

“The road to success is always under construction”

Lily Tomlin



Construction Update

Work on the site of the new distribution centre began in early October.

The warehouse is scheduled to deliver in July 2017. Landscaping activities are now in progress, involving flattening the land to ensure a level base before building work can start. Trenches are also being dug to install telephone lines and power mains.

The warehouse will be on the site of the old Didcot Power Station. The chimney and remaining cooling towers will be demolished to clear space for the wider development of the site.

Parts from the cooling tower and the chimney are being crushed into small pieces that will be used as a base for the warehouse and surrounding roadways.

This is a measure to reuse what is already available at the location and to minimise the amount of new materials that need to be brought on to the site.

Members of the Hachette team visited the site recently to monitor proceedings. The picture above shows Programme Director Andy Davies, COO Chris Emerson and Distribution MD Matt Wright.

Any suggested captions should be sent to peter.quartley@hachette.co.uk!

Business Partnership

An important aspect of the project is the engagement of publishing representatives. We are very pleased to have Helen Gibbs, Karen Mole, Rasha Elsaed, Peter McNulty, Fiona McIntosh, Alex Jones, Charmian Allwright, Ben Wright and Usmaan Maan as members of the Publishing Change Partners forum.

They are a vital element in the overall process to help manage the inevitable ambiguity, issues and uncertainty that change brings.

A list of their key concerns has been recorded which will help to ensure that we focus on those uncertainties.

Topics under discussion include:

Digital Sales Processing

Workshops in November will review how sales are currently managed and how a standard approach could be established.

Stock at Printer

Business Process Owner Peter Asbury is leading the task to identify how stock held by printers can be accurately captured.

Access to Historical Data

The project team will detail what data is planned to be migrated from Vista to SAP and how reporting across historical items in both systems will be managed. This will be validated by the change partners to ensure it meets the business needs.

Meet the Team

Many of the Change Partners have extensive experience in the publishing industry and have worked for the group for a number of years.

Detailed below is further information on some of team:

Peter McNulty

Hodder & Stoughton,
Headline and Quercus



Having started at Hachette Ireland in 2006, Peter now works for H&S, Headline and Quercus as Commercial Manager. He has played a central role in a number of projects, including the recent integration of Nicholas Brealey Publishing.

Fiona McIntosh

Orion Publishing Group



Fiona joined Orion in 2004. In addition to her role as production director for the division, she is an advocate for production process improvements across the group.

Karen Mole

Octopus Publishing Group



Karen has been with Octopus for 16 years and is the division's Head of Sales & Publishing Systems Support.

Both Fiona and Karen were divisional representatives for the roll-out of the Biblio3 publishing system.

Did You Know?

The chimney that will be demolished is one of the tallest structures in the UK at 200 metres high.

Poet Kit Wright wrote 'Ode to Didcot Power Station' in 2014.