

Meeting Report

Regarding:

EDF Energy Hinkley Point C: Transport Forum

Date:

21 July 2016

Participating:

Jim Claydon *Chair*

Alan Beasley *Cannington Parish Council*

Ann Bown *Sedgemoor District Council*

Alan Bradford *North Petherton Town Council*

Andy Coupé *Somerset County Council*

Hugh Davies *Somerset County Council*

Marion Denham *North Petherton Town Council*

Peter Downing *Sedgemoor District Council*

Julie Evans *Otterhampton Parish Council*

Judith Fletcher *Puriton Parish Council*

Ian Liddell-Granger MP *Bridgwater and West Somerset*

Claire Faun *Sedgemoor District Council*

Anne Fraser *Sedgemoor District Council*

Sam Harper *Sedgemoor District Council*

Alan Hurford *Bridgwater Town Council*

Robert MacDonald *Williton Parish Council*

Rebecca Milller *Sedgemoor District Council*

Robert Morgan *Cannington Parish Council*

Gary Perrett *Hinkley Point Cyclists*

Lisa Rogers *Somerset County Council*

Keith Turpin *Stogursey Parish Council*

John Sivyer *Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting*

EDF Energy Team:

David Eccles *EDF Energy*

Rachel Lister *EDF Energy*

Isaac Casson *PPS*

Ben Lowndes *PPS*

Apologies:

John Barrow

Doug Bamsey

Simon Langley *Puriton Parish Council*

Anne Meade

Adrian Moore *Bridgwater Town Council*

Chris Morgan *WSC*

Leigh Redman *Bridgwater Town Council*

Environment Agency

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1. Introductions, Minutes and Matters Arising

1.1 Jim Claydon (JC) welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

In response to Keith Turpin's (KT) question regarding lack of signage to Stogursey on Claylands Corner and from the A39, Andy Coupe will respond to KT in writing during week commencing 25 July.

1.4 John Sivyer (JS) commented that speeds on the C182 are regularly too fast. JS asked for signage to be installed to highlight the presence of key junctions, in particular the junction to Steart. Comments were endorsed by Ann Bown, who suggested that rumble strips are provided. Alan Beasley (AB) noted that use of the junction had increased.

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Andy Coupé (AC) stated that a balance needed to be struck between signage clutter in rural locations and safety. He undertook to review whether additional signage was necessary.

1.6 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April were approved by attendees.

2. Project Update

2.1 David Eccles (DE) stated that the new Chancellor Phillip Hammond is supportive of the project and has been endorsed by the French government. Consultation with French EDF unions is now complete and can expect FID very soon. On site preparation works are continuing throughout.

JS queried recent claims in the media of HPC increasing costs to £30bn. DE explained that the NAO report on which this number was based was obliged to take the wholesale electricity price at today's historically low value, rather than which it is likely to be in 10 years' time when HPC starts to generate and investors start to see a return on their £18Bn investment.

Alan Hurford (AH) asked when the result of the union consultation will be known. DE stated that the unions will bring their response to the EDF Board, on which they sit; no date has yet been fixed for this meeting..

DE read out a project update from the Environment Agency, who gave their apologies. Flood alleviation works have started south of Cannington. 750m has been excavated and taken away thus far. 19-22 July a bridge will be installed over A39 which will be in place for 12 weeks whilst a channel is dug under the A39..

Stolford flood design progressing and will start in 2017. AB stated that Cannington Parish Council meet with the Environment Agency every Wednesday so concerns can be put to the Parish Council directly.

3. Updated information on transport matters

4.1 AC provided the Travel Review Group update.

- All work is compliant with the planning conditions relating to transport.
- Nearly 80% of workers are using the bus services to the site, which is an important part of EDF's transport strategy and provides a good platform to move forward as additional P&R and direct bus services are provided.
- Parking at HPC site is limited and around 10% of users at the site are car sharing.
- There were just over 9,000 HGV deliveries to the site in the last quarter averaging at 107 HGV deliveries a day. This is well within pre-agreed levels. There also were about 85k tonnes of aggregate delivered to the project.
- During the last quarter, around 120 abnormal indivisible loads were delivered to the site.
- The C182 is monitored as a clearway and no regular occurrences of parked vehicles in lay-bys were observed.

AF enquired about whether the Park and Ride (P&R) busses pick up workers along their route. AC stated that there are P&R and direct busses. Some travel direct but

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some workers have to drive to P&R site.

AB queried whether the aggregate deliveries would do away with the need for the jetty. DE stated that the amount of aggregate delivered is a small amount compared to the total needs for the project and will still require the jetty.

AB claimed fly parking in Cannington is going up and becoming a problem. DE urged AB to encourage reporting of parking to EDF Energy. Rachel Lister (RL) added that those vehicles belong to staff that work at HP A and B and that checks would be made in the area and that the issue will be raised at Hinkley Road Safety Forum on Thursday next week.

Julie Evans (JE) asked AC to explain what was meant by a 'clearway'. AC stated it meant that parking was not permitted. Although the C182 was not a clearway it was monitored as such by the HPC team.

JS queried a figure provided by DE that 80% of Hinkley workers use public transport as empty busses are a common sight. DE stated that there are currently around 600 workers at the site and busses in the early morning are especially busy. RL followed up by stating that extra busses are put on to cope with demand and some of them outside shift hours will not be busy and are used mainly by visitors.

Judith Fletcher (JF) suggested that there was a need to improve pedestrian and cycling linkages between Puriton and Dunball/Bridgwater. AC stated that he has presented on the proposals to the Transport Forum on two previous occasions regarding proposed walking/ cycling and safety improvements to be delivered by SCC using S106 monies. The improvements include linkages between Bridgwater and Dunball, and Dunball and Puriton. He intended to consult with Puriton PC over the next few months on these improvements.

Chairman explained that updates from the TRG will be a standing item henceforth.

4.2 DE gave road safety update. Hinkley Point C beat team has checked vehicles of C182. As a result, 14 advisory notes were issued for tyres, five were issued for defective lighting and one driver was dealt with for driving without insurance.

AC said that the Hinkley policing team had found that many of those people caught speeding past the C182 roadworks were local residents. Forum members were asked to help encourage people to drive safely.

4.3 Maritime Strategy:

In support of the maritime freight strategy, progress has been made with design and letting of contracts for the jetty. Costain has installed an on-site compound. First piling will take place in late August / early September. A 'wave walker' will carry out drilling and piling work in the autumn

4.4 Park and Ride

- J24 – Due to start in August.
- J23 – Work will start in late August. One piece of planning work required before work can start. Induction centre for workers will be moved from J23 to the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre on Bristol Road, Bridgwater.

4.5 J23 Signalisation

Highways England (HE) is due to deliver a lane widening scheme at J23 that is scheduled to start in late 2016. EDF Energy is concluding discussions with HE to

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deliver the EDF scheme for signalization of the junction scheme to be delivered alongside the lane widening scheme.

4.6 Golden Triangle

DE explained that roadworks are expected to start in late 2016 and they will go on for at least two years. He added that growth in Bridgwater has been substantial and that has presented an infrastructure challenge that these works will help to address. EDF Energy is determined to minimize disruption. Forum members were reminded that there will be significant long-term benefits associated with this investment.

AF queried whether there will be more traffic on Bristol Road as a result of the relocation of the Induction Centre. DE stated that there will be busses running from J23 and RL stated that additional buses may be provided to pick up workers staying in local hotels.

Ann Bown (AB) queried how long the J23 signalisation works are likely to take. AC stated that the works will take about a year.

Regarding the Golden Triangle works, DE stated that meetings will take place with Bridgwater Town Council prior to work commencing and that the project is not dependent on FID as the funds have already been committed.

AF and Alan Bradford complimented the works nearing completion at Huntworth – the impact of the construction had not been as bad as feared and there had been no reported incidents of rat running through the quiet lanes around the west of Bridgwater

Ann Bown (ABo) also complimented the works at Huntworth. She also expressed concern that the EDF Energy scheme at Wylds Road/ The Drove did not propose to include right turn filter lights. ABo asked for her concerns to be recorded. ABo also enquired about works to Cannon roundabout to which AC stated that those works will be undertaken only once the Golden Triangle schemes had been completed.

JF asked whether bus companies could attend forums in future. Alan Hurford advised that they do attend the Town Councils Transport Forum and JF is invited.

5. Subjects for Next Meeting

- 5.1 Topic of next workshop to be on the programming of the planned highway improvements affecting the town, with representatives from SDC, SCC, EDF and HE in attendance.

6. Date of the Next Meeting

- 6.1 The meetings are to become quarterly to align with the Transport Steering Group.

Please note the next meetings will take place at Puriton Village Hall, Puriton, TA7 8BP on: Thursday 20 October 2016

