

Meeting Report

EDF Hinkley Point C: Main Site Forum.

Date: Thursday 21 October 2021 – 6pm

Victory Hall, Stogursey, Bridgwater

Participating:

Jim Claydon, *Chair*

John Burton, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*

Christopher Ford, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Joanna Manley, *Sedgemoor District Council*

Erland Plomgren, *Holford Parish Council*

Leigh Redman, *Somerset County Council*

Amanda Stanley, *Shurton resident*

Paul Gripton, *Resident*

Esther Lawson, *Avon and Somerset Police*

Chris Morgan, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Allan Searle, *Stogursey resident*

Sue Spicer, *Burton resident*

Susan E Jones, *Stogursey Parish Council*

EDF Team:

Andrew Cockcroft, *EDF*

Andrew Goodchild, *EDF*

Thomas Thayer, *EDF*

Barbara Pocock, *EDF*

Leonie Smith, *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall, *SEC Newgate*

Robyn Evans, *SEC Newgate*

Apologies:

Richard Cuttall, *West Hinkley Action Group*

Mike Laver, *Burton resident*

Sue Jones, *West Hinkley Action Group*

Nicola Hale, *Sedgemoor District Council*

Claire Warner-Blackman, *Local resident*

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

1 Introductions

- 1.1 Jim Claydon ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the in-person meeting, the first in the new Victory Hall and ran through the forum protocols.

2 Meeting Note and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The Chair reviewed the meeting note and afternotes provided from the Main Site Forum on 24th June 2021, inviting any further comment.

- 2.2 **Item 3.13:** Leigh Redman (LR) asked for a written response on the current number of staff on site.

It was confirmed that Andrew Cockcroft (AC) had been in touch with LR on this subject. AC agreed to keep updating LR on this point.

- 2.3 **Item 5.5:** There was a question on noise data and whether this is still collected on a monthly basis by Somerset West and Taunton Council.

John Burton (JB) confirmed that the council still gets the information.

Andrew Goodchild (AG) said this is a bit of a misconception, clarifying that the data is always available to be accessed but that it is not sent to the council. He explained that, previously, the council was downloading the data and uploading it to its own website in a monthly format. AG said he has been told that this was last done in August 2019 and that John Burton may wish to talk to his environmental health colleagues on this.

Sue Goss (SG) asked why this was not being downloaded onto the website.

JB agreed that this is an action and that while he knows what the answer will be, it would be best to get a formal opinion first. **ACTION:** Afternote to be provided

AFTERNOTE provided by JB:

"The requirement for Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWaT) in relation to noise monitoring, is set by paragraph 4.2 of the Noise Management Plan as approved in May 2013. Whilst this document has subsequently been amended in the years since it was first approved, the basic role of paragraph 4.2 remains the same. Paragraph 4.2.36 states the following -

"Noise monitoring data (averaged over agreed threshold periods and meteorological data) shall be collated into a central data base. The data will be formatted and issued to WSC Environmental Health Officers via access to a web-link. This shall represent the primary means of noise monitoring data reporting from NNB GenCo to the West Somerset Council Environmental Health Officers."

I can confirm that the Environmental Health Officer at SWaT does have access to this link and can view the information therein. However, please note that there is no onus within either the approved 'Noise Management Plan' nor the relevant s106 legal agreement that accompanies the DCO, for the information to be made public.

In the past SWaT had downloaded the data from EDF and uploaded it on to its own website, usually on a monthly basis, in order to assist those with an interest in this matter. However, assistance was required from the Council's I.T. section to take the information and transcribe it appropriately onto the Council's system. Even then, the information provided was not easily read or understood, and so it needed the Environmental Health Officer to add a narrative and some context in order to make sense of what was being provided. All this took time and had cost implications. The funding which EDF were obligated to provide towards the cost of the Environmental Health Officer's time, in accordance with the Deed of Development Consent Obligations under s106 of the Town and Country Planning Act, use to fund the process of providing the noise data onto the Council's website. However, the final payment of that funding has now been received and there is no new funding to resource such activities. So now, the Council feels that there is a need now to be a little more focussed on the issues that require the attention of the E.H.O. Of course, the Council's Environmental Health Officer will still respond to any reasonable complaint concerning noise, but the provision of the noise data on the Council's website is not currently seen as a priority given the limited

resources available. Please rest assured though that the Council will always seek to investigate and manage noise complaints to the best of its abilities.”

- 2.4 Item 5.6** On lighting, SG said there had been a slight improvement, with a bank of two instead of five. However, she noted that Mike Laver had said it is now back to a bank of four. SG added that the bank of two are not facing downwards and are pointing towards Knighton and Burton and therefore this still needs to be looked into.

Andrew Cockcroft (AC) said lighting has been looked at over the last few days and this should be solved. He said the environment team have been actively out in the area to solve this issue and an annual lighting audit will be brought forward to check in on lighting as a whole. He said there are a number of different controls, within the DCO in terms of limits and contractors, saying each contractor has someone with responsibility for taking this on. AC said he appreciated feedback on this and confirmed that he had sent a note to Mike Laver that afternoon. He said night working needs to be done but recognised that putting lights on for no reason wastes energy and money.

- 2.5** The Chair suggested that perhaps an audit is undertaken in light of the clocks going back. AC confirmed that this is the case.

3 Project Progress Update – (Andrew Cockcroft, EDF)

(AC) gave a presentation running through progress on site and major milestones, reported that:

- 3.1** It is now 5 years since full construction began. Fourteen of ‘21 in 21’ milestones have now been achieved and halfway through the four key goals for 2021, with two very challenging ones completed at the end of the summer. On track to complete the remaining two goals by the end of the year.

Continuing the acceleration of the MEH Phase of the project and will be into installation in the early part of 2022. Outlined manufacturing taking place away from site in the UK and overseas, including the polar crane being manufactured in both Spain and Switzerland.

The first of three stainless steel modular pool panels have been installed into the reactor building itself. The first intake head has successfully had its Handling Alignment Frame lifted safely into place by the Balfour Beatty Marine Works Team.

A video was shown which gave a tour of the Hinkley Point C site.

- 3.2** In terms of associated developments, major construction works at Combe Wharf have now been complete, with operations set to begin this autumn. Acoustic fencing has been put up to limit the noise impact and protect the visuals as well. In terms of ongoing operations, AC confirmed that dredging will have to take place approximately every 6 weeks. AC confirmed close engagement with Otterhampton Parish Council and informed the forum that there is a mailing list to sign up to.
- 3.3** Amanda Stanley (AS) said this will be particularly helpful for a lot of people, especially for farmers and advised the project to go out to people rather than just saying people should sign up. AC said engagement has already taken place with the NFU and agreed with AS’s broader point on reaching out to engage with others.
- 3.4** AC noted that the Southern Area was opened up over the summer. Sue Goss expressed her thanks for the installation of the memorial bench. Amanda Stanley agreed that it is a beautiful spot as well.
- 3.5** On socio-economic benefits: Direct spending in the South West is up to £3.5bn and is expected to continue to rise as engage with local projects. Close to the 800 mark on apprentices and this is expected to increase, with the next figures due at the next meeting. Almost 13,000 jobs created to date.
- 3.6** Leadership changes at site: Rob Jordan left the project at the end of September and Simon Parsons will now take responsibility for main civils work on-site.

- 3.7** Covid-19: AC said that as a project, they are not resting on their laurels and whilst there is some relaxing, EDF are still ready to react if things worsen. He said they are moving from a crisis response into a more stable, managed response. AC confirmed that vaccination is strongly encouraged and vaccination clinics continue at site. He said they will continue to monitor Covid carefully and will require staff to be either vaccinated or take regular tests to access site.
- 3.8** Leigh Redman (LR) asked what percentage of staff have been double vaccinated or not. AC responded that this is a good question, but it is a struggle to get an accurate level of information. He said EDF foresees this being up to the 70-80% mark.
- 3.9** Responding to LR, AC said the Covid set up is being managed in partnership with the unions and went on to highlight the benefit of on and off-site testing systems.
- 3.10** On workforce uplift, AC said discussions on planned mitigation measures continue with Local Authorities. Proposed Joint Forums Meeting is scheduled for 18th November 2021.
- 3.11** Work is currently underway with dredged material moved to the Portishead Licensed Disposal Site. AC said there have been legal proceedings raised against the Marine Management Organisation for their decision-making to allow the Portishead disposal site to be used.
- 3.12** Andrew Goodchild (AG) gave an update on the planned cycleway and noted that HPC held some initial conversations with the councils in the Autumn last year. A request for a screening opinion was submitted to Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton and the councils responded and confirmed that the proposed development was not EIA development. AG said HPC are in the process of setting up a team to continue conversations and made clear that they want to engage with stakeholders over the wider range of detailed considerations prior to finalising and submitting an application at some point next year.
- 3.13** SG raised concerns about the proposed cycle track and surfacing. AG reiterated HPC's commitment to engage with stakeholders.
- 3.14** Paul Gripton (PG) raised concerns about the impact of the proposed cycleway on the environment. He said the screening opinion that West Somerset and Sedgemoor undertook decided it did not require an environmental statement, stating that this appears to be against the advice of the expressed viewpoint of Natural England. PG raised concerns that without an environmental statement, certain impacts will not be identified and mitigated properly. He outlined his opinion that the screening opinion was premature. He said any member of the public can request a screening direction from the Secretary of State. PG welcomed that HPC will engage with people on this and said there needs to be changes.
- 3.15** AG said that just because the councils have issued a screening opinion, the regulations are that if the development is deemed to be EIA development, the councils can request the submission of an environmental statement at whatever stage of the project. He said HPC are fully committed to assessing the impact of the project. AG confirmed that HPC are not in a position to make the application yet and they want to engage with people.
- AG said there are three things to balance in terms of design:
- 3.16**
1. The sensitivity of the landscape and the way in which any cycleway connects into the existing pattern of tracks and rights of way.
 2. The surfacing of any cycleway which needs to be used by cyclists, horse riders, those with limited mobility and walkers.
 3. The County Council have already said they will not adopt any form of cycleway even if HPC paid what is known as a commuted sum to the Council which means that the long-term maintenance of any path will fall to HPC as well as the costs of obtaining permission and constructing the cycleway.

AG reiterated that HPC want to engage with people and strike the right balance and this will be done through engagement and discussion.

- 3.17** Joanna Manley and JB had nothing to add.
- 3.18** SG asked how to reconcile changing a bridleway to a cycleway in a way which is sympathetic to horse riders. She asked why not use compacted gravel as cyclists and horse riders can use this, saying it feels as though horse riders are being forgotten about.
- 3.19** Susan E Jones (SEJ) raised concerns about the use of the path by people on motorbikes or quadbikes, warning of the possibility of them meeting a horse. She added that bridleways are the one thing that is needed in the area.
- 3.20** AS said consultation needs to take place and the purpose of the cycleway needs to be considered.
- 3.21** Moving on, AC highlighted that environmental spill drills are taking place in the Foreshore area and should not be confused with a real incident.

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

4 Update: HPC Education, Skills & Employment (Thom Thayer, Barbara Pocock, EDF)

- 4.1** Tom Thayer (TT) outlined the project's efforts throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, highlighting digital lesson plans and virtual broadcasts on opportunities in the sector and at HPC. Best practice has been shared with other employers in the region.
- 4.2** Updates include:
- Now have 1,219 active members of Young HPC.
 - Have started to do face-to-face activity again and doing best to ensure people stay safe.
 - Supported new endeavours from the government, such as T-Levels.
 - Supported the Somerset virtual careers fair and will be at the National Apprenticeship Show South on 8th November.
- 4.3** Tom Thayer said the team have created one of the most used playlists on the corporate EDF account and encouraged people to promote this to their networks.
- 4.4** Video was shown featuring a 'slinger' who has gone on to become a crane operator.
- 4.5** Erland Plomgren (EP) asked which crane woman in the video is now working on. TT said the team can find this out. **ACTION/AFTER NOTE:** The woman started on site as a general operative, then moved into driving an excavator, and then retrained as a crane operator.
- 4.6** There are 787 HPC apprentices and 66% of them are from a 90-minute radius of HPC. 15% of these HPC apprentices have studied at degree level, gaining a university education.
- 4.7** LR asked for clarity on whether these 787 apprenticeships cover a broad age range. He said it is a useful point to make that it is not just young people that undertake apprenticeships. TT said that this is the case and recognised Cllr Redman's point.
- 4.8** TT said a number of apprentices have been showcased at the Ambassador Network Conference and highlighted the South West Apprenticeship Awards.
- 4.9** EP asked how many of the apprenticeships have taken up a job with HPC. Barbara Pocock (BP) said the apprenticeships are with different contractors, so HPC is not always the employer. TT and BP clarified that apprentices are employed throughout their apprenticeships.

**ACTION
/AFTER
NOTE**

- 4.10** On learning and development, BP said there is more than just construction that takes place on site. She gave several updates.
- 4.11** A number of digital tools are being put together to encourage people to work at HPC.
- 4.12** Supported Traineeship Programme is set to start in January 2022 for adults that need additional help, whether this is because of autism or asperges. BP explained that this is a ten-week programme with an interview at the end and hopeful employment.
- 4.13** In the last six months, over 400 roles have been advertised through the HPC jobs service through the contractors on site, with over 150 placed. BP said there are over 141 different contractors using the jobs service on site, explaining that HPC do the talent pooling and sifting whilst the contractor undertakes the interviews and is the employer.
- 4.14** The team ran two careers events in the last couple of months, at the Bridgwater site and in Taunton at the cricket ground. There were over 300 people through the door interested in working at Hinkley Point.
- 4.15** BP highlighted digital outreach work with county and district councils and the DWP, saying there are regular interventions to help people into employment. There will be a mixture of virtual and face-to-face working going forward to keep momentum going and help people into jobs.
- 4.16** EP asked whether there is training for young people to be able to take up positions once the facility is complete. BP said the workforce development strategy goes from civis into the MEH, into the pre-ops commission. She said it is leading people into the end goal of getting into the operating power station and TT added that this is being woven into activities. BP said that the jobs will be advertised through EDF eventually.
- 4.17** AS said she has seen feedback that there are no salaries or levels listed on the job ads. BP agreed that this is an issue and said it has been regularly raised with the contractors.

5 Discussion: Topics for future Main Site Forums

- 5.1** Chris Ford said he would like to know more about plans for the future when the site is operational, pointing to workforce size and shift patterns as examples of areas he would like to know more about.
- 5.2** Erland Plomgren requested more on the environment as an ongoing item.
AS agreed and asked to hear more about how things will be put back.
AC recognised these points on the longer-term operations.
AG said some of this thinking is already going on.
- 5.3** SG asked for more regular updates on what is planned on the land south of Green Lane.
AS added that there is a snowy top mountain, asking what this is for.
AG suggested there is something EDF can do next time to explain the evolution of the southern part this way from Green Lane, creating compounds for the MEH part of the project. He suggested there can be some discussion about the final restoration.
AS said she would like to understand this to plan how other businesses can work with this.
- 5.4** AC asked whether there is an interest into deeper dives into engineering.
Agreed to keep it high level.
The Chair said he understands that it needs to be on the impact on the community.
- 5.5** The Chair also raised community safety as a potential topic.

5.6 AC said the project is doing a lot of work on this to ensure workers are behaving responsibly and highlighted funding for local groups.

5.7 SG suggested having a regular visit from the community safety officer.
AC said there were apologies from the community safety officer for this evening.

5.8 The Chair commented that the MSF is the eyes and ears of the local community and said there is nothing to stop people from the local community making a presentation.

6 Any other business

6.1 AS said the southern area is beautiful but said people need to know who to speak to now that the work is finished. AC said maintenance will continue with EDF and said that if anyone has a problem to raise, they should send it to HPC enquiries for the wider team to look into.

6.2 AC said:

- EDF is looking into the gate but not sure if it is theirs
- EDF deal with public rights of way officer on signage
- AC encouraged people to let the EDF team know if there is a need for a litter pick

6.3 AC gave an update on signage for speed signs, saying work has taken place on preparing to remove them. He said it has taken substantial effort to do this and they now need to move through the final process for handover at which point they will be removed, which he hoped could take place in the next few weeks.

7 Date of next meeting: Thursday 24th February 2022 at 6pm

7.1 The meeting ended.