

Meeting Report

Regarding:

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

Participating:

Jim Claydon, Chair
Ade Murphy, Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting
Allan Jeffery, Green Party
Ann Bown, Somerset County Council
Anne Reed, Wembdon Parish Council
Dave Baxter, Sedgemoor District Council
Erland Plomgren, Holford Parish Council (and
representing Kilve Parish Council)
Esther Lawson, Hinkley Point Neighbourhood Policing
Team, Avon & Somerset Police
Geoff Richardson, North Somerset Council
Jason Crook, ONR
Joanna Manley, Sedgemoor District Council
Joanna Whitehead, Somerset County Council
John Ayers, Environment Agency
John Burton, Somerset West & Taunton Council
Justin Sargent, Somerset Community Foundation
Leigh Redman, Bridgwater Town Council
Lisa Wright, Environment Agency

Date & Venue:

Thursday 23rd September 2021 18:00

In Person:

Bridgwater & Taunton College, Cannington, TA5 2LS

Malcom Reid, Nether Stowey Parish Council
Bob Birkenhead, Otterhampton Parish Council
Richard Cuttall, W.H.A.G
Robert Downes, Somerset West & Taunton Council
Robin Phipps, Cannington Parish Council
Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley
Stewart Hill, C.H.A.I.R & Wildfowlers
Sue Spicer, Burton Resident
Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

EDF Energy Team:

Andrew Cockcroft, EDF
Anne Lawrence, EDF
Andrew Goodchild, EDF
Victoria Dingwall, EDF
Robyn Evans, SEC Newgate UK
Drew Aspinwall, SEC Newgate UK

Apologies received:

Bruce Eyley, Kilve Parish Council

**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 in-person meeting and ran through the housekeeping and safeguarding instructions regarding Covid-19 and the format of the meeting.
2	Meeting Note and Matters Arising
2.1	The Chair reviewed the previous Community Forum meeting note from 20 th May 2021 including the actions and after-notes inviting any further comment.
2.2	Item 3.6 – link to the 2021 Hinkley Point C Socio-Economic Impact report was provided as a 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
2.3	Item 3.11 - Update on the Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD). Andrew Cockcroft (AC) confirmed that a decision was still being awaited, following the public inquiry in the summer, and sat somewhere between the Planning Inspectorate and the Government.
2.4	Item 9.1 – In response to Roy Pumfrey's (RP) question "How does a large heap of bits of felled mature trees represent good progress with landscaping?" Andrew Goodchild (AG) clarified in the previous meeting note that "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." Then added the following 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. 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.
2.5	Sue Goss (SG) asked if there was an update on the excessive signage in the emergency access road. AC apologised for the delay and relayed that the process for removing the signage involves a redesign and approval process, which because it is safety related takes much longer. AC said he shares SG's frustration but still working on getting this resolved. 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 thanks everyone for coming to the forum which is the first in-person forum since he has been in his current post.
3.2	AC gave a presentation running through progress on site including key milestones in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. It is now almost 5-years since full construction began. Fourteen of '21 in 21' milestones now achieved with two very challenging ones completed at the end of August. Install of +1.5m slab into unit 1; Structural steelwork has started to be installed on the turbine hall. c.70,000m3 concrete placed in Q2 vs. 30,000 placed in Q1.

Acceleration of MEH Phase – 2022 will see work on 500+ rooms.

Further progress taking place off site with suppliers across the UK and abroad. For example – the manufacture of the polar crane in Spain and the frames to support the intake heads in Scotland. Closer to home, elements of the electrical systems are being manufactured in Bridgwater.

- 3.3** One of the first permanent buildings on site is the simulator building which is currently being completed and which will be used to train the first cohorts of reactor operators from April 2022, which marks a shift from construction to operation.
- 3.4** The +1.5m slab on Unit 1 was a major achievement for Nuclear Island Teams. Concrete pour of 923m³ was delivered by Bylor and took c. 24 hours. Slab sits just above some major elements of the reactor – including the core catcher and water-cooling systems. Inner Containment Wall: This area sits on the outside of the leak-tight steel liner. The Inner Containment has pre-stressing tendons running through it
- 3.5** Construction Progress – Unit 2 maintaining a gap between the twin units, managing the workforce efficiently. Image showed the location of core catcher spreading area.
- 3.6** Unit 1 Conventional Island - Focus on completion of the Turbine Table towards the end of the year. First structural steelwork for the turbine hall installed. The building will be c.50m tall.
- 3.7** Unit 1 Electrical Building – The electrical building is one of HPC's most complex buildings. It will house key electrical equipment for power distribution across the site. It houses all the equipment that will connect HPC to the grid.
- 3.8** Combwich Wharf: Completed the removal of the Legato Wall which was in place to support the removal of the old abnormal loads quay; Major construction works are now complete; The Somerset Infrastructure Alliance (SIA) are now the principal contractor at the Wharf and have recently completed resurfacing work on the main access road.
As we look towards deliveries beginning to arrive during the Autumn, they will be completing the electrical connections and permanent acoustic fencing; We will continue to notify residents in the surrounding area of rolling road closures as training and operational deliveries take place.
- 3.9** Southern Area: The Southern Area is now open for people to enjoy. Already proving popular with wildlife – hares and deer in particular have been a regular presence.
- 3.10** The project continues to meet and exceed its targets for social and economic benefit for the local area - £3.5 billion spent across the South West. 787 apprentices trained so far. 12,786 jobs created. New jobs available and new training facilities will mean that local people can benefit, no matter their skill level or current position.
- 3.11** Workforce Uplift - Discussions on planned mitigation measures continue with Local Authorities. Proposed Joint Forums Meeting on 18th November 2021.
- 3.12** Operational Phase of Dredging - Work is currently underway with dredged material moved to the Portishead Licensed Disposal Site.
- 3.13** Anne Lawrence (AL) gave an update on Leadership Changes at Site. Rob Jordan will be leaving the project at the end of September. Simon Parsons will now take responsibility for main civils work on-site. At the strategic level, the project will be managed across its core delivery areas
- 3.14** Covid-19: AL said that levels of HPC positive cases and self-isolations align with national trends and reflect government announcements; PHE have confirmed that Hinkley Point C is not linked to a spike in Sedgemoor; Following the relaxation of some control measures, our approach continues to be supported by Public Health England with regular dialogue continuing;

Vaccination is strongly encouraged – continued vaccination clinics at site; We will continue to monitor Covid carefully as schools return and Autumn approaches. Flexibility to react and adjust as the winter approaches.

Public Health England has gone on record and said that: “HPC has excellent controls and extensive workforce testing. Local cases appear to reflect social transmission in the main, with very little evidence of transmission on site.”

Pre-submitted questions submitted by Allan Jeffery – Green Party Representative:

3.15

Q) Mud dredging – Originally EDF were going to dump the mud from the cooling water intake and output heads foundation bases in front of Cardiff Grounds in Welsh waters. Why are you now starting to dump the mud in front of Portishead instead of Cardiff?

A) AC said: The area we are dredging is within a recognised Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Any sediment removed from this area, must be put back into this area in order to maintain the natural balance of sediment in the SAC. There are a number of licensed disposal sites with the Bristol Channel, used by a number of companies conducting regular dredging operations. Following the initial application to dispose of material at the Cardiff Grounds, a reduction in activity and volumes deposited at the Portishead location by Bristol Ports presented us with a further option. A separate application was submitted and given it was approved first by the MMO it was chosen as the preferred route.

For this second phase of dredging, the UK Government marine scientific agency (CEFAS) went further than before, testing the mud beyond internationally recognised best practice, with more samples at greater depth and with a greater range of analysis - including tests for pure alpha emitting particles and tritium.

The results confirm previous analysis that the mud is perfectly safe for disposal at sea and poses no risk to humans or the environment. The results also confirmed that the low levels of radioactivity in the mud is predominantly naturally occurring - as found up and down the Severn Estuary, as well as around the coast of Britain. The additional artificial radioactivity from a range of human activities is very low.

Campaigners had asked for specific tests to look for plutonium and tritium which are both radioactive elements primarily found as by-products of nuclear reactors, although they do also occur naturally.

The additional alpha (plutonium) and beta (tritium) tests showed that their presence was “insignificant” which means that the amounts are so low as to be barely detectable, even using the most sensitive monitoring equipment. The results showed that previous tests, using the internationally recognised assessment methodology of gamma spectrometry, had been appropriate to provide a conservative assessment of the very low levels of radioactivity present.

3.16

Q) Low Carbon Emissions – HPC is proclaimed to be a low Carbon generator of electricity, what are your calculations of carbon emissions emitted so far, and your final estimations in the building of the power station. How long will the power station have to run to pay back the carbon emissions produced in its building?

A) AC said: Hinkley Point C’s lifetime carbon emissions (inclusive of fuel mining, fabrication, construction, operation and decommissioning) are 4.8g Co₂ Kw/h. Based on the latest analysis by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), this puts nuclear firmly in the carbon emission range of renewable energy sources.

Concrete production and steel manufacture make up the vast majority of the lifetime carbon emissions. These areas, together with fuel fabrication, are far the highest throughout the entire life-cycle analysis which also includes operation and decommissioning.

HPC’s forecast carbon output over its lifetime is 4.8gCO₂/KWh

- 1.7gCO₂/KWh being borne from the construction stage itself.
- Fuel fabrication and supply makes up the majority of the remainder
- 2.1gCO₂/KWh, decommissioning 0.8gCO₂/KWh
- Operation only 0.2gCO₂/KWh.

2 months of operation would “offset” the carbon emissions of construction if set against gas fired generation. An updated analysis of the HPCs lifecycle carbon emissions is underway and currently being externally verified. We will share the results when the review is complete.

The presentation pack for this forum contains a graph which illustrates these points above.

Pre-submitted questions submitted by Geoff Richardson, North Somerset Councillor for Clevedon West:

Q) Why is there no regular testing for chemical contaminants (Hg, As) in the mud being dumped off Portishead?

3.17

A) AC said: following the first phase of dredging, the latest testing goes above and beyond internationally recognised best practice with more samples taken, at greater depth and with a greater range of analysis.

The mud in the Bristol Channel has been independently tested by CEFAS in 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2020 as commissioned by Natural Resources Wales and Hinkley Point C.

In all four cases, the studies concluded that the levels of radioactivity in the mud are so low that they equate to ‘not radioactive’ under UK law.

Given the high level of certainty provided by the initial testing, direct testing of the sediment prior to disposal is not required and is not considered best practice. “live” sampling at the point of disposal would not provide accurate results.

Q) What contingencies have been added to the build for the risk of natural events like storm surge and earthquake activity?

3.18

A) AC said: As with all of EDF Energy’s nuclear power stations in the UK, the design basis for Hinkley Point C ensures that the proposed plant is secure against natural hazards that have a frequency of less than one in 10,000 years.

These hazards include tides, storm surges and tsunami as isolated events and in-combination. To protect the station from such events, the platform level of the site is to be set at 14.0 metres above Ordnance Datum, behind a sea wall with a crest level of 13.5 metres. Sea level rise as a result of future climate change has also been assessed and as a result, an allowance has been calculated to cover the full operating lifetime of the station.

A comprehensive analysis of the UK EPRtm reactor design was carried out under the Generic Design Assessment process. Changes to the design, assessed by both the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency, have increased resilience to beyond design basis external flooding events and seismic activity.

Hinkley Point C was granted Design Acceptance Confirmation by the Office for Nuclear Regulation in December 2012. The intensive assessment required the parties involved to undertake 850,000 hours of engineering studies over four years and the regulators have described the UK EPR reactor as “the most-assessed design ever”.

Given the extremely low probability of tectonic activity at Hinkley Point, there is no contingency added for such an extreme and unprecedented event. Storm surges can be more frequent but given the protection afforded by the completed sea wall, the construction site is protected from a one in 10,000 year event.

Pre-submitted questions submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley:

Q) How many workers are currently on site and what problems are there with the bus timetable, given that there are too few bus drivers?

- 3.19 A) Just over 6,300 workers are currently working on the construction site. We currently have no issues with our bus timetables and despite a national shortage of HGV drivers, we are not experiencing any shortages.

Q) In broad terms, what is the make-up of the £3.5bn spend in the SW?

- 3.20 A) Total spend (£) is measured through the analysis of payments made to contractors via an empirical supply chain tracking tool. It is important to note that it is not an extrapolation and represents direct payments made to date. As a result, we expect the figure to expand further in the years to come.

Current values include spend at Tier 1 and a conservative Tier 2 businesses within the supply chain whilst also accounting for the investment made to purchase land and provide mitigation to the local communities throughout the area.

RP asked for a detailed breakdown detailing spend and locations of companies as an afternote.

AFTERNOTE: Built in Britain webpages - Hinkley Point C may be in Somerset, but it's being built by companies and workers from across the country - Explore Hinkley Point C's supply chain in your area. The interactive map below allows you to explore Hinkley Point C's supply chain across a range of regional areas – from smaller political constituencies to wider regional areas across the UK. Simply start typing the name of the area you wish to explore in the appropriate box. The map displays the location of contractors engaged in the construction of Hinkley Point C and a full summary of spend to date in the area can be accessed by clicking on the central orange circle. <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c/for-suppliers-and-local-businesses/built-in-britain>

AFTERNOTE

Stuart Hill (SH) asked about the re-instatement of the moorings, which were taken up 5 years ago. SH said the local community felt betrayed about this issue.

- 3.21 AC said he and Victoria Dingwall (VD) would pick this up directly with SH at the end of the forum to find a solution to this issue.

AFTERNOTE: VD has been in discussions with SH and others in Combswich since the meeting regarding this issue.

Erland Plomgren (EP) said a number of people had come to him saying they had heard there was an issue with leakages coming from the intake and outfall structures from the channel.

- 3.22 AC said he also been asked this question by the county council, he has checked up on it and it is categorically untrue, there is nothing structurally wrong with these structures.

AFTERNOTE

Leigh Redman (LR) asked for confirmation that the only new bus stopping points was on the NDR at this point and wanted reassurance that any further changes will be communicated.

- 3.23 AC confirmed this was the case and that in November for the Workforce Uplift session, the project should be in a more stable place to detail the future plan on busing arrangements.

Robin Phipps (RPH) asked about workforce levels. AC said had been a noticeable shift upward in worker numbers but it will be relatively gradual from now on with the peak being late 2022, early 2023. RP asked about villages being inundated. AC said as previous discussed the impact on accommodation is being closely looked at and also covered again at November's Workforce Uplift session to which all forum members will be invited.

- 3.24

Bob Birkenhead (BB) asked for more details about loads coming into Combwich.

AC said that the schedules are still being confirmed but will have more information to share when he comes to the meeting with the parish scheduled for the 7 October.

- 3.25** BB added that he was pleased to say that there did not seem to be any problems with flyparking at the moment.

AC added that the number of people in flyparking team had been doubled and work is being undertaken to prepare the team for potential issues with flyparking. He encouraged the forum to let the project know about flyparking to ensure they mobilise the team to take action to stop it as much as is possible. The email address to report suspected flyparking or any other enquiry is: edfenergy@hpcenquiries.com

Anne Bown (AB) said that she was very impressed by what she saw on the site tour last week but asked about the number of cars parked at site, which was more than she had expected.

- 3.26** Andrew Goodchild (AG) said that there are approximately 320 car parking spaces for 510 bed spaces at the campus. The onsite car park has space for 200 workers (out of 6,300 workers is 3 – 4% of the workforce). There is a security team and a barrier at the campus, so if your name is not down, they won't let you in and at the onsite car park there is an ANPR camera so if your registration is not on the system, you also won't get in. There is no change to the policy set out in the DCO.

Allan Jeffery (AJ) wanted more details about fire engines leaving Bridgwater for the site recently.

AL said there was small fire in a gallery on site, when this happens the project contacts the local fire brigade with a call for help that can be stood down if not required, in the meantime the team on site dealt with the event, so the local brigade were not required. This is a standard response. As with all events of this kind there will be an investigation.

3.27

To clarify there was also a transformer fire at neighbouring Hinkley Point B recently to which a 'call for help' was also requested from the local service but not required. AL said she was on duty at the time and HPC supported them with that providing the use of equipment.

SH asked about workforce uplift and what measures are being out in place.

The Chair referred all questions about workforce uplift to be dealt with at the session on 18th November, following on from the one held in January and ongoing conversation with the local authorities.

3.28

Anne Reed (AR) asked about Covid and any co-ordination with the local vaccination programme.

AL said the project has had two vaccination clinics on site. There are 6,000 people on site and those who don't have a local postcode such as foreign nationals can use the site postcode in order to register. AR asked about any reluctance to vaccination from the workforce. AL said that the site was encouraging workers to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

3.29

GR how many items will be coming in by sea?

AC said it is a few hundred that will be coming in by sea.

GR asked about budget and schedule of the project as this was not mentioned in the presentation.

3.30

AC confirmed that the project is on schedule and on cost following the adjustments made during the pandemic. He said six months were lost and £500m added to the overall cost range over that period. The project is on track for the end of 2026 for Unit 1 being operational.

3.31

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

4 Update - Office of Nuclear Regulation Report

4.1 Jason Crook (JC) gave an update on the ONR Report - Q1 2021 / Q2 2021– which was circulated ahead of the meeting along with the presentations and are available to view at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

4.2 JC said that the format of the ONR reports has changed, adding in more detailed information, so feedback on this is welcomed from members of the forum.

4.3 Quarter 1 2021 Report

LC17 - Management systems – ONR examined the adequacy of implementation of NNB's (New Nuclear Build) quality arrangements in relation to the fabrication of the inner containment liner. ONR identified that improvements were required to ensure that NNB's quality arrangement in relation to pools, tanks, sumps and liners are consistently and effectively implemented.

HSAW74 – Covid – ONR found that NNB and its contractor's arrangements to manage the risk from Covid 19 had evolved to ensure compliance with revised government guidance.

LC19 - Construction or Installation of New Plant – ONR judged that NNB was appropriately managing structural backfilling, surcharge management and waterproofing in relation to civil structures.

4.4 Quarter 2 2021 Report

LC1 – Emergency arrangements - found that NNB has appropriately matured its emergency arrangements in line with the evolving scale and complexity of the hazards at site.

Fire Reform Order 2005 – ONR found that NNB and its contractors were appropriately continuing to develop their fire safety arrangements as the project develops and expand.

LC17 Management systems – nuclear safety culture in the mechanical, electrical & heating, ventilation and air conditioning (MEH) installation organisation – ONR found that the MEH alliance is implementing appropriate arrangements to ensure the development of an appropriate nuclear safety culture in itself and its suppliers.

LC07 - Incidents on the site – ONR judged that NNB has made significant improvements to learning tools and processes to ensure that it has appropriate organisational learning arrangements.

LC19 – Construction or Installation of new plant – ONR found that NNB had implemented appropriate design management, construction management and engineering practice in relation to the fabrication of the prefabricated in reactor water storage (IRWST) tank liner for unit 1.

LC06 – Documents, records, authorities and certificates and LC17 Management systems – this was a multiphase multi-location intervention assessing the adequacy of arrangements for the management of manufacturing oversight and the associated lifetime quality records.

4.5 ONR found that NNB had delivered notable improvements in its arrangements and their implementation. However, ONR did identify some areas for further improvement in relation to the consistency of standards and expectations across the Project Management and Quality functions and some specific improvements required in relation to some of the sampled records.

Bulk Mechanical, Electrical and Heating & Ventilation and Air Condition (MEH) Permissioning.

- ONR is in the final stages of completing its assessment regarding whether to allow NNB to commence bulk MEH installation activities.
- Following this permissioning point site activity and complexity will increase progressively. Hence ONR's site presence and oversight will evolve to ensure appropriate regulatory oversight is maintained.

4.6 Covid 19 - ONR site presence has increased steadily and will increase further towards the end of the year as the site moves towards the MEH installation phase.

4.7 SG asked whether the ONR will be looking at the environmental permit change that EDF are proposing for the Environment Agency.
JC said this will be down to the Environment Agency permitting regime, not something for ONR. Lisa Wright (LW), from the Environment Agency EA added that public consultation has just been completed and the responses are being considered and will feed into modelling ahead of consultation with Natural England. The process is not due to be complete until next year, with the end of March set as a target.

4.8 AJ asked what the timetable for the cold functional testing will be.
AC said he did not know, but it will be years, but may be able to provide some more information as an afternote.

AFTERNOTE: Cold functional tests are currently planned to commence around 18 months before the start of commercial operations. **AFTERNOTE**

4.9 GR asked how does ONR decide what to inspect as you can't inspect everything?
JC said there is an inspection strategy in place, it can come from a technical challenge, routine compliance has to be maintained and also events from other plants can influence the regime. GR asked if it was peer reviewed. JC there is an internal regulatory assurance which is a semi-independent review process and for example on Monday JC had BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) in observing if the ONR were discharging their responsibilities correctly.

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

5.1 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

5.2 JS gave an overview of the Community Fund and then detailed that SCF has awarded £5,149,371 from the HPC Community Fund, the majority of which has been from the open grants programme (£2,878,544) and went on to give a round-up of some recently funded projects. JS said he was delighted that the £5m mark had been reached.

Small Grants have been slow due to Covid but is back up and running, and has received 7 applications.

JS gave an overview of two recently funded projects.:

- 1) Rusty Road to Recovery which uses vehicle repair, service & restoration to help people who are somewhat distant to the job market into work – they have received a grant of £50,000.
- 2) Burnham on Sea Junior Rugby Football Club – used a lot by people who have moved in to the area to work at Hinkley, which is great way to integrate families in the area with the existing community. Club takes boys and girls.

5.3 Regarding the amount that is left, JS said the formula is £1m a year up to £12.8m but that it is

indexed (indexation is baselined on 2013 values). He estimated that it would be £15-16m by the end of the programme.

5.4 JS said they are looking for an Independent Member of the Grant Panel to cover the West Somerset Area.

5.5 GR asked if North Somerset was included in being able to bid for funding. JS confirmed that they weren't and that SCF use the administrative county of Somerset as per the agreement laid out in the Section 106.

6 Item 6: Update on Delivery of Housing Initiatives

6.1 Dave Baxter (DB), Sedgemoor District Council; Robert Downes, Somerset West & Taunton Council gave an Update on Delivery of Housing Initiatives and how the Hinkley Housing Fund was being used.

6.2 DB ran through the historic concerns including: External landlords 'lining up for Hinkley Point.'; Rent rises if additional supply does not become available; House prices are rising at about 5% a year and a shortage of affordable homes are swelling the ranks of "generation rent"; Landlords withdrawing contracts as they have, or propose to seek, tenants who are employed at the HPC; Homelessness Reduction Act, welfare reform placing additional burdens, requiring us to maximise housing opportunities in the private sector; Huge undersupply of affordable housing, particularly for one bedroom accommodation; Landlords setting aside properties for EDF workers.

DB and Robert Downs (RD) highlighted that the issues facing housing were not all attributed to Hinkley Point C, with pressures on the housing market already existing, including having over 5,700 people on the social housing waiting list across both councils.

6.3 RD added that in Somerset West & Taunton there are 1,400 unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) many of which are substandard. RD was pleased to say that the Council now has an officer in place to look at this, as does Sedgemoor.

6.4 DB went on to lay out the challenges which include: Placing adults with complex needs and young people struggle to gain and maintain accommodation; Availability of safe, affordable good quality homes; Appropriate support for vulnerable tenants and landlords 'new to the market'; Boom and bust – questions over legacy, when the build period ends what happened then.

The council response involved sourcing Accommodation – bed space creation but also supporting tenants; finding accommodation; supporting landlords; securing accommodation and providing budgeting support.

6.5 The council have been sourcing accommodation to create bed space, numbers include: Empty Homes – 151 bed spaces; 1st time buyer loans – 15 bed spaces; Minor improvement Grants/Loans- 384 bed spaces; Lodgings Scheme – 234 bed spaces; Sustainable Management Scheme – 145 bed spaces; Enabling Schemes – 1011 bed spaces (309).

6.6 The councils also been supporting tenants & securing accommodation, numbers include: Flexible Rent Support – 371 assisted; Home Moves + - 866 bed spaces freed up; Tenant Ready Scheme – 345 assisted; Complex Needs Support – 43 assisted; CAB Rapid Response / Floating Tenancy Sustainment – 650 assisted; Money & Debt Advice – 325 assisted.

6.7 Other Support includes Somerset Homelet – 10,364 adverts; Landlord Accreditation Training – 26 Credit Union Website; Furniture Fund – 120 loans; HMO officer and Housing Delivery Officer(s)

6.8 SG asked whether they would be able to step in, in instances where a tenant is faced with a 100% increase in rent by a landlord, which has happened in Stogursey? DB said prevention is key and they would talk to the landlords about this, agreeing that doubling of rent is not fair.

6.9 RPH asked if landlords come to the local authority before they convert their houses into HMO? And that where this happens it impacts parking, specifically in Cannington.
DB said it would be good if they did come to local authority beforehand, some do and ask for advice. Where a property does become an HMO it would then be subject to inspection. If anyone suspects a property has become an unlicensed HMO then it can be reported to the council.
John Burton (JB) confirmed, when asked, that to convert a house into a HMO with under 6 occupants no longer needs planning permission following a change to the legislation by central Government.

6.10 AJ has heard that some council houses were being built in Minehead and Taunton and wanted to know if any of the Hinkley Housing Fund was being used for that.
RD confirmed that some funds, a contribution of around £500,000, has been used for homes at Seaward Way, Minehead to enable this development to come forward. The same as in Williton and Doniford in the past.

6.11 BB asked if there was any news about a footpath between Cannington and the Park & Ride. The Chair passed that question to AC who said there already is a public footpath to the Park & Ride.

7 Main Site Forum

7.1 The Chair was not able to take any questions related to the Main Site Forum (MSF) held on 24th June 2021 as the notes were not yet circulated / posted on the website – but told members that the note and presentations will be posted at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity - scroll down to Forums and select Main Site Forum and if they are any questions to email the team at edfenergy@hpcenquiries.com

8 Transport Forum

8.1 The Chair was not able to take any questions related to the Transport Forum (TF) held on 22nd July 2021 as the notes were not yet circulated / posted on the website – but told members that the note and presentations will be posted at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity - scroll down to Forums and select Transport Forum and if they are any questions to email the team at edfenergy@hpcenquiries.com

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Richard Cuttall (RC) asked whether the flyparking team are working seven days a week. AC said he would need to check on this being seven days a week.

AFTERNOTE. The team do work 7 days a week but were not yet fully staffed and so there were gaps at less busy times during the week. RC pointed out that there are still problems on the weekend.

AFTERNOTE

9.2 RC asked about the abnormal loads and asked what powers do the private contractors involved in these loads have in relation to potential issues with local farming traffic and potential conflict? AC confirmed that they are operating with the accreditation of the Police which comes with an obvious limit. Esther Lawson (EL) confirmed that they have been accredited to undertake the transport side of things and Police will get involved as required.

9.3 AB asked whether the rules on buses have changed regarding coronavirus. AC said buses are up to full capacity and masks are mandatory on our buses.

AL confirmed that buses are back to full capacity and the drivers are protected by Perspex screens, and buses are being better ventilated.

- 9.4 SH wanted to highlight that Wild Fowl Season started on the 1 Sept (until 20 February 2022) and that Hinkley Point B's Station Director, Peter Evans, has joined forces with Combwich Boat Club, to take part in a charity rowing challenge and would like the link included in the meeting note.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=PeterEvansandCombwichBoatClubRow&isTeam=true>

AFTERNOTE: The challenge raised £10,408.27.

AFTERNOTE

- 9.5 Sue Spicer (SS) asked whether the drop-in sessions would be re-instated.
AC said the project is still considering this in light of the ongoing pandemic.

- 9.6 The Chair asked for any feedback about the nature of the in person meeting to be sent into: edfenergy@hpcenquiries.com and wished everyone a 'Merry Christmas'.

10 Date of next meeting

- 10.1 Next Community Forum will be at 6pm on Thursday 20th January 2022.
The meeting closed.