

Wylfa Newydd Project Liaison Group (PLG)

MINUTES

Minutes of the Wylfa Newydd Project Liaison Group held on Tuesday 15 December 2015 in the Wylfa Sports and Social club.

Attendees (in alphabetical order by organisation):

Name	Organisation
John Chamberlain	Anglesey Agricultural Society/ Holyhead Rotary Club
Annette Jones	Anglesey Federation of WI
Phil Scott	Anglesey Tourism Partnership
Trefor Wyn Jones	Bangor University
Derek Owen	Chair of Llanbadrig Community Council
Gwilym Williams	Clough & Co
Trevor Howes	CNC- Stakeholder Liaison Officer/ Nuclear New Build Single Point of Contact
Wyn Thomas	Coleg Menai/ Grŵp Llandrillo Menai Director Resources & Development
Mairede Thomas	CPRW
Eric Torr	Cwmni Cemaes Cyf/ Ynni Talybolion
John Idris Jones	Director of Energy Island Programme
Cllr Elfed Jones	Llanbadrig Community Council
John Jukes	Llannerchymedd Community Council
Cllr Gwilym O Jones	Llifon ward
Richard Dutton	Magnox Ltd
Alun Roberts	Môn CF
Mark Thornton	North Wales Community Health Council Vice Chair – Ynys Môn Committee
Cllr John Griffith	Talybolion
Cllr Kenneth P Hughes	Talybolion ward
Anna M Roberts	Tref Alaw County Council
Paddy McNaught	Unite the Union
Neil Gore	Welsh Water (Dŵr Cymru)
Cllr Dafydd Rhys Thomas	Ynys Gybi ward
Susan Bracegirdle	Ysgol Uwchradd David Hughes
Members of the public	
Peter Jones	Member of the Public

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Cllr Val Roberts	Amlwch Town Council
Prof David Shepherd	Bangor University
Gwynne Morris Jones	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales/ YDCW
Gwynne Jones	Chief Executive, Isle of Anglesey County Council
Lyndsey Campbell Williams	Community Voice
Sian Purcell	Community Voice

Heidi Williams	Farmers Union Wales (FUW)
Carys Edwards	Head of HR, Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cliff Everett	Holyhead Town Council
Enid Williams	Isle of Anglesey's Youth Service
Cllr Anthony Hughes	Llanbadrig Community Council
Cllr Ieuan Williams	Lligwy / IACC Council Leader
Jac Jones	Mechell Community Council
Rt Hon Guto Bebb MP	Member of Parliament for Aberconwy
Rt Hon Liz Saville Roberts MP	Member of Parliament for Dwyfor Meirionnydd
Derek Vaughan MEP	Member of the European Parliament for North Wales
Jill Evans MEP	Member of the European Parliament for North Wales
Dr Kay Swinburne MEP	Member of the European Parliament for North Wales
Nathan Gill MEP	Member of the European Parliament for North Wales
Meryl Davies	Merched y Wawr
Will Edwards	National Farmers Union (NFU)
Maurice Core	NDA Site Representative/ OCNS
Alli Hunt	Nuclear Skills Academy for Nuclear
Steve Graham	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Craig ab Iago	On behalf of Rhun ap Iorwerth
Sarah Andrews	Public Health Wales
Cllr Llinos Medi Huws	Talybolion ward
Cllr Trefor Jones	Tref Alaw Community Council
Aled Morris Jones	Twrcelyn ward
Llyr Gruffydd AM	Welsh Assembly Regional Member for North Wales
Alun Ffred Jones AM	Welsh Assembly Member - Arfon
Janet Finch Saunders AM	Welsh Assembly Member - Conwy
Rhun Ap Iorwerth AM	Welsh Assembly Member - Ynys Môn
Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas AM	Welsh Assembly Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd
Aled Roberts	Welsh Assembly Regional Member for North Wales
Angela Meadows	Welsh Water (Dŵr Cymru)
Cllr Trevor Lloyd Hughes	Ynys Gybi
Jackie Blackwell	Ynys Môn – Citizen's Advice Bureau
Emyr Williams	Ysgol Uwchradd David Hughes
Members of the public	
John Jones	
Mel O'Hara	

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 - Dennis Evans

- Dennis Evans (DE) welcomed everyone to the meeting
- He congratulated Lowri Joyce, who had previously worked for Magnox, on her new role with Hitachi-GE
- DE explained the safety procedures for the venue including fire exits and muster points

2. Minutes of the last meeting - Dennis Evans

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3. Matters arising

- A quick update was given regarding National Grid's consultation, which was due to finish the next day (December 16).
- DE also addressed Dr Tom Conway's enquiry about the G4S security patrols conducted on behalf of Horizon. It was confirmed that their responsibilities included checks on all site access points which would involve movements both on and off the site. It was noted that an update regarding this was included in the published minutes of the last meeting.

4. Wylfa Newydd Project progress update

Mark Salisbury – Training Manager, Horizon Nuclear Power

- Mark Salisbury (MS) explained that he worked for Greg Evans (GE), who sent his apologies as he was ill and could not attend the meeting. He said he was learning Welsh, and would try to speak it in future meetings, but would be speaking in English tonight.
- MS started by discussing job creation. He said that Horizon was currently interviewing for another three jobs which would be based in Wylfa, and they were Operations Engineer, Training Instructor and Commercial Manager. Horizon had also recently appointed two new members of staff - Carl Devlin as Programme Director and Sue Stockton as Human Resources Director. MS said that they both had great experience, and would be instrumental in moving the project forward. Jobs were being advertised online, in local newspapers and via social media, e.g. Twitter.
- MS discussed education and training. He explained that the main task now was to engage young people and noted that the current average age of the individuals who will be the control room operatives was around 12 years old. Engaging them while they're in school is vitally important and specifically getting them interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. There had been a STEM outreach event recently, held in partnership with Llais Ni, which GE attended. Students asked questions regarding the roles that would be available at Horizon and the types of work that would be associated with those roles.
- MS concluded by announcing that Gerwyn Williams had been appointed the new Apprenticeship Scheme Manager for Horizon. MS asked if there were any questions.
- Cllr G O Jones asked when more engagement with the five local secondary schools would commence? Vocational education was an area of concern.
- Wyn Thomas explained that vocational education is excellent already.
- Susan Bracegirdle (SB) raised the issue of work experience, and asked if there was a gap in what Horizon was providing in this area as Magnox had now ceased their work experience programme.

- MS agreed that there was a gap and confirmed it was a matter Horizon were looking at. He noted they were also developing an apprentice scheme and expanding the graduate programme.
- John Idris Jones (JIJ) said that he was hearing a lot of phrases like ‘we are looking at’, and ‘we will be’, and said that he wanted to see more being done, rather than things being promised. He wanted to see more jobs moving back here from Gloucester, there were empty promises on scholarships, and that Horizon needed to do more and soon. He said that there were no pathways to jobs for young people, no scholarships and no work experience opportunities. He ended by highlighting the closure of the Magnox visitor centre, expressing his hope that the Horizon programme would be as comprehensive and inclusive as theirs had been.
 - MS said that Horizon were always looking to improve and do more but observed that several schemes were already in place with more ready to launch. He referenced both the apprenticeship scheme and the graduate programme. He also noted the work Horizon was delivering in terms of STEM engagement events with schools. MS pointed out Horizon had a vested interest in ensuring they helped to train and educate the right types of people with the right experience to work on a nuclear power station.
 - Wyn Thomas (WT) asked for it be noted that Horizon was already providing useful and important support to Coleg Menai/ Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
 - JIJ asked Horizon to ensure local schools were made aware of the apprenticeship scheme and that the importance of opportunities related to construction (as opposed to engineering) were also factored into Horizon’s plans

5. Gerwyn Williams - Apprenticeship Scheme Manager, Horizon Nuclear Power

- Gerwyn Williams (GW) explained he was the new Apprenticeship Schemes Manager, and was currently overseeing the development of an engineering apprenticeship scheme which will be launching with its first set of apprentices in September 2016. There will be up to 12 successful applicants in the first year. GW stated that one of his first tasks will be to identify which departments within Horizon will work with the apprentices.
- GW gave a brief overview of the recruitment timescale. In January and February Horizon will be going to schools and colleges to encourage young people to make an application. The scheme will be launched in February 2016 and advertised in the local press. Applications will then be submitted through Horizon’s website and an interview shortlist drawn up for interviews.
- GW discussed a recent careers event in Amlwch and said that in February, Rhodri Sellers, Horizon’s Education Programme Co-ordinator, would be spending a whole week visiting schools to discuss employment and careers.
- GW explained the different levels of the scheme, and said that all the successful applicants would begin at Level 2, which would involve making sure they were all comfortable with the basic skills and understanding the different fields within engineering. Level 2 would last approximately 12-14 months, and some apprentices would then be chosen to move onto Level 3.
- Level 3 would involve the development of specialist framework skills, mainly Mechanical, Electrical and Instrumentation & Control. The apprentices on this Level would develop specialist nuclear skills. This Level would be completed over a 24 month period and ‘hands on’ experience is vital for this stage of training. As Wylfa Newydd will not be operational by this time, the apprentices will be

spending time training at nuclear sites away from North Wales. This is important from a practical perspective (training using equipment and machinery etc) but also so apprentices can learn processes and protocols related to Health & Safety etc.

- GW then explained the post apprenticeship employment opportunities. Successful apprentices could go on to become Control Room Operators, Field Operators or Engineering Technicians. They would be able to develop specialist UK ABWR skills and could possibly get secondments to BWR or ABWR stations elsewhere. They could also move into roles as part of the nuclear supply chain. In addition, they could work towards Engineering Council recognition and even move on to a Level 4 apprenticeship scheme. GW invited any questions.
- Susan Bracegirdle said that the figure of 12 apprentices was slightly underwhelming. In Ysgol David Hughes alone there is over 150 students in Year 11, and over a 100 in Years 12 and 13. She said it was a disappointing number for a big company.
 - GW explained that at the moment, Horizon wasn't a big operation in terms of its operational capability. While the Wylfa Newydd site office was growing quickly it was still a relatively small operation in real terms. He also explained that 12 was just the starting point, and that Horizon would be continuing to hire a growing number of apprentices for the next seven years.
- JIJ warmly welcomed Gerwyn Williams' appointment, but referred to Mark Salisbury's earlier comments on graduate schemes. He asked what is Horizon doing to raise awareness of these in Anglesey's schools, and, with all the companies to come, what will Horizon do to ensure that they also offer scholarships and bursaries?
- Cllr G O Jones commented that the venue of the meeting was fitting as this is where he started his apprenticeship training in the 1960s. While welcoming what was said regarding apprenticeships by Gerwyn Williams, he was also strongly supportive of the comments made by JIJ. He emphasised the importance of gaining practical experience in operational nuclear power stations.

6. Richard Foxhall – Stakeholder Relations Manager, Horizon Nuclear Power

- Richard Foxhall (RF) started by emphasising the importance of the Welsh language to Horizon. He said their Welsh language policy is updated every year or two, and that it gets more robust every time it's updated. RF also discussed Horizon's attendance at the recent 'Making Welsh Work' conference at Bangor University, which had Carwyn Jones, the First Minister, and Meri Huws, the Welsh Language Commissioner in attendance. There were workshops and the main topic was the new Welsh language measures that will come into force in March, and the good practices associated with them.
- RF stated that Horizon's next consultation phase, would take place in 2016. The launch date is yet to be confirmed but when it does it will be widely advertised. RF also noted that Horizon are continuing to host a number of community events, including the Open Surgeries in Cemaes, Amlwch and Llangejni, and they are still seeing new faces attending - so they are certainly a useful way for the community to find out more about Horizon's activity and plans.
- RF closed by discussing the charity work Horizon had done over the past financial year, and stated that they had supported 46 organisations and allocated over £60,000 in charitable donations and community sponsorship. This included recent donations to Benllech Community and Ex-servicemen's Hall, equipment for Anglesey Food Bank and the Federation of Eryri Young Farmers Clubs. Horizon

welcomes any new applications for support, which can be made on the community support section of the website. RF asked if there were any questions.

- JIJ said that he welcomed the Horizon's commitment to the Welsh language but pointed out that all of the slides, apart from those used by GW's, were in English only, which was disappointing. JIJ also said that a lot of Horizon's administrative work was being led by the Gloucester head office. It was a shame more was not being led by Horizon's staff on Anglesey. He did not want ask for a response but hoped to see more work being done locally.

5. Site development update - Charlie Tasker

- Charlie Tasker (CT) discussed the ongoing site survey work.
- The archaeological evaluation work currently being undertaken was very important, as the purpose is to record and manage any areas of archaeological interest in advance, rather than becoming aware of it during the construction process. This could delay the construction process significantly. CT said that the current wet weather conditions were not ideal but the results they had seen so far were helpful. He added that this work involved the use of businesses from the local supply chain. The other studies that were currently being undertaken are traffic and transport studies, tourism and heritage surveys, public rights of way / visual impact assessments, and environment and ecology studies. Surveys of the local tourism industry had also been conducted, which CT claimed were both interesting and positive.
- CT talked about the onshore Ground Investigation (GI) work, which involves drilling boreholes to better understand the geology of the site. More exploratory holes would be needed, possibly an extra 20.
- CT said Horizon had intended to start offshore GI in December but they had been forced to delay the work due to the adverse weather conditions. This meant it wasn't safe to transport rigs to the site, and the sea was too rough to take the barges. They will try again in 2016 and will announce when the work gets underway. CT noted that it was hard to state a certain date, as the work would last for 8 weeks and a significant period of favourable weather would be required. Horizon would need to ensure they can both complete the work and then get the equipment safely ashore once the work has been completed.
- CT stated that while there is currently a lot of activity taking place on and around the Wylfa Newydd site, Horizon is keeping residents up to date, and that any properties or homes affected by those activities receive weekly (and sometimes even daily) updates.
- CT discussed the GDA (Generic Design Assessment) process for the UK ABWR. The final step (Step 4) of the process is now confirmed as having been started by the ONR (Office for Nuclear Regulation). Step 3 was completed in October 2015 and the completion of the GDA remains on target for the end of 2017. There had been a seminar presentation at Bangor University to discuss the UK ABWR and the Wylfa Newydd project, which CT discussed briefly. CT asked if there were any questions.
- Peter Jones (PJ) enquired about the GI work for the A5025 improvements, and said landowners nearby had last been approached in late spring/early summer. It was his understanding that the plans would be approved in July/August and work would begin, however he had heard nothing, and did this mean that the work wouldn't be going ahead?

- CT assured him that it wasn't the case, and that Horizon was currently determining where, specifically, the GI and archaeological works would take place. The work would get underway in the new year.
 - PJ said that they had been consulted about a number of plans which all appeared to have a water drainage system that seemed to be running uphill. CT said that he would look into this and address any issues with the relevant team at Horizon. RF added that this matter had already been raised directly with PJ and that he was already aware a solution was in place.
- Elfed Jones (EJ) asked whether Horizon was considering sites at Amlwch and / or Rhosgoch for worker accommodation?
 - CT said more information on worker accommodation would be included in Horizon's next consultation but there had been clear feedback during Horizon's first stage of consultation that local people in that area were keen to see workers accommodate their due to the associated economic benefits it would bring
- Mairede Thomas (MT) asked whether the GDA process will look at the issues of how power is transferred both to and from the Wylfa Newydd site?
 - MS said that the GDA was a generic process looking at the deployment of the technology in the UK. The Site Specific Safety Case process would examine issues such as that raised by MT.
- Phil Scott (PS) was pleased to hear tourism research had been conducted over the summer, and reminded Horizon that the tourist sector is worth over £250m to the local economy annually. He asked that a greater depth of surveys are conducted. He said it was important to keep in mind both the advantages and the disadvantages of the Project in terms of tourism and that it didn't leave bed spaces empty on the low season or create a shortage in the high season. Tourism needs to be much further up the agenda.
 - CT agreed, and said there had been further discussions on this topic. He agreed to discuss this further with Mr Scott after the meeting.

6. UK ABWR & the Generic Design Assessment process - Lowri Joyce - Regional Stakeholder Relations Manager - Hitachi-GE Nuclear Energy Ltd

- Lowri Joyce (LJ) explained that she has been working for Hitachi-GE since September 2015. LJ gave a brief overview of Hitachi's structure and their relationship with Horizon.
- LJ announced that Hitachi had appointed a new Project Director for the Wylfa Newydd project - Malcolm Twist - who had been working as an adviser on the plant for 12 months. LJ explained that the next step will be establishing a Tier 1 delivery team, and then a Tier 2 team which will be leading the construction training work. Discussions with potential Tier 1 partners were going well, and the first Tier 2 partners could be announced in the first half of 2016.
- LJ discussed supply chain engagement and the supplier website, which was launched in October. So far over 160 suppliers have registered. LJ explained that there would be no compromise in terms of cost or quality, but they would commit to giving local, regional and UK companies the best possible chance of competing for contracts. LJ spoke about the supply event which was held in Llandudno recently, where around 300 Welsh and UK companies were in attendance.

- LJ went into more detail regarding the GDA process which had been previously mentioned by CT. She said that Hitachi-GE were submitting detailed documentation to the ONR and addressing the regulators' questions. LJ said that over 800 documents had now been submitted and confirmed that the GDA process is on course to be completed by the end of 2017.
- LJ stated that a consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales was planned for autumn 2016, and she also spoke about Hitachi's UK ABWR website, which has information about the technology and allows people to submit questions. Questions will always receive a response and are welcomed in English or Welsh. To avoid any confusion, detailed technical answers will be given in English only. LJ asked if there were any questions.
- Mairede Thomas asked about how security of supply to and from the site would be maintained
- JIJ asked whether he could use the website to ask questions about the Wylfa Newydd to Pentir connection and the risks associated with two parallel pylon routes being positioned close together.
 - LJ said that any question can be asked on the website and they will all be answered. CT advised that any site-specific enquiries should be directed to Horizon and any Grid-specific questions should be posed to National Grid.

7. National Grid North Wales Connection project update - Gavin Crook - Gavin Crook, Lead Project Manager, National Grid

- Gavin Crook (GC) noted that National Grid's (NG) current formal consultation period was ending the next day (December 16), but that didn't mean the end of the process entirely. GC said that National Grid had a difficult balancing act. They already had contractual agreements and regulatory obligations to Horizon and other companies, and a number of legislative concerns, e.g. the Planning Act and environmental policies/regulations.
- GC stated that NG's preferred option for connecting Wylfa Newydd is a new overhead line / pylons with undergrounding at the Menai Strait. The early feedback that they had received asked them to seriously consider a subsea or hybrid (subsea combined with a smaller number of pylons) option. After considering it carefully, NG has determined that an overhead line / pylon option was still the most appropriate one to put forward as their preferred option for consultation.
- GC then gave an overview of every route option that was part of the current consultation, discussing the advantages and disadvantages associated with each one. GC noted that National Grid would be completing more assessment work on the Menai Strait in partnership with Bangor University, and said that they were hopeful of starting Ground Investigation work soon so they could understand the potential crossing paths and the specific types of technology needed. He acknowledged that National Grid needed more information about this aspect of their recommendation in order to progress the proposal to the next stage.
- GC discussed the consultation, which had lasted for 8 weeks, and had featured 16 events, with hundreds of people attending. The feedback from these events was still being processed, and he reminded everyone that there was still one more day for people to contribute to the consultation. GC stated that as with every project, they were keen to engage fully with local people and they would be seeking one-to-one meetings with all the landowners that will be affected by the proposed routes.

- GC said a feedback report would be published in spring 2016 and the statutory consultation stage will begin in autumn 2016. 2017 would see the end of the consultation process, and the planning application would then be submitted. The Planning Inspectorate will then review the application for 12 months and make its recommendation to the Secretary of State. A final decision will then take a further three months. If granted, construction will then start sometime between 2018 and 2020. GC asked if there were any questions.
- DE asked whether the final consultation would be undertaken in 2016, and whether National Grid would still be open to discussions regarding undergrounding.
- JIJ asked how the proposed biomass plant at Holyhead would be connected?
 - GC said this was still under consideration but the existing infrastructure may well be sufficient
- MT asked at what point did National Grid determine that a subsea HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) line would not be a viable option and why it not been offered as an option during National Grid's consultation?
 - GC said it had been included as an option in NG's 2012 consultation but it had subsequently been determined through further work and consultation that it would not be viable solution. It had never been used to connect a nuclear power station and some of the technology required (i.e. converters of the right scale) do not exist. While he wouldn't say categorically that it couldn't work there would be a large number of factors to be overcome.
 - MT also asked whether communities would be compensated for having National Grid infrastructure being located nearby. GC said NG was unable to provide compensation in the same way and to the same scale as private developers but there was a structure in place. NG was also active in the community providing support to local schools etc.
- PS asked what weighting would be given to the public opinion when making the final decision.
 - Graham Denison-Smith (National Grid) explained that they would be consulting the public feedback when it came to selecting the route options, but they would also have to consider a wide number of other factors – such as environmental issues. Ultimately, they would be required to ensure they secured the best value for customers, so it would be a balance of many factors. Specific weighting would not be applied and it would instead be a more qualitative assessment.
- Cllr John Griffith asked whether NG's priority was to make a profit or engage effectively with local people.
 - GC explained that cost was an important factor as the costs would be passed on to the end consumer, and that keeping costs to a reasonable level was an obligation of their license to operate from Government. NG has to justify its costs to Ofgem, the regulator for gas and electricity markets in Great Britain. It also has a limit as to how much it can spend across all of its projects in the UK. However, feedback would also be carefully considered, and GC emphasised that it wasn't a simple as saying that one factor takes priority over another.

8. Any Other Business

- DE congratulated the current Wylfa staff, whose plant was due to shut down at the end of the month (and did on December 30). He highlighted the plant's excellent safety record. He proposed that he write a letter to the manager of the site on behalf of the PLG, to which the attendees agreed.

9. Close

- The meeting finished at 7.45pm.