

Meeting Report

Regarding:

EDF Energy Hinkley Point C: Transport Forum

Date:

9 May 2019

Participating:

Jim Claydon, *Chair*
 Andy Coupé *Somerset County Council*
 John Burton, *West Somerset and Taunton Council*
 Doug Bamsey, *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*
 Richard Cuttall, *West Hinkley Action Group*
 John Sivyver, *Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting*
 Alan Beasley, *Cannington Parish Council*
 Ann Bown, *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Anne Reed, *Wembdon Parish Council*
 Alistair Highton, *Somerset County Council*
 Lisa Rogers, *Somerset County Council*
 Gary Perrett, *Hinkley Community Cyclists*
 Mark Walton, *Kilve Parish Council*
 Liz Leyshon, *Somerset County Council*
 Leigh Redman, *Somerset County Council*
 Sam Harper, *Sedgemoor District Council*

Esther Lawson, *Avon & Somerset Police*
 Gary Alford, *Devon & Somerset Fire Service*

EDF Energy Team:

Brian Buckingham, *EDF Energy*
 Andrew Wagstaff, *EDF Energy*
 Tristan Brooks, *Go-Surveys*
 Ross Edwards, *EDF Energy*
 Drew Aspinwall, *Newgate*

Apologies:

David Eccles, *EDF Energy*

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1. Introductions

- 1.1 Jim Claydon ('The Chair') welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves. The Chair made reference to potential new attendees or those who may be representing different bodies following the recent local election
- 1.2 The Chair reported that Isaac Casson from Newgate Communications has started a new career as a fire fighter and thanked him, in his absence, for his valuable contribution to the Transport Forum.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2018, along with an Addendum inserting the transport section of the Community Forum Meeting held on 7 February 2019 (the meeting scheduled for the 31 January 2019 was cancelled due to adverse weather) were approved by attendees and the following matters arising were noted:

8.9 Action - The Chair noted the action for a presentation on Somerset County Council's Corridor Transport Scheme be given to the next meeting has been taken forward and Andy Coupe would be presenting under item 5 of the agenda.

- 8.11 – (RC) asked Somerset County Council if they have C182 cycling figures.

Afternote: Although there is no automatic cycle counter on the C182, there is one

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on the A39 just south of Cannington. This counter shows a significant and sustained increase in cycling along the A39 Cannington - Sandford Hill cycleway. When the site was visited on September 15th 2014 for cycleway feasibility report work only 7 cyclists were observed between 10-30am and 4pm riding the narrow footway, and 4 on the road itself.

During 2018 count data showed significant cycle usage:

- May-September 2018 shows an average daily use of between 67 and 77 users over a 7-day week, or 15,000 journeys.
- Peak usage was typically between 6-6:30am and 4:15-6:30pm

Overall the general trend remains upwards which is good news and we expect usage to increase further. In addition to cyclists the route is being used by pedestrians, runners and dog walkers.

3. Project Progress

3.1 Ross Edwards (RE) gave an update on project progress. Details given included:

- Good progress is being made across the site, with approximated 3,500 people working on site.
- The Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), Mary, is currently being prepared for launch to start work on water cooling intake tunnel 1.
- The world's strongest crane in its class is in operation and being used for lifts including positioning the TBM cutter head into place so it can be attached to the front of the TBM.
- An excavator has been lowered into the HCT shaft excavation, the shaft of which will be 46 meters deep, from ground level. This will be where the outfall Tunnel Boring Machine, Emmeline, will be launched and the outfall galleries will be excavated from.
- The sea water cooling system consists of over 1,400 metres of reinforced concrete pipes with an integral inner steel liner that will carry the cooling sea water.
- Unit 2 Heat Sink excavation is now fully completed and ready for handover for next piece of work. This is where the second intake tunnel will be bored from.
- The pre-stressing gallery of Unit 2 Nuclear Island is under construction. There is 20% efficiency being achieved as the learning from Unit 1 is being applied.
- Works continues to construct the Nuclear Island at Unit 1. This is part of the Common Raft which is a single concrete platform on which all of the Nuclear Island buildings will sit.
- The Common Raft is made of reinforced concrete, has embedded pipework and tanks as well as many embedded fixings ready to receive equipment. It ensures the stability of the Reactor Building, Safeguard Buildings and Fuel Buildings which all rest upon it.
- The 500m long temporary aggregate handling Jetty will be operational later in 2019.
- A team from Balfour Beatty and Kilnbridge spent their Saturday morning volunteering building a new shed for the Avonmouth Community Centre. Balfour Beatty operates the site at the Bristol Port in Avonmouth where they are constructing the tunnel lining segments and off-shore heads.
- The HPC Apprentice and Skills Hub, which provides a space for apprentices to receive guidance and support on site, was opened by Rob Jordan and Nigel Cann. So far, nearly 400 apprentices have been trained on the project.

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- 3.2 Richard Cuttall (RC) asked when the jetty would be opening. RE said that the first vessel is expected this summer, but there was not certainty on the precise date.
- 3.3 Mark Walton (MW) asked if the jetty being operational would result in a reduction in traffic to the site. Brian Buckingham (BB) said there would be less aggregate being transport by road. 80% of concrete, aggregate, sand and slag would come in using the jetty.
- 3.4 Alan Beasley (ALB) asked about the trade profile of the apprentices. RE said that they were across the board of the jobs on site and where possible, some would be cross-skilled as the project moves forward.
- 3.5 Sue Goss (SG) asked when the world's largest crane was arriving and was it late? BB said it was already arriving and is in the process of being built as planned.

4. Update from Transport Review Group

- 4.1 Tristan Brooks (TB) updated members with a presentation on the Transport Review Group (TRG) Quarterly Report (January – March 2019) which was presented to the TRG meeting on 29 March 2019. TB's presentation focussed upon construction workforce movements. Points raised included:

TB reported on the Construction Workforce Travel Plan (CWTP) figures.

The HPC Bus Service usage target is being exceeded by 7% (target is 87%) 94% is being achieved.

Park and Rides – the majority of people are using J23 (19%) and J24 (25%) followed by 8% who use Nether Stowey or Quantocks Lakes P&R combined.

Construction Works HGV Movements were all with the HGV Maximum Daily Limit and Average Quarterly Limit.

Breaches of HPC Construction Works HGV limits, time restrictions or breaches of routing:

- 13 non compliances during Q1
- 8 HGVs outside of permitted delivery hours;
- 4 HGV deviated from prescribed HGV route;
- 1 non booking.
- Drivers issued with notification/strike in line with the operational procedures for such matters.

Origins of HGV movements:

- Reduction in movements from Batts Combe.
- Increase in movements from Whatley.
- Within permitted HGV movements.

- 4.2 SG asked about the Shurton Burton and Stogursey bus usage. TB reported that 196 passengers per day used the service on the day the survey was undertaken. SG expressed her surprise that the number was that high. SG raised the question of the number of worker staying in Stogursey and if any further payment was due to the local authority. The Chair clarified that accommodation issues was a matter for the Community Forum not the Transport Forum.

Afternote: Contingency Payments are payable in relation to the number of non-home based workers staying in Private Rented Sector accommodation, the 196 includes all HPC workers located in areas served by the 'B' Bus. At present no further contingency payments are due.

- 4.3 MW and Liz Leyshon (LL) questioned the numbers and how the survey conducted. TB

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confirmed that the survey is conducted over a 24 hour period.

- 4.4 Anne Reed (AR) questioned the figures regarding car use and car share. TB confirmed that car use was 125 people (66 on own and 59 car sharing).
- 4.5 Gary Perrett (GP) was concerned about cyclist safety and asked what more could be done to promote safer cycling and driver awareness. BB said that there have been focussed efforts to talk to staff who cycle to site. Using the toolbox talks and giving out Hi-Viz clothes to cyclists free of charge. They have also offered 'blind turn' training for drivers.
- 4.6 ALB asked if there could be more analysis of bus use on the A39 – general numbers would be useful, especially if it was set against the bus timetable itself.
- 4.7 Andy Coupe reported that the figures presented were consistent with the last 2- 3 quarters. There are some new areas of non-compliance, these are mostly local deliveries. BB said they were active in addressing deliveries and work hard to encourage logistics firms to deliver to the collection point near the M5 and be delivered in one consignment, but not all firm will do this.
- 4.8 SG asked if the TRG would talk to the bus user group. BB said for them to get in touch any time and they would be happy discuss and concerns they may have.
- 4.9 LL asked how much the Whatley Quarry Rail Head was being utilised. BB confirmed that there are 7 rail passes issued per week.

TB to report back at next meeting on A39 bus use

5. Corridor Improvement Schemes – Transport

- 5.1 Andy Coupe, Strategic Manager -Infrastructure Programmes Group at Somerset County Council gave a comprehensive update on the Corridor Improvement Schemes - Transport. A1 maps of the Bridgwater area were distributed to attendees to aid orientation.

The presentation covered: Works delivered; Works in-train; Works planned; Designs underway; Designs completed and on hold; Designs on hold.

Works delivered include:

C182 Cannington to Combrich; Cannington to Sandford; Zebra Crossing on Wembdon Rise & Village Gateway; A38 Toucan; A39Speed Review; C182 Speed Limit (NB+Hinkley Deal A39 and C182 Maintenance)

Works in-train include: The Drove (including work at Quantock Terrace and Union Street)

Works planned include: Taunton Road Safety Schemes; Broadway Safety Scheme; NDR Safety Scheme; Bristol Road Safety Schemes; Wembdon Road to Victoria Rd; Colley Lane Link; Dunball to Express Park

Designs under way include:

River Parrett to Town Centre; Woodlands to Express Park; Bath Road Bridge

Designs completed and on hold include:

Quantock Road Roundabout; Puriton to Dunball; Huntworth Business Park to Marsh Lane; Canal to West Street/ Broadway

Designs on hold include:

Brantwood Road to Quantock Meadow; Meadow Park to Wembdon Rise

- 5.2 John Sivyer (JS) and SG both welcomed the co-ordination of the works in Bridgwater between the County Council and the utilities companies, which is resulting in a 7 week timescale.

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- 5.3 GP was concerned about Wembdon Rd to Victoria Rd disruption. AC said that works had been focussed on school holidays, Tuesdays – Thursdays to minimise disruption.
- 5.4 Ann Bown (AB) expressed her disappointed that a crossing had still not been installed along Bath road. AB also expressed her disappointment that the Meadow Park to Wembdon Rise scheme was not yet delivered. AC laid out in his presentation that the scheme was complex and with multiple land owner issues.
- 5.5 JS thanked Andy for giving the update on all the plans. He asked if central government could be approached for funding to bring some of these schemes forward.

JS reported that this would be his last meeting, as he was standing down from Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting. He reflected that he thought the forum was really very useful but would welcome some further political involvement.
- 5.6 MW asked AC what was happening at Skimmerton Lane junction with A39 (Quantock Road) as there had been a fatality recently. AC said that there was 40mph limit and rumble strips with a redesign as permanent solution. AB also reiterated the importance of making this junction safer.
- 5.7 **Afternote to follow:** AR questioned what were the plans for Greenway Garage Junction and ALB said the main problem here was the crest of the hill, which you could not see over in a standard car.
- 5.8 GP said that design is key to direct people away from this dangerous junction. He agreed that we should be looking at more ways to get this to happen and offered help to deliver it.
- 5.9 LL asked if all the schemes AC had presented were being funded by the HPC S106 agreement. AC confirmed that is the case. Sam Harper (SH) added that some schemes had developer contributions also. Sedgemoor DC had tried in the past to get Government funding where the appropriate criteria were met and will continue to look at match funding opportunities.
- 5.10 AC said that local walking and cycle plans are in development and the Government has indicated that they will be contribute to these, although exact details have not yet been published.
- 5.10 AR asked that a copy of AC presentation be circulated to attendees. This was agreed.
- 5.11 Doug Bamsey (DB) applauded the delivery on these schemes. He also suggested that promoting these facilities and increasing the update of their use required a concerted effort with communities, business and education under 'The Bridgwater Way' brand.
- 5.12 Lisa Rogers (LR) and Alistair Higon (AH) announced that the county council were about to launch an interactive route map which would help raise awareness and promote use of the new route.

The URL of this new mapping tool is: <http://www.maps.thebridgwaterway.co.uk/>

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 JS asked where were the new signs promised for the C182? AC replied that the installation of these had been delayed as the tunnel boring machine deliveries and other larger loads needed to be made first.
BB confirmed they will be working with the county council to co-ordinate these.

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- 6.2 JS Asked why the layby between Cannington and Comwich was closed. AH said this has been closed temporarily but were looking for a solution and were in discussions with Comwich PC. JS added that there were 2 other laybys nearby and HGV were just parking there instead. He requested clarity of the policy regarding layby closures and usage. SG reiterated that other laybys are just being used instead and there are not a lot of places to stop.
- 6.3 RC asked Esther Lawson (EL) from Avon & Somerset Police about HGV drivers leaving their flashing beacon on when parked up. EL said that repeat offenders will be prosecuted and when she pulls in they tend to switch them off immediately.
- 6.4 MW asked about the free 'Lidl Loop' bus service and when it ran. A PDF of the timetable is available on the website: <https://killevillage.uk/local/hpcbust>
- 6.5 MW reported that courier drivers could not make next day 10 am deliveries because the traffic to site is so heavy. BB reported that if drivers delivered them to J24 / J23 drop off points, those parcel are then re delivered twice a day to site.

7. Date of future meeting

1 August 2019