

Meeting Report

Regarding:

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

Date & Venue:

Thursday 19th May 2022 – 6pm
**Meeting held at: Bridgwater & Taunton College,
Cannington**

Participating:

Jim Claydon, *Chair*

Alun Griffiths, *ONR*

Allan Jeffery, *Green Party*

Anne Reed, *Wembdon Parish Council*

Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*

Esther Lawson, *Hinkley Point Neighbourhood Policing
Team, Avon & Somerset Police*

Geoff Richardson, *North Somerset Council*

Jake Dade, *Avon & Somerset Police*

Jane Tomaney, *EDF*

Joanna Manley, *Sedgemoor District Council*

John Burton, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Justin Sargent, *Somerset Community Foundation*

Jon Ayers, *Environment Agency*

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

Roy Pumfrey, *Stop Hinkley*

Sue Spicer, *Burton Resident*

Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Shaun Ryall, *Cannington Parish Council*

John Roberts, *Nether Stowey Parish Council*

Paul Fox, *Civil Nuclear Constabulary*

Stuart Hill, *C.H.A.I.R. & Wildfowlers*

Tina Gardener, *Otterhampton Parish Council &
Fiddington Parish Council*

Steve Pettitt, *Cannington Parish Council*

Peter Payne, *Williton Parish Council*

Colin Arnold, *Somerset County Council*

Chris Morgan, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Nicola Hale, *Community Safety Officer, Sedgemoor
District Council & Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Stuart Moffatt, *Holford Parish Council*

Mark Shelford, *Police and Crime Commissioner, Avon &
Somerset Police*

EDF Team:

Andrew Cockcroft, *EDF*

Anne Lawrence, *EDF*

Andrew Goodchild, *EDF*

Victoria Dingwall, *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall, *SEC Newgate UK*

Robyn Evans, *SEC Newgate UK*

Apologies received:

Joanna Whitehead, *Somerset County Council*

Iain Porter, *Quantock Hills AONB Service*

Keith ter Braak, *Friends of Quantock*

Erl Plomgren, (formerly *Holford 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 meeting. He asked everyone to introduce themselves and ran through the venue arrangements and forum protocols.
1.2	The Chair informed the Forum that Erl Plomgren has resigned from Holford Parish Council and will no longer be attending the meetings. He thanked Erl for his contributions to the meetings and welcomed Stuart Moffatt as his replacement representing Holford Parish Council.
1.3	The Chair introduced Mark Shelford, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset, as a guest observer at the forum.
2 Meeting Note and Matters Arising	
2.1	The Chair reviewed the previous Community Forum meeting note from 20 th January 2022 including the actions and after-notes inviting any further comment.
2.2	3.13 – On the request for an update on sediment movements in the River Severn, the Chair said this will be covered in the presentation on project progress.
2.3	3.26 – Roy Pumfrey (RP) had provided an afternote on Taishan. No questions were raised on this from forum members.
2.4	9.11 – It was confirmed that Vicki Dingwall (VD) circulated the presentation delivered at the Workforce Uplift session on 18 November 2021.
	There were no further comments and Members then agreed the meeting note, which can be found at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity
3 Project Progress – (Andrew Cockcroft and Anne Lawrence, EDF)	
3.1	Andrew Cockcroft (AC) and Anne Lawrence (AL) gave a progress update on the project.
3.2	Covid-19 – Developing Our Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to keep the situation under review as a Covid Managed Project. AL confirmed that the project is ready to take action if necessary. The HPC vaccination centre remains in operation and will continue to do so. AL said it has provided substantial benefit to those on site and minimised impact on local services. HPCs approach continues to be guided by the Government strategy of “living with Covid-19”.
3.3	Safety Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 4 March 2022 a scaffolder fell approximately 5m from falsework in the Conventional Island. ONR were informed. As a result of their enquiry into the event, an Improvement Notice has been issued to the Main Civils contractor.

- The project has accepted the findings of the Regulator and have ensured that the shortfalls identified are addressed in order to avoid a repeat of such an incident.
- The safety of people working on our site is of paramount importance and we will continue to take action, alongside our contractor and trades union partners in order to reinforce and improve our already strong safety culture and record.
- AL confirmed that the scaffolder wanted to come back to site the next day and continues to work on site.

Project Update – Unit 1

3.4

- The first Dome was lifted out of Bunker 5 in March. The ventilation and emergency sprinkler system will now begin its installation.
- The Dome, measuring 13.8m high, 46.8m in diameter and weighing 237 tonnes, was constructed from 26 steel panels.
- Work has now commenced by Tissot to construct the Dome for Unit 2 in Bunker 5, taking on board lessons learned from the first.

Project Update – Tunnelling

3.5

- AC highlighted strong progress on tunnelling work with both intake tunnels and the single outfall tunnel complete.
- The final tunnel was completed at the end of March Balfour Beatty's Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) 'Beatrice' completed its main drive for Intake Tunnel 2. All tunnels are now bored with grouting work now ongoing.
- Lessons learned were transferred from the two previous tunnels. The team progressed at an average of 18m per day, compared with c.14m per day on the previous tunnels. Almost 30% quicker.

Project Update – Conventional Island

3.6

AC said good progress is taking place, which can be clearly seen at the top of the turbine generator table and the exterior of the turbine hall.

Project Update – Unit 2

3.7

One of the largest concrete pours of the project took place on the Unit 2 Turbine Hall in early May. 3,880m³ of concrete was poured as part of the foundations for the second reactor's turbine hall.

This structure will provide the foundation for the retaining walls, the steel super-structure and the Turbine Generator (TG) Table, where the Steam Turbine and Generator will eventually be erected.

Project Update – Simulator and Training Building

3.8

- Energy Minister Greg Hands opened HPC's new Simulator and Training Building on April 28.
- The pre-operations and commissioning teams are now beginning to make use of the new permanent building.
- It features 2 full-scope simulators and classrooms to train the next generation of reactor operators.

Associated Developments – Combwich

3.9

- The refurbishment scheme for Combwich Wharf is broadly complete.
- The possibility of Barge on Barge delivery was previously considered but has been discounted.
- A new alternative solution to expand the delivery window that aligns with the original DCO is under review.
- Further updates will be given at briefing to Otterhampton Parish Council on 9th June '22.

3.10 2022 Socio-Economic Impact Report

AC said the latest socio-economic impact report was released at the end of April and outlined some of the ways in which the project is helping to ease social mobility issues in the area:

- 922 apprentices trained at HPC so far.
- Three new Centres of Excellence will soon be fully operational.
- The Welding Centre of Excellence will train and qualify 500 welders a year, benefiting local people and help meeting skills shortages in the South West and across Britain.
- The welding centre is the latest Centre of Excellence to be opened in support of HPC, which has now invested a total of £24 million into education, skills, and employment support.
- £4.1bn has been spent with South West companies to date.

3.11 National Update

- The Government used Hinkley Point C as the venue to launch the new Energy Security Strategy.
- The strategy sees a major emphasis on homegrown power for greater energy independence with a significant acceleration in nuclear generation and an ambition of up to 24GW by 2050.
- In addition to new nuclear, the announcement included commitments to supercharge clean energy and accelerate deployment, which could see 95% of 14 Britain's electricity set to be low-carbon by 2030.

3.12 Update: Workforce Uplift

AC confirmed the conclusion of the workforce uplift process.

AFTERNOTE:

- The final transport review group and socio-economic advisory group meetings with local authorities and other relevant bodies recently took place to agree the new package of mitigation and support measures.
- Now moving into the delivery period whereby the local authorities will continue to monitor the situation and HPC will be in place to mitigate the additional impacts from the increase in workforce.

AFTERNOTE

3.13 Planning and Permits

- The consultation on the DCO Material Change Amendment application won't take place until at least the Autumn – allowing time for Government's decision on the acoustic fish deterrent permit and the summer holiday period.
- Separately, the Environment Agency will conduct their own consultation on variations to HPCs Radioactive Substances Regulations(RSR) permit:
- This considers elements of the proposed move to dry waste storage and will take place in June.
- No changes are sought to the current permitted discharge limits which remain appropriate but the application does look to amend and remove conditions that are no longer relevant.

Pre-submitted Questions - Project Progress Update

Quarries

3.14 Submitted by Geoff Richardson, North Somerset Councillor for Clevedon West

"Are quarries in North Somerset being used either to provide materials for, or dump material from, Hinkley C?"

Answer: AC said no quarries are used in North Somerset, confirming that Whatley Quarry and Batts Combe Quarry are used. Materials are used from the quarries, but no disposal takes place.

Geoff Richardson (GR) said people have reported an increase in lorries going through North Somerset.

AC was unable to point to anything project related which would result in an increase in HGVs in this area.

Dredging

3.15 Pre-submitted by GR

“Has the dumping of dredging material at Portishead finished?”

Answer: AC said dredging has not finished entirely but the amount of dredging taking place will drop substantially going forward.

Worker Safety

3.16 Pre-submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

“Regarding the worker at HPC’s fall from scaffolding on site: Was an ambulance called? What injuries did the worker suffer? How long were they off work?”

Answer: AL confirmed that the scaffolder came back to work the next day.

RP wanted to put on record that he was sorry to hear that the worker was involved in an incident and pleased to hear that they were able to return to work so quickly.

3.17 Stuart Hill (SH) sought reassurance that all such instances are being reported for all nuclear companies.

AL said investigations are undertaken, this learning is captured and shared within HPC and goes into wider learning in EDF and the nuclear industry through the Operating Experience Learning Group.

HPC Costs

3.18 Pre-submitted by Roy Pumfrey

“What is EDF going to do when CGN refuse to stump up for their share of the cost overruns at HPC?”

Answer: AC said he could not comment on behalf of CGN.

RP said this issue is raised in EDF’s latest annual report. AC reiterated that he could not comment on CGN’s future investment decisions.

Dredging

3.19 Pre-submitted by Allan Jeffery, Green Party Representative

“Please could you give an update on the expected times, dates and engineering processes involved in completing the marine silt dredging and how the Cooling Water Intake Heads will be connected to the cooling water intake tunnels. Will this involve a coffer dam construction?”

Answer: AC said dredging started in March and will continue until the intake heads are placed onto the sea bed later this summer. He could not give a definitive schedule on this as it is weather dependant. AC explained how the connection would be made. He suggested showing the engineering work with CGI animations at the next forum. AL added that the tandem lift will be visible off site and there will be vessels, but everything else is under the sea. AC said this will take place six times in total, once for each head.

AJ raised work on the fish return recovery in relation to dredging requirements, suggesting that the return system did not require dredging as was located closer to the coast.

AC confirmed this to be the case.

3.20 **Acoustic Fish Deterrent**

Pre-submitted by Allan Jeffery

“Where are we now, on the results of the public inquiry that took place last June when EDF applied for a variation on the environmental permit not to use an Acoustic Fish Deterrent, as required by the Environment Agency in order to start the building of HPC in the original Development Consent Order?”

Answer: AC said EDF are aware the Planning Inspectorate has provided a recommendation report to the Secretary of State, but they do not have an indication on when this decision will come back.

Jon Ayers (JA) said the Environment Agency was not party to any information on this as to when this decision is likely to be made either.

Light Pollution

3.21 Pre-submitted by Keith ter Braak, Friends of Quantock

“Undoubtedly, we are all aware of the above and some find this an issue! It is not only the “star gazers” but animals and other creatures are affected by the excesses of bright lights. Satellite measurements have indicated that at times Hinkley Point’s emission of light is greater than that emitted by Bristol Airport!! Obviously work surfaces and equipment need to clearly be illuminated to allow safe and efficient installation. However, it cannot be rocket science to arrange deflectors in appropriate positions to deflect the light from upwards to downwards and in the process, this may well lead to reducing the total requirement as it would illuminate what and where you want it to, instead of outer space!! Surely all new equipment from now should adhere to this simple idea and perhaps, costs permitting, convert the existing kit as well. Let’s do it now!!”

Answer: AC said lighting is something that HPC understands as a project, particularly within the environment team. He outlined mitigation efforts undertaken by the project to reduce light spill, noting that lighting is considered within the DCO and EDF undertake lighting surveys and respond very swiftly to reports received.

3.22 Sue Goss (SG) said lighting is not a new issue and residents in Stogursey have raised this over many years. She said new contractors on site do not always keep to rules and regulations and often need reminders. In instances where light is shining to the horizon, AC encouraged people to raise this with HPC as it can, and has been, easily be rectified.

3.23 GR asked whether the project is on schedule.

AC said the project is currently on schedule. He said EDF Group has been undertaking a review to give an understanding on the impact of the pandemic on the project.

RP said the last date in the EDF annual report is September 2026 at the earliest.

AC confirmed this is the date stated in the latest annual report.

3.24 **AFTERNOTE:** EDF’s review of the cost and schedule of Hinkley Point C was released on 20th May 2022 (available [here](#)), with a revised date of June 2027 for Unit 1’s commercial operation and a budget increase of £3bn. This will have no cost impact on British consumers or taxpayers.

AFTERNOTE

3.25 SH asked whether HPC had a contingency plan to rapidly respond to any future Covid outbreak and notify people in the local community.

AL said strong relationships have been built with Public Health England over the past few years. She said the project recently reviewed its plans on how to reinstate Covid controls, adding that associated development sites have been included in these plans. AL said she is comfortable the project has the ability to reinstate previous Covid control measures in terms of supplies if needed.

- 3.26** SH suggested that many people are concerned with the increase in staff and people want reassurance that there will be a sensible way of alerting people in the local community if there is an outbreak. He said the local councils should have plans as well.
AL reiterated that the project is aligned with government guidance and EDF are asking people who believe they are symptomatic not to come to work. EDF are working with the local authority in doing this and sharing information with Public Health England. AC said there is a complexity in terms of ethics and patient confidentiality and that as an employer EDF must treat workers' medical records with respect. Joanna Manley (JM) said she could not confirm Sedgemoor District Council's position in terms of its response plans for Covid but said she would find out.
- 3.27** **AFTERNOTE:** JM provided an afternote confirming that Sedgemoor District Council does not have its own specific plan but would be guided by public health colleagues at Somerset County Council and the UK Health Security Agency. In relation to workforce uplift and Covid, the potential change in communicable disease from the incoming temporary workforce was assessed within the Health Topic Paper and the HIA concluded that the proposed development is not likely to be a significant communicable health risk. There is no evidence that workers are contributing to local or regional Covid-19 prevalence levels. Overall it is considered that the conclusions of the HIA in respect of this matter will not change as a result of the workforce uplift. **AFTERNOTE**
- 3.28** Anne Reed (AR) said she does not think HPC can take responsibility for the response to Covid, praising HPC for taking every precaution and handling the situation well.
- 3.29** AJ asked whether any testing is taking place.
AL confirmed that testing is still taking place until the 1st June, they have the ability to test on site, and as previously mentioned can re-activate these measures as required subject to suitable supplies. In terms of managing the impact of workforce uplift from a health perspective, Andrew Goodchild (AG) pointed out that EDF has made a commitment and agreed with the NHS to increase the size of its Hinkley Health provision on site, commensurate with the workforce uplift, so that this does not impact negatively on the health provision of the local community.
- 3.30** On Combnich Wharf, SH asked whether HPC would be briefing residents on the change delivery system.
AC said VD will provide more information on the refurbishment at Combnich Wharf on 9th June at the parish council briefing and will continue to provide ongoing updates.
VD confirmed that the first loads have already arrived and more are expected in July.
AC explained that there will be an improvement to the berthing aspect, providing an additional benefit to how it can operate.
- 3.31** Responding to project progress, RP said it makes no difference how quickly progress is made on Unit 2, the speed of the project is governed by the 'snail like' progress on Unit 1.
AC said the date given for electric generation is for Unit 1, with Unit 2 to follow.

Of the 922 apprentices trained to date, RP asked how many have been retained to work at HPC. He also asked how many of the apprentices might be employed as part of the 900 or so operational jobs at HPC at the end of the construction period.
- 3.32** **ACTION:** AC said he can supply some details on the current apprentices, including information on apprenticeship types. **ACTION**
- 4** **Item 4: Update - Office of Nuclear Regulation Report – (Alun Griffiths, ONR)**
- 4.1** Alun Griffiths outlined his role on the Forum on behalf of the ONR, the independent statutory regulator, representing the workforce and the public.

4.2 In this period, routine inspections of the HPC site covered the following:

- Plant construction and/or commissioning;
- Emergency preparedness;
- Quality assurance and records;
- Organisational capability;
- Conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety;
- Security.

4.3 Non-routine Matters

- Improvement Notices were served after a worker fell from scaffolding. The notices were served on contractors Bouygues Travaux Publics SAS and Laing O'Rourke Construction Limited, the joint venture partners in BYLOR JV.
- This was a conventional health and safety incident and not a nuclear related safety incident. The notices have been served to ensure that both organisations take action to prevent any similar occurrences in the future.
- ONR has completed an investigation to establish the facts surrounding radiograph anomalies as reported previously. Enforcement action (enforcement letters) is planned to ensure that improvements are implemented to prevent such an event in the future.

4.4 SH asked whether the anomalies (radiograph – related to welding) were recovered. Alun Griffiths confirmed that the anomalies have been addressed and that the ONR is satisfied with the quality of the items that have been installed.

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

5.1 Justin Sargent (JS) gave an update on the HPC Community Fund

5.2 JS began with an update on the figures:

- Now up to over £5.5m deployed and committed to local communities.
- The next instalment into the fund is on time – another £1.5m to be drawn down, this figure is index linked.

5.3 JS highlighted some recent examples of projects funded:

- Burnham and Highbridge Book Festival was held in April and supported through one of the Fund's smaller grants.
- St Francis of Assisi PCC provides holiday activities for children from families facing economic & social challenges in Sydenham and was supported by £5000.
- £35,000 was awarded to fund a part-time community development worker for 3 years to support the parish centre at St George's Church in Wembdon. The activity that they undertook is now generating sufficient funding income, so they no longer need funding from the SCF.

5.4 SG asked how long it takes to process applications.

JS said the panel for small grants meets every eight weeks and the panel for large grants meets quarterly, so depending on when the application goes in, it can be pretty quick.

5.5 AR endorsed the help and support that the Community Fund team give to applicants, saying that she recently had a successful application for a disability accessible swing for Wembdon.

5.6 RP said many pension increases are capped at 5%, asking whether there is a maximum increase that can be made to the Community Fund.

JS said he understands that it is linked to the tender price index and there is no cap.

5.7 Contacts:

Val Bishop, Programmes Director / val.bishop@somersetcf.org.uk / 01749 344949 or Peter Stolze, Programme Manager / peter.stolze@somersetcf.org.uk
Online: www.hpcfunds.co.uk / www.somersetcf.org.uk

6 Item 6: Main Site Forum 24th February 2022 - (Chair)

- 6.1 There were no comments on the draft meeting note of the Main Site Forum (available [here](#)).

7 Item 7: Transport Forum 17th March 2022 - (Chair)

- 7.1 There were no comments on the draft meeting note of the Transport Forum (available [here](#)).

8 Item 8: Any Other Business

- 8.1 AJ urged EDF / HPC to ensure the media and politicians do not incorrectly mislead the public on the idea that nuclear is zero carbon energy. He said the correct term is low carbon.
- 8.2 SH asked about the possibility of putting a brown tourist signs in place for the HPC visitor centre. Jane Tomaney (JT) confirmed that action has been taken on this and signs will be put in place.
- 8.3 Drew Aspinwall (DA) informed the Forum that Jim Claydon will be stepping down as independent chair at the end of the year. The process has started to find a suitable replacement and the plan is for the new Chair will be able to attend the autumn meetings alongside Jim.

9 Item 9: Date of next Community Forum

- 9.1 The next Community Forum will be held on Thursday 22nd September at 6pm.

The meeting ended.