

Meeting Report

Regarding:

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

Participating:

Jim Claydon, Chair
Allan Jeffery, Green Party
Ann Bown, Somerset County Council
Anne Reed, Wembdon Parish Council
Bruce Eyley, Kilve Parish Council
Doug Bamsey, Sedgemoor District Council
Erland Plomgren, Holford Parish Council
Gary McMeekan, Environment Agency
Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP for Bridgwater and West Somerset
Jason Crook, ONR
Joanna Manley, Sedgemoor District Council
Joanna Whitehead, Somerset County Council
John Burton, Somerset West & Taunton Council
Julie Cooper, Sedgemoor District Council
Justin Sargent, Somerset Community Foundation
Leigh Redman, Somerset County Council
Lisa Wright, Environment Agency
Malcom Reid, Nether Stowey Parish Council
Marie Beckley, Otterhampton Parish Council

Date & Venue:

**Thursday 20th May 2021 18:00
Online Web Conference**

Mike Wilkinson, Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC)
Neil Kimmins, Hinkley Point Neighbourhood Policing Team, Avon & Somerset Police
Paul Crosland, Fiddington Parish Council
Peter Payne, Williton Parish Council
Richard Cuttell, W.H.A.G
Robert Downes, Somerset West & Taunton Council
Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley
Stephen Pettitt, Cannington Parish Council
Sue Spicer, Burton Resident
Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

EDF Energy Team:

Andrew Cockcroft, EDF
Anne Lawrence, EDF
Andrew Goodchild, EDF
Tim McCoy, EDF
Drew Aspinwall, SEC Newgate UK

Apologies received:

Nikki Coleman, Hinkley Point Neighbourhood Policing Team, Avon & Somerset Police

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. The Chair ran through the list of attendees detailed on-screen to ensure the register was accurate and to check attendees were able to mute / unmute themselves and use the 'raise hand' feature to indicate that they would like to ask a question.
1.2	The Chair gave an overview as to the arrangements for the meeting. Attendees would be invited to ask questions at the end of each respective presentation and made reference to the questions submitted in advance of the meeting; the Q&A function could also be used and these questions would be picked up under Item 9: Any other business.
2	Meeting Note and Matters Arising
2.1	The Chair reviewed the previous Community Forum meeting note from 21 st January 2021 including the actions and after-notes inviting any further comment.
2.2	Item 8.4 Joanna Whitehead (JW) reported that Andrew Cockcroft (AC) made contact with Somerset County Council (SCC) and letter was sent. AC added that the highways had confirmed that responsibility sits with the project and that all excess signage will be removed, a full update will be given at the next Main Site Forum on 24 th June 2021 and a note to Stogursey Parish Council also.
2.3	There were no further comments and Members then agreed the meeting note, which can be found at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity
3	Project Progress
3.1	AC gave a presentation running through progress on site including progress on Unit 1 and Unit 2 Nuclear Islands, some of key structures are now coming to life, with more rooms added.
3.2	There are continued efficiency improvements by applying learnings from earlier in the project, with the second ring liner now ready for installation and was fabricated 36% faster than the first. Unit 2 is also benefiting from efficiencies with teams switching from Unit 1
3.3	At Unit 1 Conventional Island the final Turbine Column (TG) installation is now complete; The columns will support the 2,500m ³ 'table' and eventually, the generator itself. Manufacture of Turbine Hall steelwork mainframe now commencing.
3.4	Away from site AC updated on works at Combrich Wharf where piling works are now complete and the focus now is on the construction of the new transfer slab, which the abnormal loads will be unloaded onto, and the removal of the legato wall. AC said the team is keeping the local residents and the parish council up to date with developments.
3.5	There is good progress on the Southern Area of the site with the landscaping works and completing the planting of thousands of trees and shrubs. The wildlife ponds continue to be established and we've built hibernaculum (bug hotels) which are safe sheltered spaces for insects. The area is planned to be ready for opening in late spring.
3.6	AC said that next week, the project will be releasing the 2021 Hinkley Point C Socio-Economic Impact report. In summary, the project continues to meet and exceed its targets for social and

economic benefit for the local area. The opportunities are arriving at the right time as Somerset bounces-back from the pandemic. New jobs available and new training facilities will mean that local people can benefit, no matter their skill level or current position. The Hinkley Point C Jobs Service continues help local people into work.

Key figures include:

- £3.2 billion spent across the South West (original target was £1.5 billion of direct spend in the SW region)
- 756 apprentices trained so far
- 11,769 jobs created on-site
- 14,000 people trained at the Construction Skills and Welding Centre
- 36% local workforce

AFTERNOTE: The report can be viewed online here:

<https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c/about/realising-socio-economic-benefits>

AFTERNOTE

3.7 AC also highlighted that the project is really all about people. In the course of the last 12 months training facilities including the Welding Centre of Excellence opened, and we are working with the Construction Skills Centre, the forthcoming Electrical Training Centre, the Mechanical Centre of Excellence and also wider training opinions which enable local people have the transferable skills long after the construction phase of the site is complete.

3.8 Covid-19: AC things are reasonably stable at the moment, the project mirrors the national picture. We are starting to cast our mind forward as to how we be able to adjust our measures in line with Government guidance, but we are still have all the robust measures in place we have spoken about previously.

3.9 Workforce uplift: following the special briefings held at in January / February, as promised the project has submitted 'topic papers' to the local authorities and other partners in April. The key themes are Workforce Development; Transport; Accommodation, Environment, Health; Community Safety. Discussions are ongoing, and HPC currently anticipate the decision making process to come together at the end of the summer/ beginning of the autumn 2021.

The *HPC Workforce Uplift - Topic Papers* are available on Sedgemoor District Council's website:

<https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/article/4952/HPC-Workforce-Uplift-Topic-Papers->

3.10 Mud dredging: 2 applications have been submitted for dredging and disposal of mud (from the second phase of dredging later in 2021) within the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), one with Natural Resources Wales for the Cardiff Grounds licensed disposal site and one with the Marine Management Organisation for the Portishead licensed disposal site. The project is awaiting decision from those two bodies as to what happened next.

There is more information about dredging here: <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c/about/dredging-bristol-channel>

3.11 Update on the Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD): There will be a Public Inquiry held by the Planning Inspectorate which is due to open on 7th June 2021. This will be a virtual session and will result in a recommendation being made to the Secretary of State and will ultimately bring about a conclusion regarding the application vary the environmental permit to remove the requirement to install an AFD.

Pre-submitted question from Roy Pumfrey (RP), Stop Hinkley:

Q: "On Covid-19, Sedgemoor is consistently top of the district charts for Covid-19 in the local BBC

- 3.12** *news. I would have thought this merited more on how testing is going at HPC and the data on the number of tests than an afterthought slide on 'Wider Updates'. What assurances can you give local communities that HPC is not the Covid hot spot that many suspect it is?"*

A: AC said we maintain very close contact with Public Health England (PHE) and they are not seeing any link between cases in Sedgemoor and the project. There are very low levels nationally, regionally, the Sedgemoor rate for the last 7 days is 23 cases. We constantly keep this under review.

- 3.13** Ann Bown (AB) asked how many people are off work currently with Covid.
AC said we don't report on this publicly on a case-by-case basis. We have conducted over 30,000 tests since January and continue to have very low numbers of positive cases.
AC reminded the forum that positive tests are recorded where the person lives, not where they work.

AB added that there is still a concern in the community that cases are linked to the project.
AC reiterated the extensive measures and facilities that are in place, which will remain in place until it is considered appropriate to relax them in a continued effort to ensure that our workers and the community are kept safe.

Anne Lawrence (AL) said that the project has a weekly meeting with PHE and share with them the details of the positive cases, so they have access to all the details they need to allow them to identify any trends / links.

- 3.14** Doug Bamsey (DB) agreed with AC and confirmed that Sedgemoor District Council's position is that there is not a link between the district's cases and Hinkley Point C regarding the sources of infections.

Pre-submitted question from Sue Goss (SG), Stogursey Parish Council:
"Your topic papers regarding this proposal state that:

- 3.15** *'Around 400 non-home-based workers will live in latent accommodation at peak construction .' Could you explain what the evidence base is for this assumption - as the precise amount of such latent accommodation would appear to be something which would seem to be extremely difficult to predict ?"*

Andrew Goodchild (AG) said: Information on the amount of latent or new accommodation which is available to rent has been established from data we have collected over the last few years. Our bi-yearly workforce survey includes a series of questions to establish the type and location of accommodation that workers are staying in. We have also engaged with landlords who we know are renting accommodation to workers. This has enabled us to build up an accurate picture of the location of accommodation new to the market since the DCO was approved and has been factored into our calculations. The data shows us that the market has seen proportionally more latent accommodation being made available in Bridgwater and in villages closer to the site.

- 3.16** SG asked what level of reassurance could the project give regarding the 400 latent bedspace number. AG said that the 400 latent bed space she referred to is from the Development Consent Order (DCO) and the number the project is predicting is around 840 latent bed spaces at peak of construction and the vast majority of these are already in use. So yes, the project has a degree of confidence that the number are robust based on extensive data and analysis of the previous years.

Pre-submitted question from Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley:

- 3.17** *"On Workforce Uplift, as there are adverts appearing in Irish newspapers for workers for HPC and electricians in Wiltshire are bombarded with requests to work at HPC, how can you believe that local redundant workers can suddenly become HPC MEHV workers?"*

AG said that our jobs service continues to offer support and guidance to local people seeking work on the project. In March over 500 people who were either furloughed or had been made redundant as a result of Covid contacted our team for support. Our plans for construction, welding, electrical and mechanical centres of excellence provide a solid foundation which we believe will create long term, skilled jobs for local people both on the HPC project and other projects going forwards. We have never suggested that all jobs will go to local people but our plans suggest that nearly 2,000 more home based workers will be employed at the peak of construction compared with original assumptions.

(MEH stands for Mechanical, Electrical and HVAC - heating, ventilation and air conditioning)

AC added that it is important to remember that there are a real range of training / re-training opportunities to join the project now available via the new training centres, this is particularly helpful for people who have found themselves in need of work. There are now 4-week courses for those with no previous experience, which allows you to start on site and continue learning on the job, to longer apprenticeships, right through to degree level and everything in between.

Pre-submitted question from Richard Cuttall (RC) – W.H.A.G:

"The topic paper advises that 38% of workers are to be home based. This was 48%.

3.18 *Where are the extra non-home-based going to live and why does the topic paper refer to an increased percentage of home-based workers?"*

AG replied: During early presentations we did refer to a maximum of 48% home-based workers and also explained that we would model the original 34% which was set out in the DCO. 38% is an increase from 34% and represents just under 2,000 additional home-based workers.

We received significant challenge during presentations and discussions as to the likelihood of achieving a figure of 48%. The revised Spatial Distribution Note has been prepared on the basis of a 38:62 ratio of home-based workers and non-home-based workers.

The principal reasons for this revised ratio are due to: a detailed analysis of the winter 2020 survey included a review of the make-up of the Civils workforce compared to the previous winter 2019 survey; more detail being available from the MEH Alliance in terms of the profile and anticipated make-up of the MEH workforce; and more detail being available in relation to the nature and scale of the Hinkley Support Operative role at the peak of construction.

The accommodation topic paper sets out the location and type of accommodation which we expect non-home-based workers to occupy at the peak of construction. We continue to hold discussions with the Councils about this topic and look forward to their feedback on our proposals.

3.19 RC said his main concern was that EDF appear to move the goalposts to suit their requirements with numbers quoted at the start of the project being different from what we are talking about now. AC said he understood his views, the forecasts and assumptions made in the DCO have been refined based on structural changes and adjustments made to the project as a whole. The key point is that we are adjusting our new forecast based on empirical information and have spent a lot of time having these discussions before submitted the topic papers.

3.20 Malcolm Reid (MR) asked what the project hoped to achieve by increasing the worker numbers. AG said that the workforce uplift is essentially to ensure that deliver the power station safely, to the exacting quality standards required and to time. As previously announced, Covid has impacted the timeline, with Unit 1 now expected to be operational in mid-2026.

RP asked if there was an update on the workforce uplift and if the discussions over the last couple of months have concluded that these proposals are in fact a Material Change to the DCO?

AG said the 6 topic papers explore that in details and the conclusion is that the impacts do not give rise to any new or materially different effects. Therefore, HPC are of the view that there would be no need to approach the Secretary of State regarding a change to the DCO.

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

4 Silo Collapse Report

- 4.1** Anne Lawrence (AL) gave an update on the Silo Collapse, on which the investigation has now concluded. On 10 June 2020 a Ground Granulated Blast-furnace Slag silo – part of the concrete production facilities at Hinkley Point C - collapsed suddenly and without warning. The silo was a temporary structure used in construction and not a permanent part of the power station.
- 4.2** Following an extensive investigation, the cause of the collapse has been identified and the learnings are being shared with our regulator and the wider industry to avoid such an event occurring elsewhere.
- 4.3** The investigation looked at the design of the silo, how it was being operated and looking for any possible degradation. It involved a combined team of EDF people, subject matter experts looking at the metallurgy and involved detailed analysis of some of the material from that silo. There is no evidence that the silo had been operated outside of its intended design parameters or been misused in any way. There are no other silos of that size or construction at HPC site.
- 4.4** The investigation concluded that there were a number of factors that led to the collapse. We now know that the collapse was due to structural failure / mechanical overload; we know that some of it was related to inadequate design of the silo and we know that the people conducting investigation said that instead of using bolted joints, if staggered joints had been used that would have given a better design and that limited the spread of some of the loads. We also know that changes in temperature in the day prior to the event had an impact and led to differential thermal ratchetting which gave an increase in load on the silo. That contributed to this event.
- 4.5** In order to help public understanding of the issue we have produced a learning brief, which explains what happened and the steps being taken to learn from the event. The document can be viewed using this link:
https://www.edfenergy.com/sites/default/files/hpc_silo_learning_brief_web.pdf
- 4.6** Pre-submitted Question from Allan Jeffery – Green Party representative
- 1) “Why did NNB/EDF build a unique design, bolted, large silo on the HPC building site, rather than a standard silo design commonly used in the construction industry. Is this failed design used across other EDF construction sites in the UK or Europe?”
- 2) “The public will be very concerned that that a large (5000 Ton capacity) silo on the HPC building site suddenly collapses, fortunately, half an hour before work was due to start, not killing or injuring any workers on site. Who was responsible for the safe construction of this silo design?”
- 4.7** AL asked Allan Jeffery (AJ) if his questions had been addressed as part of her presentation or if there are any aspect that needed a further explanation. AJ said that the project must be very concerned that this happened on a temporary structure and therefore what reassurances could be given that there would not be issues with elements of the permanent structure of the power station itself?

AL said that all the learning and the engineering aspects have been taken on board and the site team are actively going back and looking at the rest of the temporary facilities on site to see if there is anywhere else like something like this could happen, and this being shared with the wider industry.

4.8 Bruce Eyley (BE) was surprised that the word 'quality' does not appear in the learning brief. As a local resident the real concern is that of the quality of the power station itself. AC added that the learning brief is a summary of some very detailed analysis that has been undertaken and should be reassured that the brief is not the extent of it. Due to the commercial and legal aspect to it the full report cannot be made public. The key point of this is that safety and quality are vital to the project. There are different criteria and levels of scrutiny for the nuclear and the non-nuclear temporary elements of the project.

4.9 RP asked why the project was not duty bound to remove the silo given that some of the regulations changed since its construction. AL clarified that it was the Construction Design Management (CDM) regulations changed since 2017. That is not to say that anything that constructed before that date needs to be removed. -

5 Update - Office of Nuclear Regulation Report

5.1 Jason Crook (JC) gave an update on the Q4 2020 ONR Report – which was circulated ahead of the meeting along with the presentations and are available to view at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

5.2 JC said that all the inspections have all been rated green which means the ONR are satisfied the NNB have appropriately complied with its legal responsibilities.

Quarter 4 2020 Report

LC19 - Construction or Installation of New Plant – ONR civil engineering specialist inspector visited site and gained confidence that NNB is continuing to appropriately manage civil construction in relation to concrete production, placement and falsework.

LC19 – Construction or Installation of new Plant – Welding – ONR structural integrity (welding) specialist inspector visited site and gained confidence that NNB was appropriately managing welding activities associated with the nuclear safety classified sump suction lines.

LC19 – Construction or Installation of new Plant – Mechanical and Electrical Installation – ONR examined preparations to commence MEH installation in the HGE gallery area and gained confidence in NNB and its contractors' readiness to commence the limited MEH installation activities in the HGE galleries.

IRR17 and LC 4 – Radiography – ONR found that NNB and its contractors were appropriately managing the risk from industrial radiography.

Covid 19 - ONR found that Covid 19 measures had evolved in accordance with revised government guidance and remained effectively implemented.

5.3 Covid 19

ONR initiated a short pause in non-essential site inspection activities in January and early February 2021 due to the Covid second wave.

Following the stabilisation of the second wave and associated UK wide Covid numbers ONR remobilised to site on 23rd February 2021 and has been increasing its site presence incrementally since, with a normal site presence (pre-Covid) anticipated to be achieved in June/early July. It is anticipated that the site presence will then increase further as more activities commence at site.

5.4 GGBS Silo

ONR has reviewed NNB's investigation and considers overall that it appears to be a comprehensive investigation.

ONR is engaging with NNB and its contractors to ensure that the relevant learning is shared appropriately to help reduce the risk of reoccurrence in wider industry.

5.5 AJ asked if this GGBS silo design had been used at other sites in Europe?

JC said that he did not know what they were doing in Europe as the ONR focuses on the UK. He did add that the company which erected the silo had committed to communicate the findings to all other who have the same silo.

- 5.6** BE asked, since the GGBS Silo failure, has the concrete mix had to be changed or is there a different supply method for slag?

AL said that there have been no changes made to the concrete mix but there are additional features added to the four smaller silos to make sure we could continue to produce the right grade of concrete using any one of the four batching plants.

JC added that one of the primary focuses of ONR's civil engineering specialist inspector was ensuring that they were only returned to service when they could demonstrate that the nuclear grade concrete was being produced to the right standards.

6 Update: Community Fund - (Justin Sargent, Somerset Community Foundation)

- 6.1** Justin Sargent (JS) from the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) gave a presentation by way of an update on the HPC Community Fund. The presentation is available to view at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

- 6.2** JS said that SCF has awarded £4,614,513 from the HPC Community Fund, the majority of which has been from the open grants programme (£2,428,569) and went on to give a round-up of some recently funded projects.

- 6.3** Small Grants have been slow but starting to pick up again and SCF will be focussing on those in the Autumn and also on environmental projects that meet the community wellbeing and quality of life criteria.

- 6.4** JS gave an overview of two recently funded projects.

- 1) Bridgwater Baptist Church who have plans to renovate the building and provide a range of community facilities, SCF have committed fund, of £200,000 over 2 years subject to full planning permission being granted, to help the project meet its overall target.
- 2) Then Dunster Marsh Junior Playing Field Association was awarded £1,500 to help with the upgrade of the equipment and fence so it remains safe for the local community to use.

7 Main Site Forum

- 7.1** The Chair gave a summary of the key points from the Main Site Forum (MSF) held on 4th March 2021 on Zoom. The main item was a presentation regarding the Southern Area.

- 7.2** To view the MSF meeting note and presentations go to: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity - scroll down to Forums and select Main Site Forum.

8 Transport Forum

- 8.1** The Chair gave a summary of the key points from the Transport Forum (TF) held on 18th March 2021 on Zoom. The main items were Combe Wharf, Workforce Uplift and the work planned for the Steart Marshes area.

- 8.2** To view the TF meeting note and presentations go to: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity - scroll down to Forums and select Transport Forum.

9 Any Other Business

(Remaining items posted using Q&A Zoom feature that had not already been addressed):

- 9.1** RP: (in relation to the Progress report): "How does a large heap of bits of felled mature trees

represent good progress with landscaping?”

AG answered: “The picture was showing the small areas which have been created to foster insect habitat which in turn supports other wildlife. We have planted over 30,000 new trees in the southern area of the site which are now established.”

- 9.2** RP: “Thanks, Andrew. I could ask how many mature trees were felled to clear the site.”
AG “I don't have the answer to that to hand - we will seek an answer and include that in meeting notes. The majority of the site was farmland albeit that there were some trees and hedgerows removed. We are developing plans for the site restoration post construction which will see a bio-diversity net gain overall.”

AFTERNOTE: Around 11.6Ha of woodland or areas where some trees were planted were removed during the vegetation clearance works on the main HPC Site prior to earthworks commencing. By comparison the site included over 97Ha of arable farmland.

AFTERNOTE

The recently completed Southern Landscape area includes approximately 13Ha of woodland planting and the final landscape restoration plans approved as part of the DCO will see over 39Ha of woodland planted in the long term.

Including the advanced landscaping which was planted in 2010/11 the HPC project has planted 65,000 trees and shrubs to date.

- 9.3** RP: Will there be any statement about the members' feelings on meetings this evening, please?
The Chair said that the survey regarding the format of future meetings is open for another 24 hours – all members of the Community Forum were encouraged to complete the survey by the deadline.

10 Date of next meeting

- 10.1** Next Community Forum will be at 6pm on Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 6pm.
The meeting closed.