

## **Bradwell Site**

### **Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) Meeting**

*Wednesday 7 June 2006*

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#### **Present:**

##### *LCLC Executive:*

**Cllr Brian Main**  
**Cllr John White**  
Miss Beverley Ladd

**LCLC Chairman\***  
**LCLC Deputy Chairman \***  
LCLC Secretary

##### *LCLC Members:*

Mr Bruce Archer  
Mr Peter Ashby  
**Cllr Brian Beale**  
**Cllr Bob Boyce**  
Mr Alex Cobb  
Cllr Tim Drain  
**Cllr Carol Ellmers**  
Mrs Natalie Firmager  
Mr David Fisher  
Dr Greg Gibson  
Mr Mike Gull  
Mr Mike Gurden  
Mr Paul Hetherington  
Mr Chris Lloyd  
Mr Dave North  
Mr Russ Rainger  
Mr Oly Serrano  
Mr Harry Smith  
**Cllr Michael Starke**  
Cllr Valerie Stone  
**Cllr Sylvia Wargent**  
Mr Clive Woods

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII)  
Essex County Fire and Rescue  
**Maldon District Council\***  
**Essex County Council\***  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
Bradwell Parish Council  
**Maldon District Council\***  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
Essex County Council  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
Environment Agency (EA)  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
Bradwell Reactor Site  
**Rochford District Council\***  
St Lawrence Parish Council  
**West Mersea Town Council\***  
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

**\* denotes voting members**



**1. INTRODUCTION**

1554 The Chairman welcomed members to the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bradwell LCLC. Introductions were made by Mike Gull, British Nuclear Group, Bruce Archer from the NII, Chris Lloyd from the EA, and Peter Ashby from Essex Fire and Rescue.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1555 Apologies for absence were received from:

Mrs Pauline Rampling	Essex and Suffolk water
Mr Antony Lancaster	Maldon District Council
Mr Mike Webley	Environment Agency
Mr Paul Whiting	Essex Fire and Rescue (Represented by Peter Ashby)
Mr David Webbe-Wood	Food Standards Agency
Cllr Kathy Brown	Braintree District Council
Mr Laurence Fitt Savage	Go EAST
Cllr Pamela Dorrington	Bradwell Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Fairley- Crowe	Colchester Borough Council
Mr L Grant	Tending District Council
Ms Helen Buckingham	Chelmsford Borough Council

**3. RECONFIRMATION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMING YEAR**

1556 Cllr Robert Boyce proposed Cllr Brian Main be reconfirmed as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Brian Beale. There were no objections and Cllr Brian Main was reconfirmed as Chairman.

1557 Cllr Brian Main stated that he would stand down as Chairman next year. Work shadowing would need to be undertaken prior to handover. It was therefore decided that nominations for a replacement should be put forward at the next meeting. It was noted that council elections will be taking place next year, which could impact the membership.

1558 Cllr John White was reconfirmed as Deputy Chairman

**4. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

1559 The minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> Local Community Liaison Council meeting were approved as a correct record.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

1560 Davair Burner – a letter was written to Cllr Sylvia Wargent. A detailed radiological assessment has been undertaken, and it was extremely difficult to detect any particles.

1561 Two permanent representatives are required for the National Stakeholder Group. Volunteers were requested. No-one volunteered so this item will be taken to the sub-group meeting.

**ACTION: CLLR BRIAN MAIN**

- 1562 Proposed amendments to the constitution made at the last meeting have been made and these are formally approved.
- 1563 A decision had been taken at a sub-group meeting that no more members would be admitted to the LCLC, as all meetings are open to the public. A question was raised if the NDA had been involved in this decision. Cllr Main stated that the NDA had not been involved; it was a decision made by LCLC members.

Ms Val Mainwood, attending in her capacity as a member of the public, stated that she was under the impression that the NDA thought that it was important for environmental groups like themselves to participate in the LCLC meetings. Ms Mainwood continued to state that her group were keen to be involved with discussions and decisions surrounding Bradwell Reactor Site and were unhappy with the LCLC's decision.

Cllr Main stated that in his opinion the LCLC is very inclusive as all meetings are open to the public to attend and are able to participate fully. The LCLC membership has a good mix of representation.

It was agreed that there needs to be a structure with members needing a lot more information about what is going on as a lot can happen in 6 months. Clive Woods stated that there is a website for SSGs, and that all information could be posted by the Site onto this Site.

- 1564 A statement was made about the frequency of the meetings and the level of information made available by the LCLC. Mr Woods, suggested that LCLC information could be posted to the Site Stakeholder Group section of the NDA's website by Bradwell Site. This was agreed.

**ACTION: PAUL HETHERINGTON**

- 1565 A query was made about emergency planning. Dr Gibson asked for a copy of the questions and would respond to them outside of the meeting.

## **6. SITE MANAGERS REPORT**

- 1566 Mr Mike Gull introduced himself as the new Site Manager at Bradwell. He stressed that he wanted to ensure no information gaps exist.

He reported that Bradwell Site have finished Defuelling both reactors and are currently removing fuel from Site, which is progressing well. Once all the fuel is off-site the back-out checks can be completed and the Site can move into full decommissioning. A new Project Delivery structure has been implemented, with four Assistant Site Managers overseeing the projects.

Safety remains number one priority at Bradwell Site and there has been nearly 550

days without a lost time accident. The Site has recently received a RoSPA gold medal for safety.

The current decommissioning plan is still a period of decommissioning preparing for Safestore and then Final Site Clearance in approximately 80 years. Mr Gull reported that British Nuclear Group is being sold over the next year.

- 1567 A member of the LCLC asked when the money allocated for street lighting and a pedestrian crossing for Steeple and Latchingdon respectively would become available. Mr Paul Hetherington responded, stating that some funding had been identified in the Site's Socio Economic plan and the Site would be contacting the council soon.
- 1568 It was recognised by a member of the LCLC that decommissioning is very different to generating and the member hopes the Site's strong safety record will continue. Reference was made to the high turnover of Site Managers and suggested there was a need for continuity. Mr Gull assured members he intended to be in post for a number of years but recognised that he is only as good as the Site performance. There is a new team at Bradwell and he is aware that stability is the key going forward. Mr Gull pointed out that the previous Site Manager, Mr John Vlietstra was an interim manager until he could take up post.
- 1569 Mr Gull was asked for a guarantee that priorities would remain the same after the sale of British Nuclear Group. Mr Gull gave details of pre-qualification criteria that potential buyers would need to meet which will include a track record in safety performance. The Site will still be regulated by the NII and the other regulators. If the Site is performing well he expected that there would be no need to change anything.
- 1570 A member asked about nuclear energy being back on the agenda. Mr Gull confirmed that British Nuclear Group had a clear remit to decommission current sites and this is the Site's focus.
- 1571 The Chairman asked if there were any plans for visual improvement at Bradwell and whether there was a possibility to lower the height of the reactor buildings. Mr Gull confirmed this was an option that the project team were currently looking at.
- 1572 Mr Gull spoke of his satisfaction that he was working with a professional team since taking up post in May 2006.

## **7. NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY (NDA) UPDATE**

- 1573 Clive Woods, NDA Site Programme Manager reminded members that the NDA had been in existence since April 2005. To continue to ensure value for money, the NDA had asked Bradwell to make savings of 7% last year and this had been achieved. This means that extra work can be undertaken.



- 1574 Mr Woods informed members that in response to the NDA Strategy, Magnox Electric Ltd have been asked to set up two standalone Site Licence Companies which will mean that whoever has the contract to run the Sites, security will be assured for staff. Bradwell will be part of the Southern Bundle and the bidding process will be complete by 2008. Preparations were already under way.
- 1575 There is an aspiration to return Bradwell to an agreed end state in 25 years. The NDA has been challenged by Government to make a business case for this. There are a number of big challenges with a Low Level Waste repository that is rapidly filling up and currently no agreed Intermediate Level Waste long term solution. Consultations on options will be taking place soon.
- 1576 Responding to a question from a local resident querying the possibility of an ILW regional store at Bradwell, Mr Woods said that the NDA don't have a preconceived perception but had to look at the options and the facts. If there ever was a regional store, it wouldn't necessarily be at Bradwell.
- 1577 A member of the public pointed out that an accelerated programme would depend on graphite moderator. In response, it was said that teams of technical specialist are looking to learn from other countries where lots of lessons have been learnt.
- 1578 Mr Woods was asked about the timing involved in building a store at Bradwell and whether a decision about a regional store would be made before construction started on Bradwell's planned store. It was noted that the options are being look at presently. A local resident asked whether geological criteria would be considered and it was reported that Bradwell had just submitted a report to NDA on the environmental impact.
- 1579 A resident asked what the ILW store would look like. Dave North, Assistant Site Manager detailed the store as an above the ground building that would effectively look like a warehouse. It will have the relevant safety requirements and will be fit for purpose, to the satisfaction of the NII and EA. Ensuring the facility is fit for purpose still requires satisfying strict criteria set out by regulators.

## **8. CHAIRMANS CONFERENCE AND END STATE CONSULTATION**

- 1580 Cllr Brian Main attended an SSG Chairman's Conference that discussed end state consultation. All members agreed it was a tough task to deliver and the NDA have given an extension to the end of March 2007. It was noted that Bradwell is leading the field with its consultation proposals and potential end state options have been prepared. Cllr Main said that he was worried a number of factors could affect the consultation such as CoRWM. The sub group had therefore earlier decided to put the consultation on hold.
- 1581 Cllr Main detailed recent correspondence with Richard Griffin from NDA and

expressed concern that the NDA was placing a heavy burden of responsibility on the LCLC. He noted that the Government will have the final say in what the end state is.

- 1582 Details of the proposed consultation were given by Cllr Main and would include a MORI survey including all Essex elected representatives and a sample of local residents. Cllr Main said the council needed to decide whether to proceed.
- 1583 Cllr John White gave details of a LLW Consultation he had attended the day before and said he feared going out to consultation would raise hopes that the Site would be in that position in 25 years. He expressed disappointment at Richard Griffin's letter and had hoped the NDA would have been able to provide more help. He fears progressing now could cause the public to lose faith in the LCLC.
- 1583 Clive Woods said he felt there was some confusion as to what end state is. It is what the Site should be once everything has gone. If a waste store was built, it would be after that had gone. The Site currently assumes it will become a brown field site, but the public has not had any say in that. The NDA want to hear public views and their desired end state could affect the clearance needed which could affect costs.
- 1584 An elected member signalled that the consultation should go ahead. Another member indicated that as long as the Site and LCLC are happy with the options going out to consultation, it should go ahead. Clive Woods pointed out that the options generated by Bradwell are being used as a base for other Sites.
- 1585 A local resident and Mr Gull said they could see both sides of the debate. Mr Gull stated that the technical experts will work out how an end state can be achieved and as long as expectations are managed, it will be better to have had a view expressed than not be heard at all. It was agreed by another member but she was concerned that sea defences already seem to have been decided in the options. It was pointed out this was not within the remit of NDA.
- 1586 It was noted that the wider membership has not seen the options yet. These will be made available.

**ACTION: LCLC SECRETARY**

- 1587 An elected member said that the industry should be telling the community what they could do with the time and money available. Cllr Main pointed out that the industry has done that previously with the deferred Site clearance approach. They would now like some guidance.
- 1588 It was asked how wide the consultation would be. Cllr Main said the MORI survey would only be able to talk to a sample but this would be cross-sectional.
- 1589 A vote was taken on whether to proceed with the consultation – 9 for and 1 against. The consultation will proceed and a sub group meeting should be arranged to plan for it.

**ACTION: LCLC SECRETARY**

1590 Cllr Carol Ellmers gave details of a Low Level Waste event she had attended the previous day. She said they were trying to find out what would be the more effective way of dealing with LLW. The results of the day will be analysed and there will be feedback in August. She believed the results could effect the end state of the Site. Cllr White added that Drigg is coming to the end of its life and there will be a lot of LLW as stations decommission. He urged the Government to look at building another central repository rather than 35 individual stores.

**9. DEFUELLING UPDATE**

1591 Russ Rainger introduced himself as the new Operations Manager, having previously held the post of Defuelling Manager. He said that reactor one had been defuelled 26 days ahead of programme and reactor two 92 days ahead. All fuel had now left the reactors and the remaining fuel on Site is in the cooling ponds. It is hoped this remaining fuel will leave Bradwell by October or possibly sooner, based on a target of getting two flasks off Site each week. There are 18 flasks left to go. Cllr Main congratulated the Site on this achievement.

**10. DECOMMISSIONING UPDATE**

1592 Harry Smith, Assistant Site Manager at Bradwell gave details of the current work underway at Bradwell. He said that full details of Site activities were available in the Lifetime Plan which was available on the NDA website.

1593 Mr Smith said that the Site were currently focused on asbestos removal as well as installing a new electrical overlay and control and instrumentation overlay which would allow the deplant of the turbine hall. He said that Bradwell had been selected as the first site to potentially go back to bioshield.

1594 It is possible the height of the reactors could be reduced to the same height as the turbine hall, but there are a number of issues relating to that. The boilers are 450 tonnes each but are relatively easy to remove. £50m per year over the next three years is being spent on decommissioning.

1595 A member said that when the boilers were removed from Berkeley, they were left on the ground. He asked if Bradwell was planning this or if they would be dismantled. Mr Smith agreed that there needed to be a clear route for what would happen to them and said they could be removed in less than a year. However, the experts need to look at what will happen to them and this is currently underway – it is not planned to leave them on the ground at the moment.

1596 Mr Smith confirmed in response to a question that the Site electrical overlay system will be complete by the end of the year and the supply would then be cut with the current grid line.



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1597 A local resident asked what the status was with the oil burner. It was confirmed that the oil burner is still being used and will for the next few months until the oil can be removed from Site. The burner will then not be operational.

**11. TRANSITION UPDATE**

1598 Mrs Natalie Firmager, HR Manager at Bradwell informed members that she was now responsible for transition at the Site. She said that the new structure had changed from how it was reported at the last meeting. It was now planned that staff numbers would increase to 330.

1599 Decommissioning the Site is a different job to running it and so the organisation needs new skills from its workforce. All staff were counselled to ascertain their aspirations. 97% of aspirations were met. The Site worked with the trade unions throughout the process.

1600 A number of people indicated that they would like to leave through selective voluntary severance. Thirty-four people left at the end of March, up to ten would leave at the end of June and around sixty-four would be leaving by May 2007.

1601 There has been a delay to the implementation of the new structure. This is because Sellafield have encountered delays receiving fuel flasks. However, the Site is now on target to launch the new structure on 1 October 2006.

1602 There are around 60 job vacancies at Bradwell at the moment that are being advertised locally. Mrs Firmager gave details of a proposed graduate and apprenticeship programme which the Site hopes to launch over the next year.

1603 A local councillor asked whether Bradwell was involved in the Maldon Centre for Vocational Education project with the Plume School. Mr Paul Hetherington reported that the project was part of the Site Socio Economic Plan and a meeting was scheduled with the Plume School the following week. Mrs Firmager added that the Site was in the process of building a number of relationships with bodies such as the local Business Link.

**12. NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE REPORT**

1604 Bruce Archer introduced himself as the new NII Site Inspector for Bradwell. Mr Archer gave details of a recent emergency demonstration that took place at Bradwell and confirmed that he was satisfied with the outcome.

1605 Mr Archer referred to his previously distributed report and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions asked.

**13. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT**

1606 Chris Lloyd introduced himself as the new EA Site Inspector for Bradwell. Mr Lloyd referred to his previously distributed report and offered to answer any questions.

There were no questions asked.

**14. SOCIO ECONOMIC REPORT**

1607 Mr Paul Hetherington introduced himself as the new Community Development Officer at Bradwell.

1608 He informed members that the Site now produce a Socio Economic Development plan annually which details how Bradwell would be supporting the local community in the long term by providing investment and learning opportunities for staff and local residents. This will include using local resources to support local business and developing personal development plans with further training for staff.

1609 The Site will spend this year building relationships with external agencies to help facilitate the plan.

1610 Investment will also be made in a number of local projects which fall under four areas – Environmental, Community, Educational and Business Development.

1611 Bradwell hopes to set up a working group that will help to formulate, develop and monitor the Socio Economic Plan and are looking for various people to join the group at the moment. The 2006/07 plan will be distributed to all members as soon as possible.

**ACTION: PAUL HETHERINGTON**

1612 A suggestion was made that the Socio Economic activities should include the Mersea area. Mr Hetherington acknowledged the point. Cllr Beale said that local businesses should have priority due to the impact on them with roads and the like. Mr Hetherington said that was why a working group was being set up to ensure the community had a say.

1613 There was a concern raised that the LCLC wasn't widely publicised in the Mersea area. Mr Hetherington said he would look at better ways to advertise the next meeting.

**ACTION: PAUL HETHERINGTON**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

1612 Richard Griffin of the NDA replied to a letter from Cllr Brian Main. The letter was also acknowledged by John Whittingdale MP and Bernard Jenkin MP.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1613 It was suggested the venue of the LCLC meetings should be more central. Cllr Main suggested it needed to be near to Maldon.

1614 Cllr Brian Main pointed out that attendance was low at the meeting and a number of members had failed to send apologies. He encouraged members to attend or send apologies for future meetings.



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**17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

1615 Wednesday 6 December 2006 – 10:00am

1616 Cllr Brian Main closed the meeting at 13:00.

The Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council (LCLC) is an independent, local community body acting as a link between the Bradwell Reactor Site and its neighbours.

All correspondence to the LCLC should be addressed to: The LCLC Secretariat,  
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