Oldbury on Severn Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of the New Nuclear Build Committee held via the Zoom platform on Thursday 3rd November 2022 at 10am via Zoom

1. Present

Chairman Cllr Keith Sullivan, Dr Tony Acton, Tony England and, Gillian Ellis-King (South Gloucestershire Council)

Clerk: Victoria Bailey

2. To receive apologies

Apologies received from Barry Turner

3. Declarations of interest and dispensation requests

None received

4. To accept minutes of the last NNB meeting held on 10/08/2022 (paper 1)

All in favour; minutes accepted

5. Update from SSG

KS updated the committee that there was not much to report from the SSG meeting. GEK noted that the demolitions will result in visually significant change, especially when the turbine hall goes. It will be noticed and it would be interesting to see what is proposed in respect of the fill that large underground void that forms part of the turbine hall. Decommissioning operations will affect future uses possible on the NDA land. It is understood that a refreshed Lifetime Plan for the site is being developed, but timeframes are uncertain of the site.

6. Update on from Gillian Ellis-King

GEK repeated the update that was given to SSG:

- There has been disappointment at the decision to locate the UKAEA STEP Fusion project at West Burton A. Although UKAEA acknowledged the strength of the Severn Edge nomination, their recommendation concluded that it the Severn Edge site didn't offer the best balance of risks and opportunities
- GEK passed on the Severn Edge team's gratitude for the strong community support in the nomination process
- Severn Edge is seeking to maintain a positive relationship with UKAEA

- It is hoped that the body of work brought together to support the STEP nomination will be beneficial for any future proposals, and certainly the profile of Severn Edge and the Oldbury and Berkeley sites has been raised
- Oldbury remains a nationally designated site as being potentially suitable to host new nuclear development. It is understood that National Policy Statement EN-6 in relation to new nuclear proposed for review next year. An organisation called Great British Nuclear is being established with a view to supporting delivery on the nuclear related aspects of the Energy Security Strategy
- 'New nuclear' has broadened from Hinkley scale developments to also include a range of other technologies and promoters including Rolls Royce
- It is thought possible that Rolls Royce may consider the Oldbury site suitable for deployment for one or more of their SMRs*
- At their recent meeting, the SSG Chair had informally asked members whether there may be potential support for Small Modular Reactors being developed at Oldbury and the response seemed to be positive in principle (noting that there are no details as to how proposals might be delivered at Oldbury)
- GEK stressed that Severn Edge will continue to press for project promoters to engage with host communities and Councils early on in the development of proposals for Oldbury, so that the community have a voice, can ask questions and express views and any concerns
- GEK reported that South Gloucestershire Council had submitted a letter of support in respect of Gloucestershire's nomination of Berkeley Green as an alternative energy park – submitted in response to the (previous) Government's 'Investment Zone' initiative**

  Subsequent notes:

  * Rolls Royce press release listed Oldbury as one of their top 4 potential sites for the deployment of their SMRs. Rolls-Royce SMR prioritises four NDA sites for 15 GW of new nuclear power - Rolls Royce SMR (rolls-royce-smr.com)

  ** It is understood that the Government 'Investment Zones' initiative has now been shelved in favour of knowledge intensive growth clusters – more information is awaited. Investment zone bids 'will not be taken forward' after 'refocus' | Local Government Chronicle (LGC) (lgcplus.com)

KS thanked GEK for her work on behalf of Oldbury Parish Council.

7. Discussion on SMR's

KS and TA will draft a letter for VB to forward to contacts at Rolls Royce (Mike Crawforth and Alastair Evans.) TA asked the committee if they should offer Rolls Royce a site visit; this was agreed as a good idea. It was also agreed to highlight the South Gloucestershire Stroud College at Berkeley Green, the knowledgeable and proactive community, positive engagement with the Severn Edge team, brownfield opportunities, adequate assets and existing infrastructure.

GEK relayed officer understanding of a few key characteristics of Rolls Royce SMR proposals including that each SMR takes up 5 hectares; each module creates 200 permanent jobs and 5000 to 6000 jobs during the construction phase. It is also understood that a key principle of the RR design is that all modules should be transportable by road. TA added that SMR's generate 400 megawatts each. An SMR will likely take 5 years to build.

Action
KS and TA to draft a letter to Rolls Royce; committee to be bcc'd

8. Any other items of report

TA asked when the SSG group began; KS to ask ML

Action
KS to ask ML when the SSG began and update the NNB committee with the answer

9. Date and time of next meeting

Meeting closed 11.02am

Next meeting, via Zoom, will be on 11/01/2023 at 10.30am

Attachments:

1. Minutes of meeting held 10/08/2022