

Engagement and impact with a distinctive edge

Neil Hyatt and Matthew Cotton

University of Sheffield

Email: n.c.hyatt@sheffield.ac.uk

m.cotton@sheffield.ac.uk

DISTINCTIVE Industry Meeting

25 November 2014

Birchwood

Engagement and impact led events

Summary of proposed activities

- Engaging with policy makers
- Public and media engagement summer school
- Radio documentary
- Consortium research public engagement events

Engaging with policy makers

Objectives:

- ▶ Raise profile of project in government departments and Westminster
- ▶ Promote research outcomes and impacts
- ▶ Provide opportunity for consortium researchers to engage policy makers

Two suggested events

1. Evening event at Royal Academy of Engineering

Keynote lectures and panel, dinner reception: l/w Nov or f/w Dec 2015

Suggestions for speakers welcome

2. Showcase event at Westminster (2017)

Posters and demonstrations on research outcomes (Royal Society style)

Public and media engagement summer school

Revised date for the diary: Easter 2016

Location TBC – likely London or Manchester for media connections

Objectives:

- ▶ Motivate project participants for external engagement
- ▶ Equip project participants with knowledge and skills for engagement
- ▶ Facilitate an opportunity to collaborate in a public outreach activity

Day 1: Vision setting talks, Skills Workshop 1.

Day 2: Skills Workshop 2, Skills Workshop 3, dinner speaker.

Day 3: Public engagement focus; form outreach groups; close.

Example of successful public engagement



Radio documentary

Opportunity: 60y anniversary of Calder Hall inauguration in 2016

Reflect on our nuclear past, look to our nuclear future?

I (= we) plan our own distinctive radio documentary

- Initial discussion with Radio 3 commissioning – proposal welcome
 - Frances Byrnes: experienced writer and producer, 3 Sony Awards
 - Academics advise on scientific storyline (discovery, technology, people?)
 - Frances develops a proposal for submission to BBC Radio
 - If successful, Frances is funded to produce the documentary (2016!)
 - Sellafield and other site visits at end of Jan 2015
 - Focus groups in Feb 2015 – leading to proposal
-

Public consultation events

Led by Dr Matthew Cotton (UoS)

Expertise in the social and ethical dimensions of environmental policy

Online deliberation (start Feb-March 2015 to summer 2016)

- Reach a broader audience (hundreds of contributors, potentially thousands of views)
- MIT project “Deliberatorium” – collaborative argument mapping – online discussion tool
- Avoids the pitfalls of online comment forums (too polarised, too emotive) and wikis (too easy to change what other people have said)
- Particularly looking for involvement of PDRAs and PhD students in contributing and/or moderating

Public consultation events

Led by Matthew Cotton (UoS), involvement of ESRC Nuclear FiRST PhD students

World café

- Informal drop in event for public discussion with experts (= you)
- Small groups summarise issue and discussion (audio, film, visual display)
- Worked up into a format for dissemination via the website
- Considering the use of 'serious games'
- Apply for more support - ESRC festival of social science, Leeds festival of science

Deliberative workshop

- Formal consultative methodology for public engagement (Sciencewise)
- Balanced public attendance by application, selection and reimbursement
- Discuss socioeconomic, political and ethical impacts of consortium research
- Capture written, photographic (flipcharts, posters) and audio record of events
- Report identifying future research and policy directions with social mandate
- Academic publication of findings

A few related things...

Project opportunities

- Contaminated land – investigation of radionuclide speciation and attenuation
- Niche / orphan wastes – where new conditioning route could have high impact
- Product disposability – where underpinning science could provide confidence

Student placement

- Very bright Materials Science MEng (75% average)
- 5 month placement between April – September 2015

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