

## Wylfa Newydd Project Liaison Group Meeting

Minutes of the Wylfa Newydd Project Liaison Group held on Thursday 20 October in the Eleth and Eilian Rooms.

### Attendees

Name	Organisation
Geraint Hughes	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Jac Jones	Mechell Community Council
Jean Jones	Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones
Meirede Thomas	Campaign for the Protection for Rural Wales (CPRW)
Alun Roberts	Mon Communities First
Bleddyn Rowlands	Llanfachraeth Community Council
Wyn Thomas	Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Eric Torr	Cwmni Cemaes Cyf / Ynni Talybolion
Enid Williams	Isle of Anglesey Youth Service
Iwan Williams	Natural Resources Wales
Myrddin Wyn Owens	Amlwch Town Council
Members of the public	
Mel O'Hara	
Scot Saunders	
PamLee	

### Apologies

Name	Organisation
Jackie Blackwell	Ynys Mon - Citizen's Advice Bureau
Margaret Thomas	Ynys Mon - Citizen's Advice Bureau
Sarah Andrews	Public Health Wales
Carys Edwards	Head of HR, IACC

Dafydd Elis Thomas	Dwyfor Meirionnydd
Clifford Everett	Holyhead Town Council (Clerk)
John Griffith	Talybolion
Llyr Gruffydd	Welsh Assembly Regional Member for North Wales
Trevor Howes	CNC – Stakeholder Liaison Office Nuclear Build Single Point of Contact
Anthony Hughes	Llanbadrig Community Council
Kenneth P Hughes	Talybolion
John Cadwaladr Jones	Member of the Public
Richard Owain Jones	Twrcelyn
Gwilym O Jones	Lliffon
Derek Owen	Llanbadrig (Chair) / Llanfachraeth / Bodffordd Community Councils
Albert Owen MP	Member of Parliament for Ynys Môn
Liz Saville Roberts	Dwyfor Meirionnydd
David Shepherd	Bangor University
Mark Thornton	North Wales Community Health Council Chair – Ynys Môn Committee
Hywel Williams	Arfon
Medwyn Williams	Magnox Ltd
Rebecca Williams	Country Land & Business Association
Melanie Wymer	Bodorgan Trust

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).

For general project information or to ask Horizon any questions, please contact the team on 0800 954 9516 or at [wylfaenquiries@horizonnuclearpower.com](mailto:wylfaenquiries@horizonnuclearpower.com) and visit [www.horizonnuclearpower.com](http://www.horizonnuclearpower.com)

You can access these minutes and all the presentations from the PLG meeting via [www.wylfaplq.com](http://www.wylfaplq.com)

**1. Welcome, minutes of the July 2016 meeting and matters arising – Dennis Evans, Chairman**

- Dennis Evans (**DE**) welcomed everyone to the meeting at 5.30pm and introduced the individuals who would be giving presentations during the evening.

- Apologies were received as listed above, and it was understood that there were quite a few apologies because there was more than one important meeting taking place in Anglesey that evening.
- The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

## 2. Introduction from Sasha Davies – Head of Strategic Development Wales, Horizon Nuclear Power

- Sasha Davies (**SD**) gave an update on what had been happening since the previous meeting.
- She gave an overview of the Project, stating that the second stage of formal pre-application consultation (PAC2) would be coming to an end on 25 October and that they were focusing on the next steps such as applications to Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) for associated infrastructure, and that site activity was continuing at pace in order to make way for site preparation.
- **SD** explained that Horizon was happy with stage two of the consultation. There had been 15 public exhibitions across Anglesey and North Wales, as well as drop-in sessions and pop-up events at a range of locations, and around 500 of people had attended events to date. They had been consulting with people and councils, and Claire Burgess and Richard Foxhall had been visiting schools in order to engage young people in the Project.
- **SD** also noted that more than £13,000 had been donated to local charities and organisations during October and the Ucreate school project had been launched, where pupils were challenged to create a Wylfa Newydd radio commercial.
- There had been a stakeholder visit to Japan the previous week where meetings were held with colleagues in Hitachi. Sessions took place with the Welsh Government, and it was good to see the Minister for the Economy & Infrastructure supporting the project.

An opportunity was given for those present to ask questions and add comments:

- Mairede Thomas (**MT**), representing The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW), noted the UK Government is putting an emphasis on two types of nuclear power. On one hand Hinkley Point C is going ahead and the responses for Wylfa Newydd have been positive, but on the other hand there is another kind of new, low carbon technology – Small Modular Reactors. Not only has support been showed for developing SMRs, a document prepared last year identified four potential sites in Anglesey for SMRs, and in a commercialised sense, SMRs would be ready by the end of the 2020s. In respect of skills and landscape, what more can this development (and Horizon) do at this level to convince doubters? Nobody was aware of the proposed SMR sites on Anglesey.
  - **DE** responded by reminding everyone that they were there to discuss PAC2 and the importance of doing so because this was indeed the last opportunity.
- **MT** was interested to know what Horizon would be able to do with the pylons, when it came to transmission from Wylfa. To put things in a wider context, other sources would be approaching Anglesey regarding transmission in the future, and the main issue was the pylons.
- Cllr Myrddin Owens (**MO**), representing Amlwch Town Council, was concerned that the consultation had been very one sided. The intention of the consultation was to look at issues such as the road, Rhosgoch,

the effect on the Welsh language and work for local people. Different things were heard in different meetings, and the story in the Daily Post earlier in the day that less than half the workers would be from North Wales was a huge disappointment. **MO** stressed that a one sided consultation wasn't good enough and wanted to know when Horizon was going to listen. He himself had been in favour of Wylfa Newydd, but now the tide is beginning to turn.

- Greg Evans (**GE**) directly addressed the article in the Daily Post, which had come as a big surprise to him. This was not a target he had ever given. He believed it was nearer to 85% (based on Wylfa A) local people during operation over 60 years, with local people travelling less than 50 miles to the site. Employing local people made much more business sense and it provided the best value. He emphasised that work had been done to seek education opportunities with regard to STEM etc. He felt that if the figure was less than 45%, this was failure, and that wasn't an option. **GE** wanted to make sure that local people had long lasting employment. He emphasised the importance of providing comments in the consultation and that these comments would be considered.
- **MO** enquired whether 25% of construction workers coming from within 1.5 hours was an acceptable figure.
  - **GE** replied that 100% would not be possible and that the target is minimum 25% due to the skills available. The task over the next few years would be to obtain construction workers from the local area. There are some industries and skills where this isn't possible (around 50%) and other workers will have to come in. **SD** added – to put things in perspective and look at figures rather than a percentage – 25% was indeed 2,500 people out of the estimated 10,000 at peak construction. She also noted that a lot of collaborating was taking across businesses.
- **MO** noted that he would like to see the travel time cut from 1.5 hours to one, questioning how Chester could be defined as local.
  - **GE** responded, saying that value for money comes from local people, people who won't be travelling far. In the short term, this is a construction project. In the long term, there is opportunity to offer generations of people work for 80 to 85 years.
- Cllr Jac Jones (**JJ**) noted that he had been copied into several e-mails showing concern about the stories in the Daily Post. The concern is related to the construction phase. If many people come in during that phase, it will have a detrimental effect. People are worried about the number rising quickly, and they don't know what's happening. He accepted the long term vision, but reiterated that people were concerned about the construction phase.
  - **GE** explained that worse case scenarios tend to be conveyed. Even though figures seem to have risen from 8,000 up to 11,000, he felt that the site itself would struggle with over 11,000 together. Anglesey knew what it was like to have 25,000 people over the summer. It does pose a challenge to healthcare, hospitality etc. but people cope. There will be an effect on the Welsh language, but it is hoped that it will be a positive one.
- Mel O'Hara (**MOH**) asked where the figure of 11,000 had come from.
  - Kieran Somers (**KS**) informed the meeting that the figure was based on work from Hitachi **GE**. **SD** reiterated that because this isn't new technology, the figures had been influenced by work done in Japan, although it took into consideration that productivity levels would be

different. **DE** added that 5,000 had been quoted at the beginning when one reactor was in question, but due to two reactors the figure had doubled.

- Richard Foxhall (**RF**) stressed that it was important to look at the information in Horizon’s consultation materials in context rather than seeing the 11,000 on its own.
  - Daron Hodges (**DH**) stressed that this is the beginning and it starts with community and young people. He encouraged everyone to submit their comments.
- Pam Lee (**PL**) stated that most people don’t have confidence in the consultation.
    - **GE** said that while he hadn’t viewed any responses yet, he noted that things do change following consultations on people’s views.
    - **PL** shared a recent experience on a train where two people were discussing the best options for consulting in Anglesey, and planning their work according to where they thought they would get the best results.
    - **RF** thanked **PL** for bringing this matter to their attention and stated that this incident had in fact been reported to Charlie Tasker to be dealt with at the highest level, because this was totally unacceptable for the contractors who were conducting a tourism survey in question.
  - Alun Roberts (**AR**) from Anglesey Communities First was concerned about the people who are missed from consultation, and enquired about Horizon’s contractual obligations regarding workforce and skills. Who carries the can for skills not being developed?
    - **GE** was confident that employment could be provided on the construction side. Even though it couldn’t be made legal, preference could be shown to local contractors.
    - **SD** commented that they were working with the Council and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, and looking in particular at this stage at site preparation and clearance. The majority of jobs should go to local people and community engagement was good in terms of grassroots involvement. When it comes to procurement, local skills and harder to reach individuals would be coming on board.
  - **AR** enquired how would someone who is unemployed and aspiring to come and work at the site, e.g. as a digger driver, go about it. There is a massive gap between unemployment and actually getting work on the site, considering that extra certificates need to be gained in order to be able to work on the site.
    - **SD** emphasised that the employment and skills brokerage would be looking directly at that. Wyn Thomas (**WT**) added that colleges are working with people with the aim of securing employment. Alun Griffiths, for example, have provided employment as digger drivers to two unemployed people, so there are opportunities to move forward and gain skilled employment.

### **3. Wylfa Newydd Project progress update – Daron Hodges, Site Manager, on behalf of Greg Evans, Safety and Generation Director, Horizon Nuclear Power**

- **DH** outlined the main site activities, stating that they were slowing down by now due to the winter weather, with the majority of works done during dry periods. The offshore ground investigations in Porth-y-Pistyll had finished and preliminary archaeology investigations had taken place on Horizon owned land at Dalar Hir, the preferred site for a park and ride. The onsite and offshore drilling had been completely finished, and work on Nanner Road had started. SPEN (Scottish Power Energy Networks) has also been doing work on-site, which is also ending and will resume in March.

- With regard to site preparation and clearance, **DH** stated that the consultation was launched this week. Following consultation on the initial plans in May, they had been developed over summer and changes had been made. For example, people wanted the public rights of way to be kept open, so steps were being taken to ensure that was done wherever possible.
- **PL** enquired when Nanner Road would be re-opened.
  - **DH** detailed the work which was taking place and gave an indication when various sections would be re-opened. He also noted that Jones Brothers had been doing the work and using apprentices. He gave one example where an individual, who had been through Coleg Menai, was keen to gain work experience and had been placed as a security guard on the site until an opportunity came along for him.
  - **AR** indicated that he would like to see a lot more of that taking place.

#### 4. Consultation update – Kieran Somers, Head of Planning Consents, Horizon Nuclear Power

- **KS** stressed that this was a genuine consultation and all comments had to be considered. Responses had to be detailed, as well as reasons for either acting on comments or deciding not to act on them. If the Planning Inspectorate isn't happy with a consultation, it can insist that it is undertaken again. A statement had been set out to make sure areas of impact on people were focused on.
- **KS** discussed site preparation and clearance, which included preparing the site for construction, clearing existing features and preparation works such as boundary fencing, drainage, storage/compound areas and temporary roads. There was a seasonality aspect to the ecological elements, which need to be done in the spring. Consulting on this aspect of the Project was currently underway.
- **KS** outlined the online highways work, which included road improvements between Valley and Wylfa, suitable passing widths for HGVs, improvements to road surface and base layers, improving visibility from driveways and junctions and a compound for recycling road materials.
- With regard to workforce accommodation, **KS** said there will be between 8,000 and 10,000 construction workers (with 1,500 of these living on the mainland) supporting construction. The total construction workforce will peak at 10,720, which includes off-site workers. The proposals include up to 5,700 beds in purpose built worker accommodation. The environmental assessments are based on 11,700 to give flexibility to adapt as the Project progresses. Amlwch A/B is not the preferred proposal but it has not been discounted completely at this stage. **KS** showed a summary and diagrams of the potential accommodation site options.
- **KS** noted the aims and objectives of the Integrated Traffic and Transport Strategy (ITTS) and discussed transport for the workforce, such as bus routes, park and ride and parking provision. In support of the ITTS, online and offline highways improvements (from Valley to the Site) were proposed, as well as park and ride facilities at Dalar Hir and a Logistics Centre at Parc Cybi as associated developments. In addition, small improvements were proposed to the road connecting Rhosgoch to the A5025. They were not proposing improvements to the A5025 between the Site and Amlwch because that stretch of the road wouldn't be used as much. They were not consulting on proposals for a mainland Park and Ride either, as assessments concluded that this was not necessary.

- **KS** highlighted the roles of Parc Cybi and Dalar Hir Park and Ride as well as other Off-Site Power Station Facilities, including the Mobile Emergency Equipment Garage (MEEG) and the Alternative Emergency Control Centre/Environmental Survey Laboratory (AECC and ESL).

An opportunity was given for those present to ask questions and add comments:

- **MT** assumed that space hadn't been allowed with the site for convertor stations, so there wouldn't be a facility to go subsea. **KS** replied that this hadn't been allowed for.

**5. Generic Design Assessment process update – Hitachi Nuclear Energy Europe, Ltd. Lowri Joyce, Regional Stakeholder Relations Manager, Menter Newydd**

- Lowri Joyce (**LJ**) explained the structure of Menter Newydd and noted that Hitachi Nuclear Energy Europe, Ltd. provides UK management of Hitachi's work in Menter Newydd, which is entirely separate from ownership of Horizon.
- **LJ** said Menter Newydd is managed by a Joint Programme Management Office. Its HQ is adjacent to Horizon's Corporate Head Office, with a liaison representative in Horizon's Wylfa Newydd site office.
- **LJ** explained what Menter Newydd has to offer, including significant experience of large infrastructure projects and experience of delivering the ABWR technology. In the years between now and Horizon's Final Investment Decision, Menter Newydd will develop the construction plan for Wylfa Newydd and build a full-scope supply chain, ready for construction. They expect to work more and more closely with major Tier 2 contractors, primarily in construction, in the short to medium term.
- **LJ** gave an update on the Generic Design Assessment. There was a busy year ahead, with final submissions due by August 2017. During the GDA process, comments can be made about the ABWR UK design, and she stressed the importance of submitting comments/views before the deadline. The regulators will see the questions raised and the responses made, and these will be used where relevant to help inform assessments. The comments process opened on 6 January 2014 and will continue until 15 August 2017.
- Iwan Williams (**IW**) from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) was invited to give an update on NRW's involvement in GDA. He explained that work had underway on the GDA since January 2013 and that it would come to an end in December 2017. The officers were assessing a wide range of technical documents relating to the proposed technology.
- **IW** explained a consultation on the GDA would be starting on 12 December for three months, from an environmental perspective, and information sessions were being organised. One would be held on 30 January in Cemaes and the other on 31 January in Llangefni. He enquired if the group would like a session or presentation on the environmental assessments. **DE** felt that this would be very beneficial as it is extremely important that everyone understands the GDA.

An opportunity was given for those present to ask questions and add comments:

- **MT** enquired if it would be possible to have it in writing why it is not possible to connect ABWR to a subsea link. **IW** was not able to provide details himself but was more than happy to relay the question to his ONR colleagues for a response.

- **DE** gave a brief technical explanation. He noted that this hasn't been done anywhere else, and it isn't appropriate for the first one to be trialled here.

## 6. National Grid consultation update – John Shorney, National Grid

- John Shorney (**JS**), Community Relations Officer for National Grid, thanked the Chairman for the invitation. The aim tonight was to talk about the North Wales Connection and Connecting Wylfa Newydd. He introduced Gavin Crook (**GC**), Lead Project Manager and Graham Denison-Smith (**GDS**) Consents Officer, National Grid, who would be giving a presentation.
- **GC** emphasised that the National Grid has a legal obligation to make connections with Wylfa Newydd and is bound by law to do so.
- **GC** gave the group some background, looking back at Stage One (autumn 2012) and Stage 2 (autumn 2015) and explained the work needed going forward. A lot of work had been done to look into connections. There had been a request to look at an extra option, which had been done.
- Route corridors had been identified to connect Wylfa and Pentir, with the aim of making the best use of landscape. The 'Orange' corridor appeared to be the preferred option, with overhead lines and underground crossing of the Menai Straits. National Grid had to line up with Horizon to parallel work activity, so the Planning Inspectorate can take accounts of both projects together. The application will be submitted in around a year's time, with construction work taking place from 2019 onward.
- **JS** emphasised that the consultation had begun and encouraged everyone to attend the events and look at the documents in the information points. The most important thing now was feedback.
- **DE** reiterated the importance of making views known and urged everyone take part in National Grid's consultation.

An opportunity was given for those present to ask questions and add comments:

- **MT** emphasised that no one has said that the connection can't go underground or subsea. She noted that the retiring National Grid Chief Executive, following huge profit increases and growth, would have a weekly pension of £11,000 to look forward to. Yet the people of Anglesey would see their properties drop in value because the National Grid is not investing in going underground, and there was no technical reason for not doing so.
  - **GC** explained that, with subsea, the various options (namely HVDC) had been looked at but the technologies weren't there at present. They had investigated technology as far as they could and existing technology would not be suitable for this project. With onshore undergrounding, GC continued to explain that half the challenge was the being a regulated business and he reminded the group that National Grid are licensed to be economic and efficient and as such are scrutinised by Ofgem, with considerations regarding whether or not investment is appropriate for the UK as a whole.
- **JJ** expressed concerns that the people of Anglesey felt the consultation was an insult and that their views had been ignored.
  - **GDS** noted that a lot of decisions had been made after receiving people's views in terms of alignment and going underground beneath the Menai Strait. Any objections and concerns

would be scrutinised, and it was extremely important to express opinions and share comments.

**7. AOB**

There was no other business.

**8. Close**

The meeting closed at 19.50.