

Meeting Report

Regarding:

EDF Energy Hinkley Point C: Community Forum

Date: 16 August 2018

Attending:

Jim Claydon, *Chair*
 Allan Jeffery, *Bridgwater and West Somerset Green Party*
 Roy Pumfrey, *Stop Hinkley*
 Alan Beasley, *Cannington Parish Council*
 Doug Bamsey, *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Anne Fraser, *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Alan Hurford *Bridgwater Town Council*
 Malcolm Reid, *Nether Stowey Parish Council*
 Mike Dixon, *Kilve Parish Council*
 Richard Cuttell *W.H.A.G*
 Sue Marks, *Avon and Somerset Police*
 Jenny Ody, *Stogursey Parish Council*
 Sue Goss, *West Somerset Council*
 Robin Phipps, *Cannington Parish Council*
 Paul Naylor, *Environment Agency*

Trevor Howes, *Civil Nuclear Constabulary*
 Dick Best, *Otterhampton Parish Council*
 Stuart Hill, *C.H.A.I.R.*
 Leigh Redman, *Bridgwater Town Council*
 Ann Bown *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Val Bishop *Somerset Community Foundation*
 Justin Sargent *Somerset Community Foundation*
 Ade Murphy *Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting*
 John Sivyer *Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting*
 Claire Faun *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Neil Adams *National Grid*
 Sarah Littler *Somerset County Council*
 Sally Hill *Liverty*
 Lucinda Spelman-Ives *Wilstock Hub*

 David Eccles, *EDF Energy*
 Isaac Casson, *Newgate*
 Scott Harker, *Newgate*

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1. Introduction and apologies

- 1.1 Jim Claydon (JC) welcomed attendees and asked them to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 Apologies were recorded from: *Ian Liddell-Granger (MP, Bridgwater)*, *Andy Coupé (Somerset County Council)*, *Hugh Davies (Somerset County Council)*

2. Matters arising

- 2.1 The following afternotes and matters arising from the previous minutes from the meeting on 17 May 2018 were raised:
- 2.2 Roy Pumfrey (RP) questioned why the minutes made no reference under item 3.7 to a discussion on Hinkley Point C (HPC) workers being disciplined for persistent fly parking. David Eccles (DE) confirmed that two workers have had their site passes withdrawn as a result of persistent fly parking.
- 2.3 Stuart Hill (SH) asked DE for an update on the plans for Combrich Wharf. DE said that EDF Energy's plans for Combrich Wharf would be set out at the end of 2018 with work beginning in 2019. Monthly drop in sessions will be held thereafter to update interested parties on project progress.

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- 2.4 SH stated that he had hoped for a shorter afternote under item 3.4 that explained any difference in air quality as a result of the HPC project rather than the technical analysis provided by the afternote. DE said that the matter could be covered in future Transport Forum meetings.
- 2.5 SH requested that the minutes of the previous meeting be amended to include a note of thanks to Andrew Goodchild for his work on the HPC project for West Somerset Council.
- 2.6 RP asked whether DE could give an update on the HPC worker survey discussed under agenda item 3.5. DE said that the survey had been conducted and the results were currently being analysed. Early indications were that the workforce is living in similar areas to those identified through the previous survey. RP asked whether this meant that EDF Energy were making payments to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) to compensate for exceeding the Development Consent Order (DCO) limits on workers living in a given area, DE said that EDF Energy were in discussions with SDC on the matter.

3. Project Progress

- 3.1 David Eccles (DE) gave a presentation and displayed a number of pictures which outlined the most recent project milestones. These included:
 - Progress is being made in a number of areas at the site including work to the Pre-Stressing Gallery of Unit 1 which is on track to be completed in Q2 2019;
 - The concrete gangplank sections of the jetty are now nearly all in place and the fit out of the conveyor belt system will begin shortly;
 - A tunnel boring machine will soon be arriving on site and be assembled in preparation for the start of operations;
 - A geological soft spot was discovered during work on the sea wall, £2.5M has been spent excavating and concreting the area to reinforce it;
 - The Hinkley Campus is at 50% capacity and rising, this will continue to increase as Blyor ramp up their mobilisation on site;
 - The Washford Cross Park and Ride facility is complete and will be handed over to Site Operations over the August Bank Holiday weekend;
 - The HPC project has so far entered in to contracts that are worth £1.3 billion to companies in the South West with £650M spent to date;
 - A number of milestones have been reached in the skills area, including 150,000 student engagements for the Inspire programme. Business Secretary Greg Clark recently met the 250th apprentice and the Young HPC programme now has over 350 members.
- 3.2 Anne Fraser (AF) asked whether the £1.3 billion worth of contracts had been agreed with conglomerates or independent companies, and how had the 'South West' been defined in arriving at the figure. DE said that the 'South West' included South Wales, South Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, and down into Devon. DE noted that the £1.3 B figure was for both individual companies and larger joint ventures.
- 3.3 Ade Murphy (AM) asked whether noise concerns had been considered with regard to the tunnel boring set to commence and in addition to this, had any consideration been given to mitigating light pollution caused by the site. DE said that noise levels are monitored at a

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number of locations by West Somerset Council and that strict noise limits are adhered to. The tunnel boring machine will be operation 24 hours a day once on site but when underground it is not expected to produce any noticeable noise. DE added that the environment team on site are making spot checks in order to minimise light pollution.

- 3.4 Sue Goss (SG) stated that the joint area committee for the Quantock Hills AONB have expressed concerns about light pollution coming from the site and that the DCO included measures for shading to try to reduce light pollution. DE said that shading measures were in place and asked SG to put the AONB in contact.
- 3.5 SH noted that light pollution will have an effect on the migration of waterfowl which will be happening shortly.
- 3.6 Alan Jeffrey (AJ) asked whether the tunnel boring process would bring up fresh material for dumping. DE said that any material left over from tunnel boring would be deposited in the Holford Valley while material left over from dredging would be deposited at Cardiff Grounds.
- 3.7 DE noted that a swipe system had recently been introduced for the HPC worker buses to track all passengers and the data collected by this new system will help identify where bus timetabling and allocation could be amended for efficiency.
- 3.8 Robin Phipps (RoP) asked whether the system could also be used to eliminate fly parking. DE said that it would help but fly parking will never be completely eliminated. DE added that he hoped that the present system was robust enough to ensure that the fly parking problem had peaked and would be minimised in the future.
- 3.9 Ann Bown (AB) noted that the diversion in place on the Quantock Road at Durleigh had caused problems for a number of her constituents as HPC buses were stopping in multiple places along the road and this was leading to queues. DE noted that a similar point had been raised at the Transport Forum and asked that any buses thought to be stopping outside of designated stops be reported to Somerset Passenger Solutions (SPS) via the HPC enquiries website or telephone line.
- 3.10 Jenny Ody (JO) said that she had counted a total of seven buses travelling on a narrow lane from Nether Stowey in a short space of time and asked whether it would be possible to change the rate of bus services given the buses had few passengers on them. DE said that eight minibuses were being released in to the passenger fleet shortly and these would be used on routes featuring narrow lanes, the introduction of the passenger tracking system should also help in optimising the number and sizes of the buses to the routes that they operate.
- 3.11 Roy Pumfrey (RP) asked for clarification on what happens to employees who have had their site passes revoked. DE said that companies had to redeploy such people on other projects as they could no longer work on site in any capacity.
- 3.12 SH asked whether there was not an app that could enable the buses to run more efficiently. DE said that he agreed with the sentiment that bus services needed to be optimised as it was also bad from an environmental point of view.

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4. **Welsh Assembly Report on sediment depositing near Cardiff Bay**

- 4.1 DE said that the Welsh Assembly had noted a report by its Petitions Committee in to the depositing of sediment from HPC in Cardiff Bay. DE noted the following from the report:
- EDF Energy was one of a number of organisations dredging and then depositing sediment in this way for a number of years;
 - The sediment being dredged is typical of that to be found anywhere in the Bristol Channel;
 - The sediment is not classed as radioactive or hazardous to health and this has been independently verified by a number of tests conducted to international standards.
- 4.2 The Chair asked Paul Naylor (PN) if he had any comments to make on the matter, PN said that he had nothing to add but would have expected a member of EDF Energy's environment team to attend the meeting to answer any questions on this item. DE noted that such a person can be called upon at a future time if needed.
- 4.4 RP asked why the dredging had been delayed. DE said that this was due to the fact that the vessel that was to conduct the dredging is now unavailable. RP asked if this meant only one vessel would be dredging, DE said he understood this to be the case.
Afternote: Dredging will involve using an excavator mounted on a barge to scoop sediment from the seabed and load it onto a hopper barge, which will then be transported to the licensed disposal site at Cardiff Grounds.
- 4.5 Alan Beasley (AB) asked if naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) had been considered in advance of any deep digging or dredging at the site. DE said that an environmental assessment had conducted an exhaustive examination of the site.
- 4.6 AJ expressed his disagreement with the report and stated that the deposition could contain radioactive isotopes that were buried 50/60 years ago when there were no regulations on dumping such material. AJ added that the work of independent scientists had found significant levels of radioactivity in similar places to that being dredged and that sediment from depths of up to seven metres was to be dumped when most testing conducted did not drill down to this depth.
- 4.7 PN stated that the Environment Agency (EA) accept that there is radioactivity in the environment and conduct a Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report every year. He added that the levels of radioactivity at the HPC site were so low that the EA could not determine where it came from and that these assessments were carried out to conservative guidelines. PN told AJ that he would be interested to see any independent monitoring but that the EA were satisfied with the deeper samples taken from the site. AJ noted that three such samples were taken.
- 4.8 Mike Dixon (MD) asked whether the material would be continuously assessed. DE said that an afternote would be provided on the matter.

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Afternote: Thorough, independent testing of the sediment was undertaken by CEFAS in 2009, 2013 and again in 2017, including at depths up to 4.8 metres. Levels of radioactivity in the sediment were found to be so low as to be 'not radioactive' in law. No artificial radioactivity was observed below 2m. This is likely because any sediment at a depth of greater than 2m depth will have accumulated hundreds if not thousands of years ago, prior to the start of industrial activity in the area. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have granted the dredging licence and additional testing is not required as no samples were above 'de minimis' criteria and therefore can pose no risk to people or the environment.

4.9 SH stated that in his experience working in the nuclear industry, great care was always taken to monitor discharge and that members should look to facts when discussing the issue.

4.10 The Chair suggested that a member of the environment team be invited to attend the next meeting.

Afternote: An offer was extended to AJ to meet with members of the EDF Energy Environment Team to discuss this matter in more detail.

5. Somerset Community Foundation Update

5.1 Justin Sargent (JS) delivered a presentation on the role of the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF). This included details of grants awarded to date. He noted the following points:

- He and Val Bishop were two points of contact for members within the foundation;
- SCF manages the Community Fund, this fund is targeted at small and strategic grants whereas the CIM Fund awards larger grants with a broader scope;
- SCF is currently moving towards completing the second round of strategic grants
- The remit of the Community Fund will broaden as the CIM Fund is oversubscribed and begins to wind down. SCF will manage this transition.

5.2 Richard Cuttall (RC) asked what funds were left in the Community Fund. JS said that the fund works to an index system, £709,000 was awarded by the fund in its first year, and the fund will receive a £1.3 million instalment next year, all of which can be spent.

5.3 Malcolm Reid (MR) asked if awards were always based on people or organisations approaching SCF first. JS said that SCF will advertise the various funding opportunities. MR noted that some people did not feel able to make the first approach.

5.4 AB asked whether there was a system in place for checking how awarded funds were being used. JS said that there is an expectation that those in receipt of an award will write back and detail how it is being used. Visits were also carried out to 15% of organisations awarded less than £15,000 and all of those awarded more than £15,000. JS added that from experience there has been very little misuse of funds.

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- 5.5 Doug Bamsey (DB) asked whether details of what the grants were for could be included on the presentation material. JS said that such details would be included in the future and were available on the SCF portal.

6. Transport Forum meeting

- 6.1 Draft minutes from the Transport Forum held on 2 August 2018 were available at the meeting. The Chair noted that the meeting had covered the deferral of the Bath Road/Wylds Road works and works to the Quantock Road roundabout alongside a presentation on the C182 by Gary Perrett.
- 6.2 SH noted that there was the possibility of a workshop on Combe Wharf and if this went ahead could he attend. The Chair said that SH was welcome to.
- 6.3 John Sivyier (JSi) said that he was yet to hear any details from Somerset County Council on the speed limit of the C182 and asked if the Bath Road/Wylds Road scheme were not to go ahead, could it possibly release funds to improve the C182.
- 6.4 Leigh Redman (LR) asked if an afternote could be included in the Transport Forum minutes to explain why the works were included in the DCO. LR noted that he and others felt that the works did have a safety function as they would provide additional width at the junction. LR added that he did not feel that this was a topic only for the Transport Forum minutes but a major point of discussion between EDF Energy and local stakeholders.
- 6.5 MD noted that under item 6.10 of the Transport Forum minutes there was a discussion about a pinch point in Kilve. MD added that there was a wall at the point which is proving a safety concern and asked whether SPS or EDF Energy could support Kilve Parish Council in addressing concerns about the point. DE agreed that it was a matter for the Highway Authority and that EDF Energy were as concerned as any road user.
- 6.6 SG noted that once operational, the HPC Jetty could relieve some of the strain on Bristol Road and Wylds Road. DE said that the Jetty will be focused upon aggregate deliveries and therefore the number of HGVs would not drop dramatically once it was operational, rather they would be used for transporting alternative goods and materials.
- 6.7 AB noted that she was waiting to hear back from DE and Andrew Wagstaff following the discussion under item 3.2 of the Transport Forum minutes. DE said that he would discuss the matter with AB at the end of the meeting.
- 6.8 JSi read from item 4.10 of the Transport Forum minutes and asked whether it was a fact or EDF Energy's view that the Bristol Road/Wylds Road works would not ease congestion. DE said that it was EDF Energy's view that they would not. Alan Hurford (AH) said that the

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minutes were inaccurate on this point and should be amended to reflect that there is disagreement as to the benefit of carrying out the works. It was agreed that the draft minutes would be clarified accordingly.

6.9 AH asked DE if there was a timescale for consulting on the works, DE said that this had not yet been agreed with the local authorities.

6.10 AF noted that she would like to restate her request under item 7.2 of the Transport Forum minutes for an update on the Inspire programme and its engagement with girls in particular.

7. Main Site Forum meeting

7.1 Draft minutes from the Main Site Forum held on 18 July 2018 were available at the meeting. The Chair gave a summary of the key points raised including bus movements and the operation of the Sedgemoor Campus.

7.2 SH noted that he felt the rise in the cap on HGV movements was sold to the community on the basis of there being a reduction in the long term. He added that any plans to keep the cap at higher levels will prove to be unpopular.

8. AOB

8.1 SH asked members to note that the wildfowling season would soon be approaching.

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the next Community Forum meeting is;

- Thursday 15 November 2018

This meeting will be held at Main Hall, Bridgwater College, Cannington TA5 2LS