

Meeting Report

Regarding:

**EDF Hinkley Point C:
Community Forum.**

Date & Venue:

**Thursday 14 May 2020 18:00
Online Web Conference**

Participating:

Jim Claydon, Chair

Mike Wilkinson, Civil Nuclear Constabulary(CNC)

Justin Sargent, Somerset Community Foundation

Jason Crook, ONR

Shane Turner, ONR

Anne Reed, Wembdon Parish Council

Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

Andy Coupé, Somerset County Council

Erland Plomgren, Holford Parish Council

Ann Bown, Somerset County Council

Allan Jeffery, Green Party

Robert Downes, Somerset West & Taunton
Council

Lisa Wright, Environment Agency

Marie Beckley, Otterhampton Parish Council

Dawn Adey, Somerset West & Taunton Council

Doug Bamsey, Sedgemoor District Council

John Burton, Somerset West & Taunton Council

Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

Malcom Reid, Nether Stowey Parish Council

Leigh Redman, Somerset County Council

Steve Pettitt, Cannington Parish Council

Gary McMeekan, Environment Agency

Neil Kimmins, Avon and Somerset Police

Claire Faun, Sedgemoor District Council

EDF Energy Team:

David Eccles, EDF

Immy Silby, EDF

Andrew Goodchild, EDF

Anne Lawrence, EDF

Drew Aspinwall, Newgate Communications

Apologies received:

Luke Stevens, EDF

**In addition to the forum meeting notes and agendas, all presentations and reports
are available at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity**

Item		Action
1	Introductions	
1.1	Jim Claydon ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the online meeting and ran through the list of attendees detailed on-screen to ensure the register was accurate.	
1.2	The Chair gave an overview as to the arrangements for the meeting, making specific reference that attendees would be invited in turn to comment or ask a question at the end of each respective presentation. He also made reference to the questions which had been submitted ahead of the meeting; and that if people wished they could also submit questions via email during the meeting to edfenergy@hpcenquiries.com	
1.3	The Chair paid his respects to Peter Farmery who sadly passed away recently. A resident of Shurton, Peter made a valuable contribution to the Main Site Forum over many years and will be sadly missed.	
2	Meeting Note and Matters Arising	
2.1	The Chair reviewed the previous Community Forum meeting note from 23 January 2020 including the actions and after-notes inviting any further comment.	
2.2	Item 2.4 Andy Coupé (AC) was invited to give an update on the signage at Bolham Layby on the C182. AC said the incorrect signage had not rectified due to the lockdown restrictions but would provide an afternote with a timeframe for the works.	Action: AC re layby signage timeline
2.3	Item 3.2 - Immy Silby (IS) reported that she had been in contact with Stuart Hill (SH) regarding his offer of assistance in the creation of allotments at the Bridgwater Campus and also provided the map of the footpaths SH had requested at the last forum.	
Item 3.2 - IS gave an update about the Mental Health First Aider initiative. A presentation will be prepared for a future Forum once Covid-19 restrictions allow an in-person meeting		
Mental Health Buddies: The Mental Health Buddies network has been nominated in the Employee Network of the Year Category at the 'This Can Happen' Awards. The awards recognise companies who have shown excellence in their approach towards positive mental health. Feedback included praise for the "ground-breaking work which is being done in a sector that has historically not been proactive in mental wellbeing."		
Mental Health First Aid Week: W/c 18 May 2020 is national Mental Health First Aid week, so HPC are running a series of online events and webinars alongside a campaign encouraging workers to look after their mental health. HPC were due to hold our second Mental Health Conference on site for the buddy network, but unfortunately this has been postponed.		
The Point internal newspaper: The May edition of the Point, HPC's internal newspaper for the workforce, had a focus on looking after your mental health during the coronavirus.		
Weekly Emails: Weekly emails are shared with the mental health buddy network, with advice on how to support those suffering with poor mental health during this difficult time. This also highlights the professional bodies and charities that are there to help anyone in need.		
Video Chats: Video chats with our on-site chaplain are available and workers can also reach out to the 300 strong mental health buddies.		
2.4	Anne Reed (AR) congratulated HPC on being nominated in the 'This Can Happen' Awards. Claire Faun (CF) reported that Sedgemoor District Council will be re-tweeting HPC activity during Mental Health First Aid Week.	
2.5	Item 3.2 – Luke Stevens had been invited to take part in the Main Site Forum Agenda item but was unable to attend on this occasion. David Eccles (DE) would give a brief update on works at the Southern Lands in his absence.	
2.6	Members then agreed the meeting note.	

3 Project Progress

3.1 DE and Anne Lawrence (AL) gave an overview of the recent progress on site and the measure taken in response to coronavirus by HPC to keep staff and the community safe.

3.2 DE highlighted that many of the HPC team had been volunteering to work in the gardens of care homes and paid tribute to Tier 1 partner Balfour Beatty who had made lots of resources available to the community, ranging from PPE to laptops for those in need of them. J0 Unit 2 is on track and tunnelling is now 600m out under the Bristol Channel.

DE added that HPC is being seen as an exemplar of construction working practices, with others looking to us to see how they can learn from our experience.

The Inspire and education team have been successfully supporting apprentices online. The job service is working with Job Centre Plus getting ready for strong engagement with looking for work as we come out the current crisis.

AL highlighted that safety remains the number one priority at HPC. Visits / tours to site were all cancelled in early March and the only staff who have a reason to come to site are allowed to access. Inductions are still taking place but with strict social distance measures in place. There remains an open dialogue between HPC, ONR and the Environment Agency on all working practices regarding coronavirus.

The presentation is available at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

Pre-submitted questions were presented on screen and summarised by The Chair:

3.3 *“After the government announcement yesterday regarding advice to construction workers to return to work, will you be able to comment as to how this will impact on the current arrangements at HPC as yet?
We are particularly interested to find out if there are any plans to change the current arrangements on several fronts - the housing of contractors at the campuses, or if there is likely to be any increase in worker numbers in the next few weeks and also ,if so, what changes will there be to bussing arrangements .
Obviously it's a bit premature to expect all the answers to this yet but a loose time frame would be helpful with regard to when we might expect contractors to move back to our communities and also as to when we should be looking to ask for the reinstatement of the Community bus.”* - submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

DE believed he had covered most of the key points of the question in regarding the current situation in his presentation. He confirmed that out of the 2,300 workers around 800 were living in the campus with the remaining 1,500 either at home or living in HMOs as one household. HPC is working on potential arrangements for increasing worker numbers but it was too early to confirm those arrangements at this point. The forum will be kept abreast of changes as they become formalised.

3.4 *“What is happening in the tunnels, where SD is, by your own admission ‘problematic’?”* - submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

DE supplied the following answer: At Hinkley Point C, we have appropriately implemented the latest Site Operating Procedures (SOP) issued by the Construction Leadership Council, and endorsed by Public Health England.

In line with these procedures, where two metre distancing cannot always be maintained, full risk assessments are completed and required actions taken to ensure the continued health, safety and wellbeing of all the workforce.

Within the tunnel, and as a standard across the site, two metre spaced markings are in place and regular reminders are displayed throughout the tunnel boring machine. Hand sanitisers are available at all times, personnel are tasked with regularly cleaning

touchpoints such as handrails. In addition, further PPE is available for our workforce where required, or requested.

3.5

“How is EDF going to join/connect the cooling water tunnels 33 metres below the floor of the Severn Estuary, 3 kilometres out, with the cooling water intake heads which are 1 metre above the sea bed? A seemingly very tricky feat of engineering with the tunnelling machines abandoned under the sea bed?” - submitted by Allan Jeffery, Green Party

DE first questioned the basis of the question with regards to it being ‘tricky’. DE said that the job is undertaken by highly experienced professionals who undertake these procedures successfully and safely more often than one would imagine.

DE then supplied the following answer: The Head units will be transported across the Bristol Channel by barge and lowered onto the seabed with two of the largest offshore cranes in the world in a tandem lift. Once on the seabed a shaft will be connected in the central shaft opening of the Head unit and dewatered. This shaft will remain protruding above the sea at all tidal ranges, stopping any water entering the excavation area. An excavator will then be placed in the shaft and excavate down to the level of the tunnel below. The head unit will be placed slightly off centre of the tunnel, and the team will create a horizontal tunnel to connect to the main tunnel structure, which has been created by the TBM, to the vertical shaft from the Head.

Afternote -
sketch of the
offline
connection
supplied to
AJ

3.6

“How full are the hostels?” - submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

DE reply: The campuses are running at about 50-60% capacity at the moment. A small number of HMOs that are self-contained with only HPC staff as occupants are still in operation.

“How many minibuses are picking up workers in Bridgwater and the outlying villages, Stogursey for one?” - submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

DE reply: Minibuses are picking up a strictly limited number of identified key workers who have no transport and cannot get to the P&R locations from which to catch a bus to site. We still insist on appropriate separation between passengers.

DE added that there were approximated 5 or 6 minibuses doing this.

3.7

“Have you managed to get the employees that are lodging in private accommodation moved into the HPC accommodation saving the employees to be bunch up waiting for buses?” - submitted by Councillor Ann Bown

DE supplied the following answer: We have removed the bus pick up points at which workers used to congregate, for example in Bridgwater, requiring them instead to go either to one of the P&R locations or else be picked up from the Sedgemoor Campus.

“Have any of the employees have passed away through the virus?” - submitted by Councillor Ann Bown

DE answer: We have had no deaths at HPC attributed to Covid-19 thus far and the very small number of confirmed cases have not resulted in any infection hot spots being created due to our prompt tracing/tracking/isolating procedures.

3.8

Three questions submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley:

“How can EdeF justify ramping up from 2,000 to 2,500 workers when these concerns remain?”

DE: HPC has been able to slightly increase the size of its workforce because it has refined and improved its protection measures at site in terms of pre-entry temperature

checks, hygiene measures and social distancing protocols so that it is safe to work. We remain at fewer than half the numbers on site at the beginning of the year.

“The EdeF update on 6 May says ‘complex technical tasks are now being successfully done at home – with quality maintained’. Does this mean that you will never need to return to 4,000 or more workers on site? (I’d also like to ask ONR their view on that possibility.)”

DE: The vast majority of roles on site are linked to physical construction, not office based. Some office staff are able to work from home but the comment in the update relates principally to Bristol.

“Due to Covid-19, there has been massive absenteeism on the nuclear new build in the US. What level of absenteeism is there at HPC, please?”

DE: “Absenteeism” isn’t the appropriate term to use. Over the course of the pandemic a number of people at HPC have taken the sensible precaution of self-isolating because they believed they might have had Covid-19 symptoms, however nearly all are now safely back at work.

Additional questions asked included:

- 3.9 Malcom Reid (MR) asked about if future worker numbers were known.
DE said that there were no pre-conceived numbers, the focus will be on a safe return but we will be looking at shift patterns and how we arrange that.
- 3.10 Erland Plomgren (EP) asked about how the community bus service came to be stopped.
DE suggested this the topic may be best explored outside of this meeting.
- 3.11 John Burton (JB) asked what messages are being given to workers who are living in the community?
DE said they were encouraging workers to come into the campuses, especially if they were living with others who are not on the workforce and forming a household.
- 3.12 Marie Beckett (MB) asked about arrangements for workers who are living the local area but going home at weekends.
DE said there are people who are choosing to stay in lodgings and not go home. Those who are travelling are being advised to follow the guidelines regarding travel for work. If people are tested positive their site pass is disabled so they would not be able to work.
- 3.13 Anne Reed (AR) asked whose responsibility was it to launder PPE?
AL clarified that there were two types: ‘Normal’ PPE and ‘Covid 19 PPE’.
Afternote: HPC confirmed that Normal PPE is laundered by the worker; Covid 19 PPE is disposable.
- 3.14 AJ asked HPC to comment on article published by the Bridgwater Mercury on 8 May 2020 entitled: *“Green light for 40 holiday homes to be used as Hinkley workers accommodation”*.

**Afternote –
supplied**

Afternote: The article from the Bridgwater Mercury relates to application 37/20/00020, Lakeview Holiday Cottages at Huntworth (The Notaro holiday cottages built under the original hotel consent from the 1990s). It had temporary consent for HPC workers in 2017 which was coming to an end so this is effectively a renewal of that previous permission. Sedgemoor District Council advise that the proposal falls into the list of sites that have alternative holiday/HPC worker use secured under the proactive guidance they put in place to help accommodation capacity in the local area. The application was not made on behalf of EDF.

**Afternote –
supplied**

4 Update - Office of Nuclear Regulation Report

4.1 Jason Crook (JC) gave an update on the Q3, Q4 2019 and Q1 2020 ONR Reports – all of which were circulated ahead of the meeting along with the presentations and are available to view at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

4.2 JC focused on exploring the Covid-19 measures taken by ONR and by HPC to continue to work safely. JS said ONR have oversight of NNB's coronavirus control measures and have been satisfied that NNB have put these in place and they are in line with Government guidelines. ONR had no concerns with their approach.

4.3 3 pre-submitted questions from Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley, were as follows:

"What happened to the 'assurance' reported by Mike Finnerty, Deputy Chief Inspector, ONR, on 3rd April, that EdeF would be reducing the number of workers on site to 'around 1,000'?"

"What is ONR's view of the increase from 2,000 to 2,500 workers on site given the statement by Mike Finnerty referred to above?"

JC: In early April, NNB GenCo advised ONR that it believed numbers on site would reduce to 'in the region of 1000' as it closed-down non-priority workstreams and as the supply chain and availability of materials naturally reduced as a result of the worldwide response to the pandemic. As NNB GenCo prioritised essential activities, it became clear that large parts of the supply chain would remain open for business and a further dramatic reduction in numbers on the site would not be necessary. The initial reduction of personnel on site by approximately 2,000 had the significant impact of easing congestion, and enabled NNB GenCo to successfully implement measures to meet HM Government and Public Health England guidelines. NNB GenCo currently considers that social distancing can be safely observed with approximately 2,500 workers on the site. We will continue to regularly engage with the site, including attending on 21st May, to monitor the situation. If shortfalls are identified, we will require action and if necessary, will take proportionate regulatory action to secure improvements, in line with our Enforcement Policy Statement.

JC: ONR is focused on ensuring that regardless of the absolute numbers onsite, NNB has sufficient personnel to ensure that all nuclear safety, security and conventional health and safety requirements are complied with whilst at the same time ensuring compliance with Covid 19 requirements.

"On Covid-19 Impact – What are the enhanced reporting and oversight measures at HPC? A FOI request to ONR has revealed that ONR accepted the flimsiest of evidence – staged still photos of SD in place plus 'assurances' from EdeF that they were doing their best – in giving EdeF the green light. Where is the video evidence of SD work in the tunnels?"

JC: Throughout the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic we have and will use a variety of means to secure assurances from sites that appropriate action is being taken. For HPC, this has ranged from interactions at the most senior levels in NNB GenCo, to extensive on-going liaison with the licensee and its internal assurance function. We specifically asked the site's internal regulator to examine implementation of social distancing at certain key areas and pinch points, such as entrance and exit points, and to provide ONR with suitable evidence, in the form of photographs and/or video, for example. Having considered all of this evidence, we are satisfied that NNB GenCo has continued to make improvements to ensure social distancing and we are content that the licensee is doing everything reasonably practicable. For example, screens have now been installed in all canteens on the site to separate workers across tables. However, noting the governments shift in policy regarding Covid 19, ONR has reviewed its regulatory position and has planned an intervention on the 21 May 2020 to monitor the situation. If shortfalls are identified, we will require action and if necessary, will take proportionate regulatory action

to secure the required improvements, in line with our Enforcement Policy Statement.

At the HPC site ONR has implemented enhanced reporting and oversight arrangements which include weekly reporting by the site against key areas of regulatory interest, this forms the basis for a weekly teleconference to discuss the content of the report, these are in addition to our routine interactions which continue albeit generally remotely. ONR's planned site inspection will include a Covid 19 element, during which ONR will assess the effectiveness of NNB's arrangements in high personnel traffic areas such as the site canteens and congested work areas which will include the heatsink area from which tunnelling is being carried out.

JC reiterated that he was satisfied with the measures in place and would be visiting site next week and will visit the tunnelling area as part of that visit. He confirmed he would not be going in the tunnels themselves due to the training and skills required for such specialist work. He has had no concerns about the social distancing regarding the tunnels from the information provided to him by NNB.

Additional questions asked included:

4.5 Robert Downes (RD) asked what will ONR assess when HPC moves into the MEH (Mechanical, Electrical and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning HVAC) stage?
JC: ONR will look at the full scope of the safety case. Early activity shows that HPC have the procedures in place. ONR would be interested in the organisational capacity as MEH stage requires more close management.

4.6 JB asked if ONR have a say on return to work numbers?
JC: ONR are looking for a robust remobilisation plan, functioning and in place before changes are made to worker numbers. The remobilisation plan needs to be appropriate, managed and in a controlled way and in compliance with Government (Covid-19) guidelines.

5 Update - Community Fund

5.1 Justin Sargent (JS) from the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) gave a presentation covering recent activity. The presentation is available to view at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

5.2 JS highlighted that separate fund has been set up for dealing with Covid-19 related applications.

5.3 Follow-up question:

- Was the Somerset Community Foundation accepting applications to the HPC Community Fund? JS confirmed that all staff were working and open for applications.

6 Main Site Forum

6.1 The Chair gave a summary of the key points from the Main Site Forum (MSF) held on 27 February 2020 in Stogursey. The main items were a presentation regarding the Southern Area and the proposed changes to the plot plan and affected buildings (Non-Material Change Application to the DCO). The meeting note is available here: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

6.2 Luke Stevens sent his apologies to the meeting so DE gave a brief update on his behalf: HPC are progressing a design for the Southern area for approval with the council, once approved, work will start in the summer. There will be a fuller update at the next Main Site Forum in June which will be available from the website for any forum members to view.

6.3 Andrew Goodchild (AG) updated the forum regarding the application for a Non-Material Change Application to the DCO in relation to the plot plan.

As discussed at the Main Site Forum, we are going to make an application to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate next month. The proposal seeks to amend the position and size of some of the minor, ancillary buildings at the main HPC site. For clarity it will not include proposals to amend the Interim Spent Fuel Store which will be revisited in the future. The proposals will be subject to a period of public consultation once the application is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate and we are currently designing how that can take place in light of Covid-19 restrictions. We will use the normal channels to communicate how people can view the application and engage with us during the consultation.

Pre-submitted questions:

- 6.4** *“Last year both EDF and The Environment Agency carried out public consultations to assess the public’s views on EDF’s change of the DCO plans to decide not to use an Acoustic Fish Deterrent on the cooling water intakes. This was a feature insisted on by the Environment Agency, as one of 3 conditions of best available practice, to avoid excessive fish mortality, in order for EDF to get a licence to continue with building HPC.”*
- submitted by Allan Jeffery, Green Party

AG did not accept the premise of this question but said that EDF and the Environment Agency remain in discussion on the information to support the assessment that will ultimately support the EA in making their decision on our permit application. We expect those discussions to continue over the next couple of months at least although we are making progressing on what is a technically challenging matter. Our intention is to make the DCO application once the EA have reached a minded to decision, realistically this will be after the Summer at the earliest.

- 6.5** *“Could the Environment Agency update on the AFD, please?”*
- submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

Lisa Wright (LW) from The Environment Agency (EA) responded to the question. She confirmed that this currently sat with them and that there had been a delay, having previously reported that may have been more to report in around June time. The delay was due to the provision of requested documents and processing the 110 responses the EA received to their consultation which took place in February 2019. LW said there was still a lot of work to do with regards to the Habitats Regulations Assessment, given the Severn Estuary importance regarding the habitat. EA are not yet ready to announce their decision. If the EA are minded to approve the application for the permit, then the EA we will go out to consultation again on that decision. If the EA are minded to refuse it, there will be no consultation.

The next MSF will be 6pm on Thursday 25 June 2020 held as a web conference.

7 Transport Forum

The Chair gave a summary of the key points from the Transport Forum (TF) held on 26 March 2020 as web conference. The main items were an update on works at Combrich Wharf and changes to park and ride and HPC bus arrangements in light of Covid-19.

The meeting note is available here: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

The next TF will be at 6pm Thursday 16 July 2020 as a web conference unless notified otherwise.

8 Any Other Business

Questions submitted ahead of the meeting:

- 8.1 *“As a major investor in the HPC project , China has some of its Nationals working on this both at home in China and here in the UK, on site and in the Bristol Office . In view of the concerns over 5G and other national security issues world wide , what are the steps that HPC is taking to ensure the operational security of this project , particularly regarding the safety of its IT and control systems.*

It would also be helpful to ascertain the number of Chinese nationals working on HPC both on site and at Bristol prior to the Covid 9 outbreak - plus the type of roles which they were / will be undertaking both now and in the future”.

- both submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

DE: HPC work closely with the ONR to ensure that measures taken are in alignment with regulatory requirements & expectations. HPC also makes use of the advice and guidance that is available from the National Cyber Security Centre (a branch of GCHQ) in support of the UK Critical National Infrastructure projects.

DE estimated that the number of Chinese national working on the project was currently around 20 – 30.

- 8.2 *“As part of the DCO , EDF were required to supply a ' Lifetime Assessment of the Carbon Footprint of the HPC project ' -unfortunately , I've been unable to locate this document so would be grateful for information as to its whereabouts in all the documentation(plus information as to how well any estimates/ predictions fit with the current state of play at this stage of the build .)” - submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council*

DE: From a full lifecycle perspective, the greenhouse gas emissions associated with 1 kWh of electricity generated from Hinkley Point C were calculated to be 4.75 g CO₂e/kWh. The CO₂ emissions are small when compared with the emissions of CO₂ from a typical UK coal plant of around 900 g/kWh, based upon the operational stage alone. Typical emissions from a gas-fired CCGT plant are around 400 g/kWh. The document of which this is a summary cannot be made public as it contains commercially sensitive data on the volumes of materials but we would be happy to talk it through with individuals post pandemic.

- 8.3 *“Could we have an update on the Community Bus including some clarity about the process required to reinstate it in due course?” - submitted by Marie Beckley, Parish Councillor Otterhampton*

DE: We will reinstate the community bus once the situation has stabilised and in accordance with government guidance on increasing the amount of travel permitted.

Additional questions:

- 8.4 Erland Plomgren (EP) requested that Holford Parish Council and Kilve Parish Council be fully consulted and involved in discussions regarding the reinstatement of the Community Bus when that happens.

- 8.5 No questions were submitted by email during the meeting.

9 Date of next meeting

- 9.1 The next Community Forum will be at 6pm on Thursday 24 September 2020 on Zoom.

The meeting closed.