

Rutherford and Appleton Laboratories

MERGER WORKING PARTY REPORT

5/80

Oct. 1980

The Sixth Meeting of the AL/RL Merger Working Party was held on Wednesday 17 September 1980. This report outlines the main subjects discussed and conclusions reached at the meeting.

1. APPROACH TO CSD AND GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS

It was reported that Central Office had approached CSD again about the Staff Transfer Unit assisting with the placement of non-Industrial staff not wishing to move to Chilton in suitable posts in the Government Service. A reply is awaited. It was reaffirmed that Government Establishments in the Slough area would be approached to see if they had suitable vacancies for Ditton Park non-mobile staff who did not wish to transfer to Chilton, if staff so wished.

2. BUILDING PROGRAMME

The R25 Phase I extension had been completed and was now fully occupied by transferred staff. Work on Phase II of R25 and the NW extension was proceeding as planned and the buildings should be ready for occupation by the end of the year and mid-1981 respectively. The conversion of R3 should be completed by the end of 1981, and although work on R7 for the stabilised balloon platform test area was a little behind schedule it should be finished by early autumn. The extended Workshop facility in R25 would be completed in the next month or so.

Discussions on the disposition of workshops at Chilton and how they will handle work for Appleton Divisions had reached an advanced stage and the Official Side hope to give details of these in the coming months.

It was confirmed that the number of Craftsmen required in the combined Laboratories would remain the same as in the two Laboratories.

3. TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN DITTON PARK AND CHILTON

A limited survey had been carried out by the Employee Side but no clear requirement for such transport had arisen. The Employee Side believed there was a case for providing transport between Slough Station and Ditton Park for those staff who had moved house in advance of their permanent transfer, as a result of the Merger. The Official Side agreed to look into this.

4. SALE OF DITTON PARK SITE

It was reported that Messrs Chestertons of London had been appointed to act as the Council's agent in the sale of Ditton Park. A series of advertisements on the sale of the site would be appearing at the end of September in the national and international press indicating that the site would be available with full vacant possession from mid-1982.

5. TRANSFER TO CHILTON 1980/81

The proposed programme for the transfer of work and staff into the NW Extension of R25 was being prepared. A Working Party meeting was to be arranged for late November or early December to discuss this programme, so that staff concerned would receive individual transfer notices before the end of the year.

The Official Side reaffirmed its intention to give staff 6 months' notice of transfer wherever possible. There was a full discussion at the meeting of the events that led up to the Image Processing Group being given 4½ months' formal notice. The Director Appleton and Dr Martin were having further discussions about the effect on the work programme if the move were further delayed.

6. EFFECTS OF TRANSFER ON MOBILE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND NON-MOBILE STAFF

(a) General conditions

Mr Addison is due to take up his new duties in Central Office towards the end of the year. As a result of this move, it had been decided to bring managerially the administration at Ditton Park and Chilton together. A meeting had been arranged for 24 September at Ditton Park when Dr Valentine would explain the proposed changes to Finance, Personnel and Office Services staff.

In brief, it was intended to carry out the site services until closure and handover with a small group of staff under Mr Tucker who would report directly to Mr Maxwell. It was intended that this group would consist of some staff in mobile grades who were approaching retirement together with, if they so wished, staff in non-mobile grades who under the Redundancy Agreements should remain in the Council's services longest.

Mr J Jenkins would be responsible for Finance, Accounts and Stores work at Ditton Park with Mr G Middlecote reporting to him and Mr L J Wyatt responsible for Personnel work with Mr Tucker reporting on these matters to him. For planning purposes it was being assumed that these changes would be effective from 1 November.

(b) Staff in Mobile Administration Group Grades

A statement about the future deployment of staff in mobile Administration Group grades would be presented to the Group B Central Review Board in time for this year's Annual Staff Review. There would be individual discussions with the staff concerned during the preparation of this statement. The staff were being encouraged to indicate on their ACRs any areas of work and location which were of particular interest to them.

(c) Non-mobile grades

The Official Side reaffirmed that a state of redundancy would not be declared before 1 January 1981. There was a wide ranging discussion on the provisions of the Redundancy Procedures Agreements and the point at which the Whitley GPC and the JNC would need to be involved. The Official Side indicated that it was about to discuss with Central Office the pre-redundancy procedures and associated matters outlined in the Agreements and would raise at the same time the other points mentioned in the discussion.

7 October 1980