

Community Representation Working Group (CRWG) Pen Portraits

Holmfridur Bjarnadottir is a land-use planner with special focus on environmental assessment, stakeholder engagement and planning processes in relation to management of radioactive waste. Since 2007 Holmfridur has worked with the issue of radioactive waste management (RWM) nationally and internationally, as a specialist at the Swedish Nuclear Inspectorate (SKI) overseeing the EIA and public consultation process regarding RWM and partaking in multi-stakeholder dialogue and in her current position as an advisor and facilitator at the Swedish National Council for Nuclear Waste.

Holmfridur is a Director at the Swedish National Council for Nuclear Waste; their remit is to investigate and clarify matters relating to nuclear waste and decommissioning and dismantling of nuclear facilities, facilitate interaction among stakeholders and to give advice to the Government. She is also the chairperson of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency's "Forum for Stakeholder Confidence" (FSC). It explores means of ensuring an effective dialogue with the public with a view to strengthening confidence in the decision-making processes.

Professor Andrew Blowers taught at the Open University for 35 years, and is currently Emeritus Professor of Social Science at the Open University. He has taught and researched in the area of environmental policy, politics and policy specialising in radioactive waste management, publishing books and papers on the subject. He has studied and written on the international context, especially in France, Germany and the United States.

Andrew was a leading member of Bedfordshire County Council for nearly 30 years, and, at times, Chairman of its Environment Committee.

In 1991 he was appointed to the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (RWMAC) and, over a period of 12 years, ensured the committee incorporated social science as well as science into its work. He led working groups which helped to lay the foundations for the government's MRWS process. In 2003 he was appointed to CoRWM and took the lead in developing its guiding principles and the social, political and ethical context for policy on long term management. He led the work on implementation which proposed the voluntarist policy on siting that has been pursued by the Government.

During 2000-2004 Andrew was a Non-Executive Director of UK Nirex. He is presently founder and Chair of a local NGO, Bradwell Against New Nuclear Group (BANNG). Andrew is also the co-chair of the DECC/NGO Nuclear Forum. The Forum organises stakeholder meetings with NGOs, government and nuclear regulatory stakeholders to address issues of NGOs regarding new build nuclear reactors and nuclear waste management, ensuring there is regular and high-level contact between all parties.

In 2000 Andrew was awarded the OBE for services to environmental protection.

Lisa Levy is a senior public relations professional with extensive experience of leading multi-disciplinary communications and stakeholder engagement teams. She has achieved key communications milestones for the most significant major engineering projects in the UK, including delivering Britain's first high-speed line.

Lisa specialises in communication and engagement activities for the most controversial and challenging of project areas involving significant change.

Kirsty Gogan is an established expert in climate and energy communications with extensive experience advising the UK Government, industry, academic networks and non-profit organisations. She created the Low Carbon Alliance between the nuclear and renewables industries, and the first UK chapter of Women in Nuclear.

Kirsty has an MSc in Business, Politics and the Environment. She is a visiting researcher at the University of Manchester, and a member of the UK Government Nuclear Industry Council: Public Understanding of Nuclear (PUNE) working group.

Kirsty is co-founder CEO of Energy for Humanity, a new environmental NGO, working to meet the goal of universal access to clean and cheap energy.

Phil Richardson has a degree in Geology, is a European Geologist and a Chartered Fellow of the Geological Society. Phil has over 24 years' experience of reviewing geological and social aspects of radioactive waste management and disposal worldwide. A former mining geologist, Phil has consulted for a wide range of national regulators, waste producers, government advisory bodies and national and local government departments in a range of countries (Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, United States) and international bodies (IAEA). In the 1990s he was a consultant to international environmental organisations, such as Greenpeace International and Friends of the Earth, before joining Quantisci Ltd in 1999, moving to Galson Sciences Ltd in 2006.

Phil was a co-opted member of the UK CoRWM Implementation Working Group and helped to edit the group's recommendations to government in 2006 as well as taking part in expert workshops dealing with environmental and socio-economic issues. He was a key member of several previous EU-supported projects on governance and communication in repository siting in FP-5 (RISCOM,) FP-6 (ARGONA, Cowam in Practice) and FP7 (IPPA; Implementing Public Participation Activities). He is currently a member of the PLATENSO project developing proposals for a European Social Science Platform. In 2010-11 Phil acted as Community Benefits Advisor to the West Cumbria Partnership.

Phil is a registered expert with the IAEA and has been an invited lecturer on a number of international Training Courses, is a co-author of a number of Nuclear Energy Series Reports and TecDocs and is currently preparing a new document on stakeholder engagement in repository siting.

Phil Matthews is the Executive Director of the Nuclear Legacy Advisor Forum (NuLeAF). He is also Chair of Transform Scotland and Non-Executive Director of Zero Waste Scotland.

Phil has worked on sustainable development issues for over 20 years. He worked for a number of years as Director and Partner in CAG Consultants, one of the UK's leading sustainable development and climate change consultancies, where he undertook a range of work for the Scottish and UK Government, Scottish Parliament and other public and private organisations. He was also the Senior Advisor and Acting Director in Scotland of the UK Sustainable Development Commission.

He holds an Honours Degree in Geography from Edinburgh University and a Masters (with Distinction) in Environmental Change and Management from Oxford University.

Professor Nick Pidgeon is Professor of Environmental Psychology and Director of the Understanding Risk Research Group at Cardiff University.

He works on risk, risk perception, and risk communication; his research is interdisciplinary at the interface of social psychology, environmental sciences, and science and technology studies. He currently researches public responses to energy technologies (e.g. nuclear power, renewable energy), climate change risks, and climate geoengineering.

Nick has led numerous policy oriented projects on issues of public responses to environmental risk issues and on 'science in society' for UK Government Departments, the Research Councils, the Royal Society, and Charities. He was formerly a member of the UK Department for Energy and Climate Change's Science Advisory Group (SAG), and theme leader for the Climate Change Consortium for Wales. He currently serves as vice-chair of the DECC/Defra Social Sciences Expert Panel (SSEP).

Phil Stride, head of the Thames Tideway Tunnel, has been working for Thames Water on the project for the last seven years. He is a Chartered Civil Engineer and has a wealth of experience managing both waste water and clean water projects. He was previously Head of Capital Delivery for Thames Water.

His role with Thames Tideway Tunnel has focused on leading the widely-praised public consultation and development consent application process, which led to the granting of the Development Consent Order. It is the largest planning application ever submitted in the UK.

Phil has worked for Thames Water for 40 years and has held a number of senior manager positions in both engineering and operations. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He is also a member of the Crossrail Tunnelling and Underground Construction Academy (TUCA) Industry Advisory Panel.

Natalyn Ala (Geological Disposal Facility Siting Director for Radioactive Waste Management Ltd) has a technical specialism in hydrogeology, and has 25 years of experience in environmental projects for commercial and government organisations both in the UK and internationally. With a technical specialism as a hydrogeologist, Natalyn has presented at international conferences on controversial topics, such as shale gas and climate change.

Natalyn joined RWM after working with Atkins as Director within the Water & Environment business. She has extensive knowledge of ground and groundwater investigations and conceptualisation, land contamination risk assessment and remediation, waste characterisation and environmental risks and liabilities associated with energy, infrastructure, and land regeneration projects. Particular projects for which she has provided technical leadership in recent years are Sizewell C Power Station, High Speed Two Limited, Crossrail, King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah and London 2012 Olympic Park.

In the delivery of her projects she has extensive experience communicating with and providing advice to a variety of stakeholders, including planning authorities, environmental regulators, government, universities and research organisations, land owners, residents and local communities and advisory groups.

Natalyn is a Chartered Scientist, Chartered Geologist and a Council Member and Fellow of the Geological Society of London and Secretary for their Professional Committee.

David Toman (Head of Community Engagement for Radioactive Waste Management Ltd) has experience in sustainable development and brownfield regeneration. He has been extensively involved in a number of large brownfield regeneration projects across the globe that focus closely on community engagement.

David holds an MSc in Sustainable Urban Development from Oxford University, he is a Metallurgist and Chartered Engineer, a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and an Honorary Fellow of Swansea University.

Julian Wain is a consultant and advisor specialising in regeneration and housing, with over thirty years' experience in local government.

For seven years he was Chief Executive of Gloucester City Council, following nearly twenty years in a variety of roles for Solihull M.B.C, latterly as Director of Regeneration.

He has extensive experience of community involvement and consultation, particularly as regards development projects, of governance, and of working with elected members, community groups and public agencies.

He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing and of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

Judith Armitt is Chief Executive at Local Partnerships LLP. Her background is in central and local government, and the regeneration sector. She joined Local Partnerships from the Cabinet Office (Government Property Unit) with responsibility for London estate rationalisation. Previously she held posts as managing director, Ashford's Future Company, chief executive at Thames Gateway, and a number of local government roles, including chief executive at Medway Council. Judith is a member of the Academy of Urbanism, a trustee of the Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence, and a board member of the Kent Architecture Centre.

Representatives from other Government Departments

HM Treasury official

Department for Communities and Local Government – Deputy Director for Democracy.

Welsh Government official

The CRWG will be observed by members of CoRWM.