

Meeting Report

EDF Hinkley Point C: Main Site Forum.

Date: Thursday 24 June 2021 – 6pm

Zoom Webinar

Participating:

Jim Claydon, *Chair*

John Burton, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Richard Cuttell, *W.H.A.G*

Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*

Christopher Ford, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Neil Kimmins, *Avon & Somerset Police Neighbourhood Team*

Mike Laver, *Burton resident*

Joanna Manley, *Sedgemoor District Council*

Erland Plomgren, *Holford Parish Council*

Leigh Redman, *Somerset County Council*

Kezia White, *Environment Agency*

Penny Harvey, *The University of Manchester Dalton Nuclear Institute*

Derek Wellings, *Shurton Resident*

Sue Spicer, *Burton Resident*

EDF Team:

Andrew Cockcroft, *EDF*

Luke Stevens, *EDF*

Emma Keen, *EDF*

Immy Silby, *EDF*

Andrew Goodchild, *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall, *SEC Newgate*

Apologies:

No apologies received

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

Action

1 Introductions

- 1.1** Jim Claydon ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and ran through the forum protocols and invited everyone to introduce themselves in turn.

2 Meeting Note and Matters Arising

2.1 The Chair reviewed the meeting note and afternotes provided from Main Site Forum on 4th March 2021 inviting any further comment.

2.2 **Item 3.14:** John Burton (JB) reported that he has never requested to the reports as he had never received a request for them or received any evidence that the stockpiles were unstable or the ditches were undermining the stability of the stockpiles in any way. Unless any information or evidence is received JB said he does not intent to request them. Richard Cuttall (RC) said he had been asked by several local people for re-assurance of the stability of the stockpile.

JB added that currently there is an application in for amending the size of the stockpiles (K28), this was accompanied by a range of surveys, sampling and reports undertaken in May – July 2020 to support the application. SW&T Council have appointed specialist consultants, who have a geo-technical engineer, to assess that information on behalf of the Council. JB reported that this information has been given the consultants to give the Council a degree of comfort that the stockpile and its stability is being managed well, and is satisfied that the Council's independent technical engineer would have spotted any difficulty had there been any evidence of it. On this basis, the Council and the surrounding community can be confident that the stockpile are currently safe.

When the planning application has been decided, the report and all the information will be available on the council's website.

2.3 **Item 4.12:** Luke Stevens (LS) summarised the afternote supplied regarding the type of gates and potential for quad bikes, motorbikes to gain access to the Southern Area. Having checked with the SCC Rights of Way officer, whose response was as follows: *"The bridle gate on the road is the legal requirement for a bridle gate. You have also made it suitable for medium and large mobility vehicles by adding the latches and making it two-way opening. I've not yet come across any effective means to stop illegal users such as quad bikes, by opening up these routes to horses and mobility vehicles I'm afraid that also allows other users."*

2.4 LS wanted to add that this location is probably the only place in the county where a quad bike rider may be greeted with a response from security personnel, who can engage with any individuals misusing the area.

2.5 Sue Goss (SG) asked how one would go about reporting misuse of the area by a quod bike or motorbike. Immy Silby (IS) said that the best way would be to call the enquiry number which during out of hours goes straight to security control room. In the past, when calls have been received out of hours / overnight a G4S security team have been dispatched to the location very swiftly to investigate.

AFTERNOTE: The enquiries number is: 0333 009 7070.

**AFTER
NOTE**

2.6 Richard Cuttle reported he had seen cyclists lifting their bikes over the gates to gain access to site. LS said that workers would not be-able to access the site that way and had not received any reports regarding this.

2.7 RC also wanted to know why the gate to the emergency access road was open yesterday (23 June), having been reassured that the road would only be used in the case of an emergency. LS said that it was he who opened it to meet with the county ecologists and JB to look at the area and discuss our ecological monitoring. The security bought down that key but in future the other gate will be used.

2.8 Mike Laver (ML) asked if the noticeboard that was in the area is still there and does it have the number to call on it? LS said that new signage is in the process of being installed and this information includes the contact details.

2.9 SG added asked if the emergency access road was actually becoming a recognised cycle route to site. LS said that the bridleway runs, in part, next to the emergency road but there was no way into site from there and there is no benefit for people going up to the fence-line.

2.10 Mike Laver (ML) said he was content with afternote supplied regarding Item 4.18, the planting plan, for the area north of the southern boundary up to Green Lane.

Pre-Submitted Question.

- 2.11** Amanda Stanley (AS) pre submitted a question in relation to Item 5.2 (discussion about a potential community litter pick). *"No specific questions other than requesting updates on actions - specifically the litter pick as we are now 3 months down the line.*

LS replied that this was not something HPC has organised yet as specific activity but we do undertake litter picks as part of the ongoing work by contractors. During the recent World Environment Week we did a whole schedule of litter picks on all our sites and around Hinkley Point C and was pleased to report that generally there was not much litter to be collected.

The project do organise litter picks and will provide bags and litter pickers and anyone is welcome to join when we do that. AS was not at the Forum to respond.

- 2.12** **Item 5.3:** ML said he would like to see a specific timescale on remedy to the regular flooding that occurs adjacent to the earthworks bund on the site western boundary.

LS said the work is ongoing with local landowners to find the best solution.

- 2.13** There were no additional comments and the meeting note was then approved.

This is available to view along with the respective papers and presentations on the HPC website www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

3 Project Progress

- 3.1** Andrew Cockcroft (AC) gave a presentation running through progress on site, reported that:

Seven of '21 in 21' milestones set for Q1 and 2 achieved; including on 28 April, Big Carl successfully lifted the Liner Ring out of Bunker 6 to its laydown area where it will now be painted by Kaefer, before installation into Nuclear Island Unit 1 later this year.

Works progress at Nuclear Island Unit 2. Construction of Unit 2 is around 12 months behind Unit 1 although many learnings are being implemented from Unit 1 in its construction.

Balfour Beatty Marine Works continue on the Outfall Tunnel, as well as working on the Outfall Galleries and the installation of the gantries into Intake Tunnel 2.

MEH Site progress in the Raw Water Storage Liaison Gallery (HGE) – on-going welding work is continuing at pace to support the next batch of supports. This work is a key enabler for the installation of the first electrical modules in HPC.

The new Hinkley Point Visitor Centre at Cannington Court will open later this year. Prior to opening if any individuals like to visit, please do let us know.

- 70,000m³ concrete targeted to be placed in Q2 vs. 30,000 placed in Q1;
- Further progress taking place off site with suppliers across the UK;
- HPC Documentary aired on BBC2 – Series 2 to follow in 2023;
- Discussions between EDF and Local Authorities on workforce uplift are continuing;
- Covid-19 – Project roadmap under review as cases remain low and c.60% of the workforce receiving at least one vaccination. AC confirmed that the rate of cases reported was very much in line with the regional picture.

Also, there is lots of activity away from site taking place across the UK and abroad, namely the construction of turbines, large pumps and main sections of the nuclear steam supply system.

- 3.2** AC gave an overview of the social economic impact of the project. There are 3,600 businesses involved in the supply chain, 1,354 of them are from the south west which is testament to the work of the supply chain

team and the Chamber of Commerce; 71,000 is the total projected jobs to be supported by the project; £3.2billion spent with companies in the south west to date against a target of £1.5billion during construction.

- 3.3** In jobs terms, the key focus is on apprenticeships, 756 already trained against a target of 1000. 250 people have already been trained and assessed at the Welding Centre of Excellence in Bridgwater, despite opening during covid. 13,842 people trained and assessed at the Construction Skills and Innovation Centre, Bridgwater.
- 3.4** Community Fund still supporting very local projects with £11million awarded so far. £123million of community investment delivered to date against a target of £130million to support the community. AC said it was great to see projects like Stogursey's Victory Hall complete and Home Start Somerset up and running.
- 3.5** Combswich Wharf: Piling works complete; Completed the large concrete pour for the relieving slab (*the area which loads will be offloaded onto). Next step will involve the removal of the legato wall. Port of Bristol carrying out maintenance works on the marine infrastructure. AC said we are now preparing for the Operational Phase of Combswich Wharf, which will see large loads being delivered by sea. Ahead of this phase we'll be letting local residents along the C182 route know how they can stay up to date and receive notifications.
- 3.6** Acoustic Fish Deterrent: The planning inquiry finished last week; we expect it will be several months before we learn the outcome of that process.
- 3.7** Mud Dredging: Applications are being progressed by both the Marine Management Organisation (Portishead) and Natural Resources Wales (Cardiff grounds). Expect a decision in a month or so will have more clarity regarding these applications during the summer.

Pre-Submitted Questions:

- 3.8** Submitted by Bruce Eyley (BE), Kilve Parish Council:
"Can we have an update on the recent fire and how many fires there have been please?"

AC said the recent fire on site involved some rubber seals in the deep dig, the smoke was very visible but made the fire look larger than it was. It was fully dealt with by the on-site team, the fire brigade did attend but were not required.

AC said that there have been 7 fires in total in 2021 and each one has been dealt with by the contractor using a hand-held extinguisher or by our on-site fire team.

BE thanked AC for his response, but asked what he was more interested in was the procedure regarding how you stop them starting in the first place? AC said that once the investigation is complete the learning is shared in a number of ways and stated that, 7 fires is 7 too many in EDF's book.

- 3.9** Pre-submitted Question from Richard Cuttall (RC), WHAG:
"I notice penalty notices on vehicles in the lay bye close to HPC some of them being repeat offenders even with "J24" on the windscreen. Why is this being permitted and how many drivers have been cautioned or dismissed?"

AC said it is not being permitted and we look at fly parking very seriously. In fact, the fly parking response team is being expanded. The project is taking steps to really crack down on it and undertake a sustained campaign internally.

117 drivers have been dealt with over the year to date, the key ones are repeat offenders. None have been dismissed this year. We have escalated 21 for disciplinary action with in their respective parent

organisations. One of repeat offender's cases was escalated right up to the site director for disciplinary action.

RC said he was not happy with that answer. He said that answer has been offered on previous occasions but he repeatedly sees the same cars in the same location with tickets on them and it is very disappointing. AC said that the project is putting a lot of energy and resource into this. The process is not straightforward and can take time. We are committed to drive it down to the lowest level that is can be.

- 3.10** Sue Goss (SG) asked: is the nationwide shortages of building materials, such as steel, likely to have any impact on the project progress?
AC said not at the moment, Bylor have the stocks they need, so we are not being impacted currently.
- 3.11** SG also asked about how parking was going to managed at Cannington with the new visitor centre opening at Cannington Court?
AC said that we will be using both Rodway P&R and the P&R on the Cannington bypass using courtesy buses to ferry people to the visitor centre.
- 3.12** BE asked *"Could we have our next meeting at Cannington Court? We could then get a look at the new visitor centre and it would be face to face."*
AC said it would be feasible to have meeting at Cannington Court. He added that we were still looking at how we meet in the future. We are also looking at a way to bring in the members of the forum to the visitor centre.
- 3.13** Leigh Redman (LR) asked: *"Can we have details of the current number of staff on site? Highest day count over last month and average over the same period?"*
AC said that the latest number is just under the 5,500 mark. AC said that we use the peak number rather an average.
LR asked for a written response with the average number over the same period.
AFTERNOTE: AC confirmed that he had been in touch subsequently with LR regarding the figures.
- 3.14** Sue Spicer (SS) asked if the AFD in situ at the moment, the slide seemed to suggest that.
AC said that the AFD is not in the water at all. The AFD is included in the current planning permission, the issue is whether we are permitted to remove the AFD from the plans.
- 3.15** Erland Plomgren (EP) said there is quite a lot of rumours about what the project is or isn't doing locally. Pre-covid there were some discussions about having some presentation in the village hall in Holford and wondered if it was going to get resurrected again?
AC said are now looking at the drop-in sessions and other engagements including the one offs such as this request.

**AFTER
NOTE**

The presentation can be viewed at: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity under Main Site Forum.

4 Update report: Southern Area

- 4.1** Luke Stevens (LS) gave a brief update on the southern area which in summary is that the road, landscaping and planting are all complete.
- 4.2** LS said we are already seeing a lot of wildlife activity, as part of the ecologist diversity monitors there have been sightings of deer, hawk moths, grass snakes, reptiles and hares. At this early stage we are getting lots of positive indications that the area is establishing itself well.
- 4.3** We have had a report that at the eastern edge of the site near the ponds that a Little Ringed Plover is nesting, a Schedule 1 species which is afforded a higher degree of protection. Also, in the tree planting areas there is a nesting Nightjar. Most of the records are on Exmoor and the Quantocks, so this is encouraging to see and will modify the management to accommodate this.

- 4.4** We are looking to open the area up the third week of July after these birds have fledged. We will be asking people to keep dogs on leads where possible. We are looking at a potential traffic light system to indicate when ground nesting birds are present so owners know when or when not, to let their dogs off the lead.
- 4.5** Immy Silby (IS) said that she had been in discussion with SG and Richard Wand from Storgursey Parish Council who have agreed to be a conduit for the community for any feedback we get about the area so decisions can be based on the opinions of the community as a whole. So, please send any feedback to either to the project for us to pass onto Storgursey Parish Council or to go direct to the parish council so they can collate one considered parish-wide view.
- 4.6** Mike Laver (ML) said he felt that the Southern Area is not a nature reserve but primarily a recreational area and felt a balance needed to be struck.
LS agreed and said that when the area was farmland there would have been restriction in place; the public rights of ways have been reinstated. The balance is between public access using the public rights of way, not open access to the entire area. ML welcomed the traffic light system but would not like to see designated restrictions in place.
- 4.7** Pre-submitted Question from RCI:
"Why is it necessary to have a concrete breaker/ excavator on the highest ridge as seen from Shurton? Surely it could be situated behind an earth bund to reduce noise? After all this is how the concept of the bunds was originally explained."

AG said because it is working stockpile, material is being added from the tunnelling and then being taken away to backfill behind buildings. This work does mean that equipment and plant will be used at the top of the ridge. AG added that the project had not received any noise complaints to this effect.
RC suggested a lower working area would be preferable and have less impact on the local community.

The presentation can be viewed at: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity under Main Site Forum.

5 Environmental Management Update

- 5.1** Emma Keen (EK), Environment & Sustainability Manager joined the Main Site Forum for the first time to give an overview of her team's work. Emma said she has been on the project for 7 years, the last year of which in her current role.
- 5.2** Emma took the forum through scope of the work, she and her team are involved with.
This included: Water Management, Soils and Materials, Ecology, Pollution Prevention, Marine, Waste Management, Nuisance (Light, Noise & Dust), Air Quality & Emissions.
- 5.3** EK explained how we ensure we meet these requirements. Measures include:
- EDF and each Tier 1 Contractor has its own environment team or environmental representative (dependant on size of organisation)
 - Over 50 Environmental Professionals on the project
 - They provide advice, guidance and assurance and specialist knowledge in technical areas such as water quality and marine ecology
 - Work as a collaborative team to drive environmental improvements and ensure compliance
 - Targeted engagement campaigns throughout the year
 - Weekly environmental planning meetings
 - Monthly Environment and Sustainability site wide meetings

SG asked three questions:

- 5.4 - When you recently renewed your generator permits, if you wanted to be more environmentally friendly, would it have been a good idea to switch over to a hybrid or alternative fuels?
EK said that they have been looking at the performance of hybrid and alternative fuels for generators, and have undertaken a trial as not all fuels perform well in all settings and their emissions too. So, we are looking at them; We have some hybrid units on site currently.
- 5.5 - Is noise data still being fed to Somerset West & Taunton Council on a monthly basis?
AG said he would check. **ACTION**
- 5.6 - Lighting - there are batteries of lights near Green Lane pointing towards Shurton and Knighton.
EK said she would look in to that.
AFTERNOTE: When EK checked, the lights referred to had been subsequently moved.
As we move into Autumn, especially when the clocks change, the team will have a particular focus on site lighting and any local impact. **AFTER NOTE**
- The presentation, which contains a lot of detail, can be viewed at: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity
- 6 Any other business**
- Pre-submitted from Neil Kimmins (NK):
- 6.1 *"Please can EDF consider advertising the Community Forums on popular social media channels to encourage wider public and community group involvement please?"*
- AC said as part of the Workforce Uplift we did undertake targeting engagement and accessed 14,000 people as part of that exercise. The fora are focussed (the MSF for example is for representatives of the local community living close to site) and we have been working with partner organisations to promote engagement.
- 6.2 NK said that we try and engage with the community in the way they like to be engaged with, such as Facebook for younger generation. AC said that Instagram is the platform of choice for young people now and that there has also been a conversation with the digital team around the merits of using TikTok to engage with younger people. AC said if there was any learnings that the Police had about engaging with hard-to-reach groups then please do share the learning.
- 6.3 RC asked about reversing sounders and if EDF had any view on the tractor that featured in the BBC documentary reversing with a non-compliant sounder?
LS said, as previously discussed, that sometimes it does happen and we do try and ensure that plant operates on site with the correct sounder.
- 7 Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st October 2021 at 6pm**
- 7.1 The questionnaire circulated in April to field Fora members revealed an even split between meeting in person and meeting virtually, there was clearly some apprehension as to the way forward from the comments received. So, the team were keeping a watching brief on the way forward and will confirm nearer the time.
- 7.2 Chris Ford added that the Stogursey Victory Hall will be ready to welcome you when the time is right.
- 7.3 Mike Laver said that MSF is designed for the local community near to site and would not want to see the remit expanded.
- 7.4 John Burton (JB) reminded the forum that a hybrid event would enable people to choose if they attend in person or remotely.
- 7.5 SG said The Site Stakeholder Group for A & B station are going to resume in-person meetings, and felt HPC may be out of step if they do not return to face-to-face meetings.
- 7.6 The meeting ended.