

## **SDPAG Observers' update on SDP Consultation Events**

Further to their interim update on the SDP consultation events (copy attached for convenience) this note is to bring you up to date with the AG Observers' work, which includes attendance for one day at each of the events at St Mellion, the Surgeons Hall Edinburgh and Rosyth Civil Service Club.

### **Consultation Events**

The MOD has maintained the previous format for the displays and the workshops which have been found to work well. Regulators have been present at the events to answer questions from the public and this has been appreciated.

The MOD has recently released its Interim Feedback Report <http://tinyurl.com/7p9a2xf> . AG Observers have checked the records of workshop attendance, issues and comments and, as far as they can tell accurate recording has been taking place.

Event administrative still seems to be generally effective, and the MOD team continue to explain things clearly and appear to be genuinely interested in people's views. The workshop sessions continue to be well facilitated and feedback from participants is positive.

Although attendance was not high, a wide range of issues both on SDP and local issues have been raised and recorded. St Mellion attracted 110 visitors with 87 taking part in workshops; Edinburgh was 62 and 12 in workshops and Rosyth 95 with 54 in workshops. An additional event was held in Saltash Town Hall due to the difficulty in reaching St Mellion although the MOD did offer transport to that event. A further workshop-only event was planned near Rosyth at the request of the local community but no one attended due to postal delays hampering receipt of newsletters and confusion over dates. There is to be an event in Linlithgow, again following local requests. Details of all these consultation events are on the MOD website <http://tinyurl.com/7xulrkr>.

### **Detailed Observations**

The following detailed points are in addition to those made in the Observers' interim update:

- Despite consultation with local authorities, some venues have been too remote and not generally effective. Discussions with lower tier authorities' e.g Parish/Community Councils could be useful.
- The more local the venue to a proposed site, the greater the interest. Easy access is important.
- MOD has been responsive to requests for additional events.
- One venue refused a booking as it was not aware of the significance of the event because Green Issues could not specify the reason for the potential booking in case it could prejudice the consultation. One venue double booked and the team had to improvise in a room unsuited to the purpose.
- The attendance of regulators was important in order to provide an independent view.
- Participation of MOD staff from Rosyth and Devonport gave a sense of ownership to the proposals, i.e not just remote MOD staff.
- Neutral facilitation is important.

- MOD has rotated the speakers at workshops to ensure that all staff gain the experience and this has also helped focus the speakers' minds on consistent responses and answers to questions.
- Local issues feature at events. With Rosyth it was Dalgetty Bay (levels of radiation found on shore) and Plymouth the proposed Energy From Waste Plant.
- Bad weather and the Xmas period did not assist with attendance

### **Future Work**

AG Observers intend to observe the two National Stakeholder Workshops and will review the MOD collation of consultation responses.

At the completion of the consultation they will prepare an overall report for the AG with comments and lessons to be learnt.

Look forward to seeing you at the next AG. MOD is currently considering dates in discussion with the Chairman.

Les Netherton. AG Chair