

Meeting Note

Regarding:

EDF Hinkley Point C: Transport Forum

Date:

**Thursday 16 July 2020 – 6pm
(Online Conference)**

Participating:

Jim Claydon, *Chair*
 Erland Plomgren, *Holford Parish Council*
 Rosemary Woods, *Williton Parish Council*
 Doug Bamsey, *Sedgemoor District Council*
 John Burton, *Somerset West and Taunton Council*
 Anne Reed, *Wembdon Parish Council*
 Leigh Redman, *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Andy Coupé, *Somerset County Council*
 Deborah Bunce, *North Petherton Town Council*
 Ann Bown, *Somerset County Council*
 Roy Pumfrey, *Stop Hinkley*
 Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*
 Rob Morgan, *Cannington Parish Council*
 Richard Cuttall, *W.H.A.G*

Andrew Darch, *Otterhampton Parish Council*
 Esther Lawson,
Hinkley Point Neighbourhood Policing Team

EDF Team:

David Eccles, *EDF*
 Ross Edwards, *EDF*
 Rachel Lister, *EDF*
 Andrew Wagstaff, *EDF*
 Brian Buckingham, *EDF*
 Jason Lee, *Somerset Passenger Solution (SPS)*
 Drew Aspinwall, *Newgate Communications*

Apologies:

Gary Perrett, *Sustrans / Community Cyclists*

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. The Chair asked each attendee in turn to use the 'raise hand' function and unmute / mute themselves in order that everyone could take a full and active part in the Forum.

2 Meeting Note and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The Chair referred to the meeting note of 26 March 2020 and invited any further comment on the draft.
- 2.2 Item 4.3 - Leigh Redman (LR) confirmed he was happy with afternote supplied by Andy Wagstaff (AW) re the revised HPC workforce transport arrangements in response to Coronavirus.
- 2.3 Item 3.1 – Roy Pumfrey (RP) asked for an update on the fatal road incident which happened on the C182 on 20 January 2020.
- Esther Lawson (EL) provided the following AFTERNOTE after receiving an update from the Investigating officer.

“The tragic collision on 20/01/2020 has been investigated fully with the conclusion from the inquest that death was caused by the collision, but there will be no prosecution of the driver. All factors were considered including clothing of the deceased and lighting.

The circumstances were thoroughly investigated by forensically trained collision investigators and an investigation team to ensure the facts were accurate”

- 2.4** The meeting note was then approved and is available to view along with the respective papers and presentations on the website www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity (Transport Forum section)

3 Project Progress

- 3.1** David Eccles (DE) gave an overview of the changes which have taken place to working arrangements since the last meeting due to coronavirus. He covered the reduction in staff numbers to facilitate social distancing and the monitoring facilities that have been put in place. DE said that the focus now was to incrementally increase the staff numbers and expand the activities on site. Shift patterns are being utilised to facilitate this.

- 3.2** DE highlighted Stuart Crooks latest update film on You Tube – where he talks about the project as it reaches its latest milestone - the completion of Unit 2's reactor building foundation. (1 June 2020 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yji0jpQJ8G0&feature=emb_rel_end)

DE also made reference to the ramping up of the 'digital outreach' that is underway working with the employment services, apprenticeship programmes and partner organisations and to the announcement regarding the [1,200 new jobs and 300 apprenticeships for next phase of construction at Hinkley Point C](#), the beginning of “MEH” phase to fit electrical systems, cables and pipework.

DE then gave a presentation with the latest images from site. The presentations was made available ahead of the meeting and can be viewed here: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

Follow up questions / discussion topics included:

- 3.3** Pre-submitted question from Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley:
“There is no mention of the silo collapse at HPC on 10 June in the project progress section. I would have expected EdeF to have reported to ONR by now and would be pleased to have an update, not just on the silo incident itself, but also the repercussions on traffic to/fro the site.”

The incident was covered during the presentation. DE added that the investigation is still underway to establish the definitive cause of the accident. Andrew Wagstaff (AW) confirmed that the silo incident has had no impact on passenger transport numbers to and from site.

- 3.4** In response to a further question regarding the dust released, DE added that the material released was blown out to sea and did not pose any residual environmental or health risk.

4 Update from Transport Review Group (TRG)

- 4.1** Rachel Lister (RL) presented the TRG Quarterly Report Summary for Q1 2020 (January March 2020) – slides are available on the website: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

RL updated the Forum that the new member of staff, recruited to fill the new position created to enable more frequent and comprehensive driver inductions and briefings to take place before the HGV driver travels to HPC started work on 1 July 2020.

Follow up questions / discussion topics included:

Pre-submitted questions:

Questions to Somerset County Council (SCC - Andy Coupe or Alyn Jones)
- Submitted by Gary Perrett - Sustrans & Community Cyclists

4.2 *"Can 'no parking' markings be painted (or signs fitted, etc.) on the Cannington Grain Store lay-by area cycling & walking path?"*

Explanation: Many vehicles and HGV's are parking in the lay-by adjacent to the Cannington Grain Store causing serious safety issues for pedestrians & cyclists. If a HGV is parked in this area (even close to the hedgerow), it will take up the whole of the new cycling & walking path and forces users to actually go out on to the road. The rule should be that no vehicles park in this lay-by area.

Andy Coupé (AC) said that the cyclepath was realigned away from the hedgerow to avoid any conflict with exiting vehicles from the grain store and to provide space between any parked vehicles and the carriageway edge. The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit for the scheme is about to be commissioned so we will ensure this issue is included in the brief. However, it would be useful to establish if the parked vehicles relate to the HPC project, so it would be helpful if the registration plates of any vehicles noted parking in the layby could be passed to the HPC team.

4.3 *"Can the infrastructure improvements for cycling & walking in Bridgwater be seen as a priority and work started now?"*

Explanation: The Transport Secretary Grant Schapps announced that "cycling & walking are going to be at the heart of the Governments transport policy". A huge number of people are turning to sustainable transport, peoples attitudes are changing. This significant impetus should turn in to SCC dedicating more resources and staff hours to creating new cycling & walking routes in Bridgwater. Particularly when EDF S106 monies has been allocated and routes have been agreed, designed and ready to go!

AC response: Firstly, I wish to welcome the involvement of the Bridgwater Area Cycling Campaign in supporting the work in development of the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan. I know my colleagues have found the support valuable and will help to shape the priorities and delivery aspects.

The two CIM schemes in South Bridgwater have now been issued to the contractor for construction and the final designs of the HPC corridor improvement schemes along Bristol Road and Halesleigh Road have been expedited and are now complete and are being progressed as swiftly as possible to construction. There are, however, still some land and legal issues in relation to the route along the River Parrett to resolve before the task order can be issued to the contractor to, but the negotiations are well advanced and are being expedited as far as possible.

A number of additional measures have been taken in Bridgwater in response to the Government's Active Travel agenda and in order to provide space for social distancing in the town centre, following discussions between Town, District and County Councils. The next step is to consider the phase 2 schemes having very recently received the guidance from Government where there is a need to review the level of ambition and ideas with local elected members. The opportunity exists to enhance these measures using HPC S106 monies and this is the subject of extant considerations.

4.4 *"Who is now responsible for the Washford Cross Roundabout? Has this been formally handed over to SCC highways?" - Cllr Rosemary Woods, Williton Parish Council*

AC confirmed that the roundabout has been formally adopted by Somerset County Council (SCC).

- 4.5 John Burton (JB) identified a typographical error in the presentation, which RL checked and corrected. The presentation has now been updated online to show that the number of workers using a car on their final journey to site was: 155 (119 on own & 36 car sharing).
- 4.6 Brian Buckingham (BB) clarified to Sue Goss (SG) that the HGV movements per day are permitted up to 375 deliveries (750 movements per day) but averaged out to no more than 500 movements per calendar quarter.
- 4.7 SG asked about the change to the signage in the layby on the C182 opposite the Shurton and Burton turn off which has been ramped up, a move SG welcomed. DE said that decision had been install more signage with more robust language was made after a meeting between HPC, the Highways Authority and the Police. EL added that the Police and Somerset Passenger Solutions (SPS) are working together to tackle flyparking issues at that layby.

5 Update on Bus Operations

- 5.1 Andrew Wagstaff (AW), gave an update on COVID 19 enhancements and best practices on the buses. Slides available on the website: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

Pre-submitted questions:

- 5.2 *"How many buses are now travelling daily to/fro HPC and how does this number compare with the pre-C-19 number?"* - Submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

AW gave the following figures in response:

Pre Covid (Feb 2020) 244 to HPC / 235 from HPC

Post Covid (June 2020) 258 to HPC / 331 From HPC

- 5.3 *"When can we see the reinstatement of the Bridgwater to Minehead Community Bus?"* - Cllr Rosemary Woods, Williton Parish Council

AW said NNB will review provision of the Community Bus Service once vehicle social distancing mitigation proposals have been approved by DVSA (Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency) (sneeze screens); there is currently a backlog of circa 10,000 such type change requests being dealt with at the time of the last report received.

AW said they were keeping up the pressure so they can get the service back up and running with the appropriate safety measures in place.

Additional questions included:

- 5.4 How many extra coaches were required to deal with social-distancing measures – AW confirmed that 60 extra vehicles were required (double deckers were added) but others were withdrawn from service while modifications were made so the fleet size increased by circa 20 vehicles. AW confirmed the total number of bus movements per day are currently at 589.
- 5.5 Richard Cuttall (RC) asked about how minibuses were being managed. AW said that SPS were not running any minibuses at present but had spoken to those private suppliers who are supporting certain shift patterns and was re-assured that those providers have adequate social distancing measures in place.
- 5.6 SG was concerned that when the community bus is re-instated, then the reduced capacity on the bus due to social distancing, may mean that the bus is technically full when it reaches later stops on the route. AW said that safety is the number one priority and would address the issues if and when they arise.

5.7 RP asked if it was possible to walk into the Cannington P&R having parked on a neighbouring street, and cited an example of a recent event reported by a member of the community. AW confirmed that HPC workers are able to walk into the park and ride to board a bus and any flyparking issues should be reported to edfenergy@hpcenquiries.com along with the vehicle registration number and related details so they can be investigated.

5.8 Erland Plomgren (EP), said Holford Parish Council would like to see consultation on bringing the community bus back. AW said that as everyone wanted the bus back then consultation would not be required but he would inform the forum when ahead of the service being re-instated.

5.9 Leigh Redman (LR) said thank you to Andrew Wagstaff to the team for the work they have been doing and reported that he had received positive feedback regarding the measures that have been put in place.

5.10 Jason Lee (JL), Somerset Passenger Solutions (SPS) gave the second part of the presentation and to provided Transport Forum members an overview of SPS onboard systems. Slides available on the website: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

Follow up questions / points included:

5.11 SG said she was very impressed with the depth and detail of the system and thanked JL for the presentation. Ann Bown also welcomed the system in assisting / dealing with enquires from the community.

5.12 In response to RP who asked for confirmation that there should not be any SPS buses coming through the centre of Cannington. AW provided the following AFTERNOTE:

The only reason a coach should be driving through Cannington centre under current arrangements would be if the driver is undergoing route training (which SPS have to undertake to retain driver currency) or as a result of a local diversion.

AFTERNOTE

5.13 JL confirmed that if a time, a date and approximate location was provided then the system can verify that buses whereabouts and status.

Any issues regarding buses should be reported in the usual way, by emailing edfenergy@hpcenquiries.com and providing the related details so they can be investigated, all enquires are dealt within 10 working days or in most cases, earlier.

6 Any other business

6.1 Anne Reed (AR) asked how soon will the lights on the Quantock Road roundabout lights be in use?

AC advised that the final finishing works to the scheme had been delayed due to the pandemic lockdown - works were required by third parties over which the County Council had no direct control/influence including the utility companies that were prioritising emergency works only. However, he was pleased to report that the utility company had now installed the meter and the specialist signals contractor hoped to complete the configuration in the next few weeks that would enable the signals to be activated.

6.2 Richard Cuttell made a request that the Police provide a working calibrated speed-gun for Shurton and Burton speedwatch group to use.

EL said they would follow up the groups recent report and assist accordingly and that BB would assist regarding HPC HGVs. EL requested that RC email the team direct at HinkleyPoint@avonandsomerset.police.uk

- 6.3** David Eccles announced that as a result of re-structuring of the project that he would be taking the opportunity offered to him to retire. He reflected on this time working on the project, thanking all the forum members for their participation and engagement over the past 10 years and wished everyone well.

The Chair, Sue Goss, Ann Bown, Erland Plomgren, Roy Pumfrey, Rosemary Woods, Anne Reed and Leigh Redman all took the opportunity to thank David and wished him well for the future.

7 Dates of futures meetings

The next Transport Forum is currently scheduled for:

Thursday 26 November 2020 6pm. (venue / arrangements to be confirmed)

Meeting ended.