introduce the right type of livestock for ongoing maintenance.
- CT explained that worker accommodation would be a big challenge, as there could be up to 9,200 staff contracted during the peak period. Some of those will be local, living on the Island already, some will be travelling in from the North Wales region and some will be coming from other parts of the UK. The preferred options for accommodating workers will need to work both for Horizon and the local community and the initial comments received in PAC1 are being carefully considered.
- Other plans for supporting facilities currently being progressed include park and ride facilities and road improvements. Subject to receiving the necessary permissions, Horizon has committed to starting the A5025 upgrade work in 2016, before the financial investment decision is reached. The designs for these improvements are currently being finalised. In the event that Horizon proposes to

house workers at or near Amlwch, then it will also consider whether improvements are required to the road between the Wylfa Newydd site and Amlwch.

- CT finished by saying that Horizon are in discussions with Dŵr Cymru (Welsh Water) regarding how to get water to the site for the first construction phase, which will most likely begin in March 2019. CT asked if there were any questions.
- Alun Roberts asked about the peak number of workers. Today, the number quoted was 9,200, when in the past it had been estimated at around 8,000. He asked if it would remain at 9,200 or rise again in the future.
 - CT explained that this was due to the ‘stagger’ effect which might happen during construction. So, instead of needing 8,000 workers over a longer period of time, they might decide to shorten the total build time and so more workers would be needed to achieve the same objective. He said he didn’t expect the figure to rise above 10,000, and added that Horizon was working to a ‘worst-case scenario’ to ensure that there would be enough space available. Horizon will be working to develop a local skills pipeline, creating opportunities for local workers.
- Councillor Aled Morris Jones (AMJ) thanked the respective speakers for their presentations, and said that this was an exciting project for Anglesey and North Wales. He mentioned the ‘dark days’ of the previous owners pulling out, and said that he appreciated Horizon were always transparent with their provision of information. AMJ said he wanted to make three points:
 1. He hoped to see cycle tracks being introduced, as these were important for many reasons, including promoting healthy living.
 2. Positive action was needed from Horizon to improve the road between site and Amlwch.
 3. Horizon’s next period of consultation needed to respond to the issues raised by the Council and others during its first period of formal consultation
 - CT said that from a health and safety point of view, the idea of cycle tracks was a concern. He cited a fatality related to a project in Pembrokeshire some years ago, which still influenced his thoughts on the matter. However, he did appreciate the health and wellbeing benefits of cycle to work schemes. He also added that the Copper Trail will be retained and diverted to enable cyclists to continue using that popular route.
- Councillor William Hughes (WH) picked up on AMJ’s point about the A5025. He said that he also wished to raise issues about the traffic on the road between Wylfa and Amlwch. WH explained that he had been moving cattle across the road earlier that day which necessitated stopping the traffic for a short time. This led to 17 cars having to stop on the east bound side (heading towards Amlwch) and 3 having to stop on the west bound side (heading away from Amlwch). If that level of traffic exists today, then during the Project’s construction and operational phase it would become unbearable.
- WH added that it would be a particular concern in the village of Cemaes, where there is a number of elderly people needing to cross the road and children coming from the school. He reiterated that it was a very dangerous road and ‘pleaded’ with Horizon to consider making safety improvements. He hoped that this would be considered during Horizon’s next stage of consultation.
 - CT agreed that road safety was very important and that traffic coming to and from site was already discouraged from travelling in that direction. He also explained Horizon had to allocate its budgetary expenditure and focus on addressing issues that related specifically to

the development of Wylfa Newydd. Improvements to that section of the road network is an area that would only be appropriate for Horizon to look at if its proposals involved locating workers in the area around Amlwch. He said the Highways Authority had an important role to play in terms of existing safety concerns too.

- AMJ responded by saying that the increased volume of traffic was directly linked to Horizon and that it was unfair to put the responsibility back on the Highways Authority.
- GE responded by saying the road had always been dangerous and that the first complaint he'd made about it had been back in 2003. He stated that there was a combined responsibility on both the Highways Authority and Horizon.
- An unidentified member of the PLG asked whether Horizon was negotiating with Land and Lakes in relation to future worker accommodation options?
 - CT said that Horizon wasn't in negotiations with Land and Lakes but he was aware their development at Holyhead presented an option to Horizon in terms of its worker accommodation. Horizon is still looking at its plans in this important area and would bring forth its proposals in the coming months.
- An unidentified member of the PLG asked for more detail about the route of the underground power cables that CT had said would be re-routed.
 - CT explained there were two circuits that needed moving, both crossing the Wylfa Newydd site in the direction of the site entrance and then heading south. He could provide more specific detail separately if required.

7. Any Other Business

- TC stated that he has been impressed with Horizon's security contractor G4S, but asked why the public had not been told they would be patrolling the roads around Cemaes?
 - In response CT said that they do not patrol the roads and that their area of responsibility was restricted to patrolling the Wylfa Newydd site only.
- TC said that he was under that impression as well and had recently noticed them on the roads around Cemaes, including during the night as well.
 - CT said he would take the comment back and investigate it further. It is quite possible they are patrolling the gate near Parc Lodge. He added that there had been some security issues on site in the past but since G4S took on their role there had been no problems. CT reminded everyone of Horizon's freephone hotline which is available for reporting these kinds of issues.
 - **Post meeting note:** Horizon has subsequently confirmed that the responsibilities of G4S do include regular but randomly-timed checks of access points to the Wylfa Newydd site – such as the gate to Parc Lodge.
- TC asked about Horizon approaching householders on the A5025. He also raised concerns about proposed earth movements in relation to landscaping on site and he argued that the PAC1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) didn't mention any eastward movement of earth towards Cemaes as part of landscaping works.
 - CT responded by confirming that the EIA did propose earthworks towards Cemaes as part of the proposed landscaping arrangements. He added that Horizon want to work with their near neighbours by restricting heavy work between the hours of 9.30 – 4pm and not working on weekends.

- He was unable to comment on private discussions with individuals.

8. Close

DE thanked the speakers for their presentations and thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in December. The meeting closed at 7:30pm.