

View from the top



What does a good neighbour look like? Well, we may all have slightly different answers to that question, but we certainly could quickly agree on what a bad neighbour might look like.

No one likes the newcomer who moves in, and immediately starts holding large parties every weekend clogging up the streets with their parking and keeping the neighborhood up at night with their loud music. I have said this before, but we recognise that we at the LLWR have a responsibility in the community to be a good neighbour.

I see two primary responsibilities as members of the local community. First and foremost is to operate with excellence and keep the long term in mind, and do not leave behind any kind of negative legacy. During the Cold War, key decisions were made to store Plutonium Contaminated Materials (PCM) at the site.

To use my neighbourhood analogy, it's like the prior resident left a mess in the front garden, and as the new residents, we see it as our responsibility to clean up the mess and plant a new and attractive garden to benefit the entire community.

The PCM Decommission Programme is doing just that, and I am happy to say that the Programme is still on schedule to be completed by late 2017 or early 2018.

The second responsibility is to enrich the community that we are a part of. This one is difficult for a corporate entity to do; however, we are trying. This newsletter highlights a few of these initiatives.

The investment into the Seascale Community Beach Park Project is a perfect example of the kind of thing that we are excited to get behind and support because when completed, the entire community is enriched.

Another example is the small garden allotment in Calderbridge that we have taken on. We are hoping that we will produce stronger relationships with local residents (in addition to some fresh vegetables).

At the end of the day, however, it is up to the rest of the neighbourhood to decide whether or not we are the kind of neighbour that is welcome.

I hope that we are perceived as a responsible resident who is positively contributing to the local area.

Dennis Thompson,
Managing Director

Putting down roots

Volunteers from LLWR are proving good neighbours on their new company allotment, in the walled garden adjacent to Pelham House, at Calderbridge.

A company-wide appeal for donations of equipment met a fantastic response, especially from the repository site, near Drigg, and after receiving more than they needed, volunteers decided to share with fellow allotment holders.

"Items such as pallets have many uses and it is nice to be able to share these with our new neighbours," said LLWR's Head Gardener Fiona Robinson.

LLWR volunteers have started work on their new plot and are planning to grow potatoes as their first crop.

"Allotments are all about recycling, and so is LLWR, so there is a similar ethos there," said Bob Jones. His fellow allotment holder Ray Hodge added: "The people from LLWR are a welcome addition to our community. Anything we can do to help, we are here." A wide range of vegetables will be grown on the LLWR plot and the produce will be shared with volunteers to



Nice mix: LLWR volunteers meet allotment holders

promote healthy eating and general wellbeing.

Fiona said: "I gained my APM (Association of Project Management) qualification last year and I never would have thought that a year on I would be using it to manage a company allotment project.

"There is a lot of hard work ahead as we are starting from scratch, but we have a good team of dedicated volunteers who have made excellent progress since we started late last year, especially given the weather we have had!"

Want to work with us?

LLWR is to launch a new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) from 1st April. The new system, to be called Business Services Marketplace, is accessible to local suppliers and Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), in addition to larger businesses. LLWR needs access to a wide range of professional services, primarily in functional support areas, to support the business and it is believed that the best way to provide this type of support is through the use of a DPS. A DPS enables public purchasers to consult a large number of potential suppliers of standardised works, supplies or services, whose capabilities have already been verified.

They increase competition, suppliers go through selection once only, requirements can be broken down into small one-off packages and the cost of tendering/evaluation is reduced.

Examples of areas where access to a wide range of professional services is needed by LLWR to support the business are: Portfolio, Programme and Project Management; Programme Controls Finance; Environment; Health and Safety; Security; Quality; Engineering; HR; Public Affairs; Business; Commercial and Legal.

Tom Crowe, Head of Procurement, said: "We at LLWR pride ourselves on listening to feedback from the supply chain. The Business Services Marketplace aims to not only address concerns from suppliers but should also aid in enabling LLWR to achieve government SME targets."



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Our helping hand!



An ambitious plan to regenerate Seascale's play facilities on the beachfront has received a £5,000 boost from LLWR.

Members of the Seascale Community Beach Park Project, a group of proactive village residents, were given the good news after explaining their proposals to Dennis Thompson, MD of LLWR, and Cath Giel, Head of Public Affairs.

"We were absolutely delighted with the financial contribution, but also bowled over by the enthusiasm shown by Dennis and Cath," said Elizabeth Mawson, chair of the project. "It was clear they were really behind the idea."

The Beach Park Project has been costed at around £150,000 and members are working hard to secure funding. They hope it will be in place early next year.

This beachfront area, which is now under the ownership of the parish council, has seen no investment since 1998 with a lot of the existing play equipment dating back 30 years and recently a number of pieces of equipment were condemned.

In addition to an imaginative play area for children, a new-look beach-front will include a central public space with seating, landscaping and amenities.

Cath Giel said: "We were delighted to contribute to this project, which will prove of benefit to the entire community – residents, businesses and the many visitors who pop in to the village.

"The facility is expected to feature for at least 20 years, so we see our investment as reaping long-term benefits, from one generation to the next."



From old to new: above, Elizabeth Mawson and youngsters at the play area as it looks today, and top, an impression of its new look if funds can be raised

Funding allocation keeps us on track

LLW Repository Ltd's funding request for the forthcoming year has been granted, meaning all the organisation's key projects will remain on their schedules.

Concern had been expressed in some circles ahead of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in November last year that LLWR could be among those to face funding cuts.

But Dennis Thompson, LLWR Managing Director, said the company had trusted that funding would be made available, and he noted that LLWR would be spared the brunt of cuts over the following three years.

There was also a commitment to complete the PCM Programme on the accelerated schedule, meaning it may be wrapped up in 2018.

Dennis said: "This is tribute to how well the PCM programme is working, and this fact is recognised by the NDA."

Keen youngsters flock to our banner

LLW Repository Ltd's faith in apprenticeships has already paid dividends – and there is no shortage of new potential recruits keen to take their first steps in the nuclear industry with the company.

Teenagers and their parents flocked to LLWR's exhibition stand at a Careers Fair in Whitehaven - a joint effort with Framework partner GRAHAM Construction - to learn more about what the low level waste industry can offer.

"Our involvement was very worthwhile," said Mark Edgar, an Assistant HR Officer with LLWR. "We had interest from dozens of people, a constant stream for three hours, from start to finish. We never had a quiet period.

"There was most interest in engineering and business administration apprenticeships, but we explained there was potential to do mechanical apprenticeships, too."

National Apprenticeship Week, which runs this week, from 14-18 March, is designed to celebrate the long-established route to the workplace. But LLWR hardly needs to be reminded about the positive impact apprenticeships have on individuals, business and the wider economy.

Early moves into the area proved fruitful with its first four apprentices – Daniel Paton, Rebecca Wood, Ellie Pearson and Beth McKee – progressing to full-time roles within the organisation.

Ellie, 22, moved into a role as a Training Assistant with LLWR after earning an NVQ Level 3 in Business & Administration. Gen2 manage the national-accredited apprentice scheme with LLWR providing the daily work environment.

Ellie said: "I got the chance to work in a number of different departments and looked at areas such as Talent and Succession Planning,



United effort: above, LLWR's Mark Edgar was joined by GRAHAM Construction's Elaine Woodburn at the Careers Fair in Whitehaven while , below, LLWR apprentices Jake Icton and Owen Adair were on hand with advice for youngsters

Personal Impact Training and Evaluation Training. They were all valuable, helped make me more comfortable in my role and expanded my knowledge. Apprenticeships are not for everyone, it depends what you are looking for, but it's a good way to get your foot in the door and get early work experience, which is good for your CV.

"You haven't just been on a college course, you've been in the workplace. I was very lucky, going straight from my apprenticeship into a job with LLWR."

A second batch of five apprentices who went on to launch their careers with LLWR in 2014 are all still in training with the company. And two of these, Owen Adair (Electrical & Instrumental Design) and Jake Icton (Mechanical Craft), were on hand at the Beyond 16 Careers Fair, in Whitehaven, to offer



advice to youngsters interested in going down the same path. Mel Scudamore, LLWR's Senior Training Officer, said: "The calibre of young person we have chosen for our apprenticeship programme has been very high, and that is reflected in the fact that all have gone on to secure employment with us. After such promising beginnings, I believe LLWR will continue to place its faith in apprenticeships as a route to work for enthusiastic young people."

Getting chilly for charity in Windermere



Six volunteers from LLWR put home comforts to one side for just one night to raise funds for the elderly. The staff, pictured left, were sponsored by colleagues, friends and family to take part in the Big Sleep, Cumbria Community Foundation's outdoor fund-raiser for the charity's Winter Warmth campaign, which helps older people in the county.

Temperatures dropped below zero for over 100 fund-raisers who camped out in a field behind the Low Wood Hotel in Windermere. But minds were taken off the cold by the Foundation, which provided live music, lantern making, food and drink and a movie before the night under the stars. Staff hope to raise well over £500 for the charity. Visit the Foundation's Just Giving page to contribute to the Winter Warmth Campaign.

Bendalls are the complete package!

The personal touch was applied by LLWR when its new packaging manufacturer was invited for a site visit before starting work on their multi-million pound contract.

Cumbrian firm Bendalls Engineering was announced in December as the successful bidder for the contract to manufacture new Type B (Novapak) packaging for the transport of nuclear material. 17 representatives from all levels of the Carlisle-based company took the chance to visit site.

Steve Ellery, Mott MacDonald Project Director for LLWR, said: "There was a good mix of people from Bendalls. We gave them an overview of what the Type B packaging they will produce will be used for, so they have a good understanding of the importance of quality throughout manufacture.

"They got the chance to see our existing fleet and we got good feedback from the visit and the Bendalls staff asked lots of relevant questions.

"It was good to get an understanding of any fabrication issues in person, rather than simply from a set of drawings. This is the start of a



Observing: Staff from Bendalls tour the LLWR site

good relationship."

An Authority to Manufacture will be issued at the end of March and the first pair of 10 packages to be produced will be delivered in October.

"These packages will fill a vital role," Steve added. "LLWR is leading the Type B PCM Programme for the UK." The packaging will be used to transport legacy Plutonium Contaminated Materials by rail from the LLW Repository site, near Drigg, to Sellafield, in addition to materials from Magnox Harwell, in Oxfordshire.

The use of Novapaks is associated with the clean-up of intermediate level waste from nuclear decommissioning. They contain an

outer packaging providing thermal and main impact protection while inner packaging provides containment.

Each of the high-specification stainless steel packages, around 2m³, will carry four, 200 litre drums of material. LLWR worked closely and collaboratively with Nuvia, the package design authority, who will be integrally involved through the manufacturing, operations and maintenance of the packaging. The Novapak will replace LLWR's existing fleet and be in operation for eight years.

Chris Woodhead, Bendalls MD, said: "Importantly, contracts of this nature underpin our continued investment in a highly-skilled workforce based in Cumbria."

Our Holly's training programme proving first-rate

Holly Fittes popped 'home' to LLWR as part of a *nucleargraduates* visit to our site.

The Environmental Scientist is LLWR's first sponsored member of the *nucleargraduates* scheme, a two-year graduate training programme initiated by the NDA and tailored to produce suitably skilled young people for the nuclear industry.

Holly spent over eight months working under Hannah Kozich in the National Programme Office at



LLWR before moving to Sellafield for a spell in the Environmental team in Decommissioning.

She is now with Frazer-Nash, a multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy, to complete her training under the scheme.

"We've had some really positive feedback about Holly and at the end of the scheme she is hoping to come and work for us," said Hannah.

"The scheme is about getting bright people who want to do well into your company, and it works very well. They provide energy and are keen, and they provide a fresh pair of eyes.

"We are raising LLWR's profile in this area and we are actively seeking *nucleargraduates* who want to work for us on placement.

"The organisation's relatively small size means we are flexible, we all know each other, and if graduates need experience in a particular area of our business, we can generally accommodate their requirements."

Holly added: "I think this scheme is

incredible, I'm learning so much about the industry."

To learn more about placements at LLWR contact Hannah.L.Kozich@LLWRsite.com



Learning experience: nucleargraduates, above visit site and left, Holly Fittes during her initial spell with LLWR