



CULHAM LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Meeting Reference CLLC(10)M1

Date	Thursday 22nd April 2010	Copies To
Present	Prof Steve Cowley (Chairman) CCFE Mr Martin Cox (CCFE) Mrs Jennifer Hay (CCFE) Mr Mike Hurp (CCFE) Dr Anthony Webster (CCFE) Miss Lisa Jones (CCFE) Dr Mike Watkins (EFDA-JET) Mr Steve Moss (SVUK)	Ms Tamsin Atley (OCC) Cllr David Turner (OCC) Cllr L Symons (VWHDC) Mr T Williams (VWHDC) Cllr Chris Dupond (Clifton Hampden PC) Cllr Bill Hanks (Sutton Courtenay PC) Mr Robin Holcombe (European School) Mr David Deleyser (Crystalox) Mr Dean Worthington (Oxford Innovation)
Apologies	Cllr A Purse (OCC) Dr Karl Littlewood (Environment Agency) Ms Olive Garfoot (Nuneham Courtenay PC)	Mr Ian Kane (Crystalox) Mr S Edwards (CNC) Mr N Henderson (LGC Forensics) Mr Glen Bartley (Culham PC)

MINUTES

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on the 15th October 2009 were accepted.

JSSG Update – David Turner

David Turner reported that he had stopped receiving copies of minutes from the Site Stakeholder Group meetings. The minutes are available on the NDA website – www.nda.gov.uk. Terry Fraser and Terry Joslin have agreed to keep David informed of what's going on. David also requested that Culham keep the NDA informed of any updates regarding JET as the NDA website is out of date.

Steve Cowley added that it was the UK's responsibility to decommission the JET Torus Hall, and that at the end of JET's lifetime the NDA will take responsibility. Since JET is continuing (beyond its original end date of 2009) the NDA has taken a back seat. David has been keeping in touch with the NDA on this.

Matters Arising – Steve Cowley

Since the last meeting the Culham Apprentice Programme had been reviewed externally and very favourable comments were received.

General Developments – Steve Cowley

The results from a review by the Research Councils on a 20 year vision of fusion in the UK arrived just before Christmas. The technical part of the review was conducted by Keith

Burnett (former Chair of the Fusion Advisory Board). The panel concluded that the research should continue in the long-term and that it was important to keep JET running until ITER starts operating. The MAST programme was also commended and the review concluded it should continue to the next stage. MAST started in 1990 and has now run for a decade. EPSRC have committed extra funds to allow for a MAST Upgrade which will push performance levels to near fusion levels. The upgrade will take 4 years and once complete will set Culham for another 10 year programme. MAST research is critical to the future of the site which will extend beyond JET.

JET is likely to run up until the start of ITER which is currently expected to be November 2019. Following the end of its life there may be the option to house another European facility on site. The ITER budget is unfortunately over its original estimate. Discussions on ITER funding with the European Commission continue. Planning for life at Culham after JET is difficult while the ITER funding is in flux.

ITER Procurement is carried out by F4E. Since January 2010 F4E has been headed by Frank Briscoe – former director of operations at Culham. ITER contracts are continuing to move forward and several contracts have been placed with UK companies. Local companies, such as Oxford Instruments have been awarded a contract and it is expected that Oxford Technologies will pick up some work. The ITER cost rises are putting a strain on the rest of the budget and as a result Euratom funding may be squeezed.

In November 2009 the final sale of UKAEA Ltd was completed. Culham and Harwell site are now the major components of the UK Atomic Energy. In November Steve Cowley was appointed Chief Executive, Eric Hollis became Chief Financial Officer, Martin Cox became Director of Operations and Derek Stork was made Director of Technology. These four members of staff form the Executive Board who in turn report to Lady Judge as Chairman of the Corporate Board. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority Board provides governance for Culham and reports to the Shareholder Executive under BIS. A review of future governance is in progress. By the next meeting it is hoped that the result will be clearer.

David Turner commented that during the JET Site Stakeholder Group meetings it was apparent there was a strong local feeling that this site should have a future energy research.

The bonfire night held last November was also deemed a success.

EFDA-JET Report – Mike Watkins

Mike Watkins gave an update on behalf of EFDA-JET. The current JET shutdown started on the 26 October 2009 as planned and will finish at the end of January 2011. The shutdown will allow the replacement of all interior components. The present tiles (which are largely carbon based) and interior will be replaced with new beryllium tiles and components to test the ITER wall configuration. The bottom section will be replaced with tungsten-coated tiles. The shutdown is a large undertaking which will be carried out by remote handling. The shutdown will also allow an increase in the heating power and the opportunity to improve diagnostics systems.

Planning for the 2011 experiments has begun and a kick off meeting with the Task Forces who are responsible for the definition of next year's programme has been held. About 10-11 European labs participate via video conference in weekly planning meetings.

In-vessel work on the machine will end in December. In the past there were 7 task forces reflecting the breadth of experiments that were carried out. The next campaign will help influence the final ITER design and first operation of ITER and will be more focused.

We are developing new partners and other countries are showing an interest in joining JET. For example, there are now some Brazilian scientists on site.

The Remote Handling facilities are a collaboration with a local company called Oxford Technologies. The technology, which was developed at JET, will have a big influence on the next generation of work on site and at ITER. By using local companies we make a major impact on local economic growth.

CCFE Fusion Report – Martin Cox

The current MAST experimental campaign has been very productive and is producing good data. The machine is about to enter a 7 month shutdown to enable extra diagnostics to be installed. The news on MAST funding has been received well. There will be a need to optimise the staff (scientists and technical) on site to help with the upgrade. This is seen as a good opportunity for those on site and it is hoped for a flood of volunteers. The upgrade news gives the MAST programme a 10 year horizon again.

There is huge progress in addition to work on MAST, particularly within the Theory and Modelling area. Messages are conveyed to staff through all staff talks and to the MAST team.

UK PR Update – Jennifer Hay

There have been changes with the PR Department following the retirement of Chris Carpenter after 32 years of service. Chris Warrick has now taken on the role as head of PR.

The PR team are continued to be involved with many projects. One particularly large ongoing project is the site re-branding and in particular the new website which continues to evolve. The new website has interactive pages and videos which will continue to grow. Following the announcement of the MAST Upgrade time has been spent identifying a style and conveying the upgrade to the scientific community and the general public.

Public outreach continues with talks to many schools, universities and external talks around the country. Recent local talks have included Café scientific in Oxford, Didcot and further a field. The Sundome project continues and is being trialled at secondary schools to add a further element to the programme. The Culham open evenings continue to be popular and bookings now being taken 6 months ahead. They are now held almost one per month without the need to advertise. Back in March Culham took part in the Oxfordshire Science Festival in Broad Street, Oxford. The event was very successful with around 2000 people attending during the day and it was seen that there was a lot of interest in fusion.

On public affairs there are consistent update meetings with MEP's and MP's. The local MP's for all parties have been very supportive and have helped open more doors.

The media activities continue to flourish with climate change and future energy supply being topics of concern to the public. Culham and fusion have received coverage in both national and international press. A few media examples are Channel 4 news report, BBC Radio 4 costing the earth show and articles in the Financial Times, New Statesman, the Times. Science media have covered articles on the JET Shutdown, MAST Upgrade and the Research Council's 20 year fusion strategy.

Local media covered an article on laser fusion and focussed on the HiPER project which involves RAL. The article stated that we would have a huge power station in Oxfordshire. The Research Councils published a rebuttal statement.

IF the general election on May 6th results in a new government, it will be imperative to invite a new science minister to visit the UK and JET side.

Laurel Symons asked if secondary schools were able to bid to be part of the pilot scheme. Jennifer replied that it was.

David Turner suggested that a letter is written to Chris Carpenter on behalf of this committee to thank him for his work. Steve Cowley replied that he thought this was a good idea and that he will follow it up.

CCFE Site Report – Mike Hurp

Demolition of the dilapidated and life expired buildings on the north western part of the site is continuing. The work is on track and should be finished in early June. Civil work on site continues for the new power supplies for MAST. This should be finished shortly and the transformers are due early in May ready for the cabling work. Planning consent was received for a new storage building on the JET site. This is now in use. The signage at the main gate was replaced to accommodate the new re-branding to CCFE.

In addition to the fusion activities on site there is also a thriving community of businesses here in space leased from the Authority. Occupancy of the available commercial rental space is currently running close to 90%. In the last year a couple of companies have moved into new premises, while existing tenants have expanded. Including businesses in the Culham Innovation Centre there are over 40 companies on site. Culham has contributed towards the SODC inward investment brochure and is featured alongside other major business locations within the district.

Culham has a travel plan which sets out what Culham does to try and promote different modes of travel to work, for example car sharing, cycling, etc. The information has been shared with SODC and OCC and businesses on site have contributed. Regular travel surveys have been carried out and the results show that, although car use is predominant (as would be expected given the location), the use of other methods for travel to work has increased. The recent circulation of a new car share leaflet produced a positive response. The bicycle users group on site is thriving. It is planned to hold a bike to work day on the 23rd June as part of bike to work week.

David Turner expressed concern that the area had been left out of the SCOTS Report and the potential for growth at Culham had not been widely recognised in OCC. Mike Hurp commented that he had followed up the contact with Tracey Dow, and that Rachel Nixon has been involved in initial work on the masterplan.

SVUK – Steve Moss

Steve Moss gave a presentation on Science Vale UK which is a group of 8 organisations who are looking at development in the area. Steve Cowley is currently the Chair of the Board. Further information can be found at www.sciencevale.com

Dr Anthony Webster asked if it would be possible increase the number of visitors if more resources were available. Steve Cowley replied that expanding the number of tours would have an impact on people's work and there were no plans to increase the number of visitors. The area has many facilities and often schools combined visits to Culham with Diamond. Looking at the possibilities for the funding and creation of a visitors centre should still be explored.

Update from Tenants

Robin Holcombe from the European School gave a progress update. The timescale for the school changing to an academy became unrealistic so the programme date has been put back to September 2011. It is proposed that the school will be transformed to an academy

as part of the UK state system specialising in languages and science. The decision was made back in 2007 to close the school in its current form in August 2017 when the European Commission will withdraw its funding. The phasing out will start in September 2010 when there will be no admissions in nursery year 1. With the plans for the academy to be completed by the summer, a proposal will be submitted to the Minister for Education and then the Board of Governors in Brussels who will be asked to relinquish control of the European School in its present form. It will then be possible to transform the school to an Academy in September 2011. Although this sounds straightforward there are problems to overcome with transitional funding from the European Commission. It is hoped that all will go well and the project will go ahead. Some staff are currently seconded from the member states and the Academy has to come to an agreement to transfer staff to the Academy. Lord Jay is playing a large role in the Academy project and in raising money for the endowment fund which would provide supplementary funding for the school. An update on progress is hoped for by the end of the summer and by the next meeting we should have some more news.

Transport issues and the problems with the cycle path to Abingdon are still being explored.

Dean Worthington, from Oxford innovation, is involved in the innovation centres at Milton Park, Culham and Oxford. The innovation centre is an incubation area for small start-up companies with a tendency towards science. The Culham centre is currently occupied at about 75-80% but is regularly changing. It is encouraging that companies have moved into the centre and graduated to take large space on site. The company provides small flexible space in the technology fields and spin-off companies.

David De Leyser from Crystalox updated the meeting with the news that their expansion plans were now underway. The company started expanding into new premises at Milton Park in January and are currently holding a resilient performance considering the challenging times. Recruitment is likely of another 15 people over the next few months. Crystalox will be moving to a new building which will be up and running by June, but will still retain the existing buildings which house the machines. This will give potential for up to another 40 machines for a programme in the latter half of this year. The original premises in Wantage are being used for storage.

12. Any other Business

Cllr Bill Hanks raised a question about sharing the apprentice programme around other sites. Steve Cowley replied that this is already underway, another company on site are becoming involved in the apprentice programme. Talks are also taking place with other possible outside companies.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th September 2010

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