Welcome

TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER

Since I joined Horizon, we have continued to make significant progress in our plans to build a new generation of nuclear power stations in the UK.

We’re currently focused on our lead site, Wylfa Newydd, but much of our activity supports the future development of Oldbury too. For example, an agreement in principle with Government on a support package to secure future investment and the completion of the regulators’ assessment of our reactor design (see back page).

At Wylfa, we aim to apply for a Development Consent Order, the planning approval required, in 2017. This would allow us to commence main construction in 2019. We recently completed the second round of community consultation on our proposals there and we’ll share the learnings from this with stakeholders and local councils around Oldbury. We want our future consultations to allow local people to help shape our project design.

I believe that before you get the permissions required for new nuclear build, you need to secure a “social licence”. This involves forming a real partnership with the local community. A new Oldbury power station will drive infrastructure improvements and bring millions in investment to the region.

I promise to keep you updated as our plans develop.

Duncan Hawthorne
Chief Executive Officer

Horizon’s Futures education programme continues to inspire local pupils about STEM opportunities.

Our ongoing support for schools around Oldbury-on-Severn in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) includes computer workshops designed to encourage problem-solving.

Delivered by education specialists STEMworks, and supported by our employees, the programme is now in its third year and is following some pupils as they progress through primary and secondary schools in South Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.

Horizon has also exhibited at open day events for prospective students at Stroud and South Gloucestershire College at its Berkeley and WISE campuses to highlight the range of jobs our projects will bring. In addition, the Futures programme now includes a range of teachers’ resource materials to download from Horizon’s website. Developed with teachers to complement the curriculum, the materials introduce children to the science behind low-carbon energy.

Helen Grundy, Horizon’s Corporate Sustainability Manager, said: “Our Futures education programme, combining online resources, in-school activities and careers information, aims to inspire interest in STEM-related subjects and develop the skills they need to be successful. In the years ahead we want to create a pipeline of opportunities for young people in the communities in which we operate.”

For more information go to: www.horizonnuclearpower.com/futures
Support for families

Helping local families to smile

Children and families with additional needs will benefit from a donation made to Community Interest Company, Jigsaw Thornbury, by Horizon.

Set up three years ago, the group is run by a team of 30+ dedicated volunteers and provides a range of events, support and information as well as the Jigsaw lending library.

Last year alone it held over 60 events and supported over 100 families with children with disabilities, behavioural, sensory and learning difficulties in South Gloucestershire.

The additional funding will allow the group to extend its provision of sensory equipment and resources in its lending library as well as expand its offering for children aged 7-11. Sarah Martin, one of Jigsaw Thornbury’s four directors said: “Children and families with additional needs often face exclusion from mainstream activities open to others.

“Consequently, our name stands for joining in, gaining support, awareness and wellbeing and our motto is ‘You fit in!’

“Horizon’s generous support will help us increase the reach of our organisation, as we work to support more families by offering support, friendship and practical advice.”

Property update

Progress is made on local properties

Our work to complete the demolition of The Windbound resumed this autumn on receipt of all the necessary consents.

The property, adjacent to the River Severn, was considered unsafe and, with health and safety our number one priority, it was decided that removing the building was the safest approach.

It is anticipated that all materials will be removed from the site before Christmas, with the final phase of the project, including site landscaping and fencing, being completed early in the new year.

Property Manager David Birch, who is overseeing the project, said: “As well as the removal of the building at The Windbound, the project includes reinstatement work on the embankment.

“We expect pedestrian access to the river will be maintained while our specialist contractors are on site, however there may be a few occasions when it may need to be temporarily restricted. We have liaised with South Gloucestershire’s Rights of Way team on this and our aim is to minimise any disruption.” Further restoration

Local interest sparked in dig

A group of keen archaeological enthusiasts braved autumnal weather to hear about the approaches being taken by specialist and volunteer archaeologists at A Forgotten Landscape Project’s initial dig at the Toot in Oldbury.

We are supporting the local cultural project with its funding, allowing A Forgotten Landscape to extend community-related activity for this part of its programme. The initial dig at the Toot was to investigate signs of Iron Age remains, as it is possible that the site was once an ancient fort. Although the volunteer archaeologists did not uncover any Iron Age finds, a few pieces of Victorian pottery were unearthed. A Forgotten Landscape Project will carry out further archaeological excavations next summer with Horizon’s donation supporting a community dig.

www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk
• Horizon fielded a seven-strong team in the Oldbury Fun Run, a fitting number given that 2016 was the seventh consecutive year the company has supported the event. We contribute to the cost of the race timing system and were pleased that in this year’s race four of our team came within the top 150 out of 450 runners.

New HQ opened

• Our new HQ, Sunrise House on Gloucester Business Park, was opened earlier this year. The purpose-built offices are now home to more than 400 people working on our proposals to deliver new nuclear at Wylfa Newydd and Oldbury-on-Severn.

Paths cleared

• Horizon’s property team has started to carry out a maintenance programme on a number of footpaths and bridleways that cross Horizon-owned land near Oldbury. The work, being carried out with support from South Gloucestershire Council, will ensure that access remains clear.

Skills development

This year we welcomed another six graduates onto our second Graduate Programme at our Gloucester HQ. They have been joined by four colleagues on a ten-month industrial placement, after which the students will return to their university courses.

At Wylfa Newydd our first intake of apprentices joined the team and we expect around 700 apprenticeships to have been created on Anglesey by the time the plant is operational.
Regulator to consult on reactor assessment

As part of the GDA process, the environmental regulators will this month start consulting on the environmental assessments they have carried out so far on the UK ABWR.

The Environment Agency (EA) is the independent environmental regulator of nuclear power stations and other nuclear sites in England. In conjunction with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), it is assessing the safety, security and environmental implications of new reactor designs, away from site-specific issues.

Saffron Price-Walter, GDA Manager at the EA, said: “It’s our job to ensure that any new nuclear power station will meet high standards of environmental protection and we are keen to hear from the local community around Oldbury. All comments made during the consultation will be carefully considered and can help to inform the assessment and decisions about the UK ABWR design.”

The Environment Agency’s 12-week consultation launches in mid-December and runs until March 2017. There are a number of ways to get involved:

- To view the EA’s online consultation and its assessment reports, go to: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/gda-of-hitachi-ge-nuclear-energy-ltds-uk-advanced-boiling-water-reactor
- A community drop-in event will be held by the EA on 8th February at Turnberrie’s Community Centre, Bath Road, Thornbury, BS35 2BB.
- The EA is also hosting a local stakeholder event in Thornbury on 7th February.
- In addition, Hitachi-GE continues to invite questions and comments on the UK ABWR design as part of the GDA process. Go to www.hitachi-hgne-uk-abwr.co.uk for more information.