

# Meeting Report

**EDF Hinkley Point C: Main Site Forum.**

**Date: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 – 6pm**

**Victory Hall, Stogursey, Bridgwater**

**Participating:**

Jim Claydon, *Chair*

Briony Waterman, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

John Burton, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Chris Morgan, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Allan Searle, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Mike Laver, *Burton resident*

Susan E Jones, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Neil Kimmins, *Avon & Somerset Police*

Dan Aplin, *Environment Agency*

Sue Spicer, *Burton resident*

**EDF Team:**

Andrew Cockcroft, *EDF*

Andrew Goodchild, *EDF*

Vicki Dingwall, *EDF*

Luke Stevens, *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall, *SEC Newgate*

Robyn Evans, *SEC Newgate*

**Apologies:**

Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*

Sue Jones, *West Hinkley Action Group*

Richard Cuttell, *Shurton resident / W.H.A.G*

Jo Manley, *Sedgemoor District Council*

**In addition to the forum meeting notes and agendas, all presentations and reports are available at [www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity](http://www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity)**

## 1 Introductions

- 1.1 Jim Claydon ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the in-person meeting. He asked everyone to introduce themselves and ran through the forum protocols and venue arrangements.

## 2 Meeting Note and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The Chair reviewed the meeting note and afternotes provided from the Main Site Forum on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, inviting any further comment.
- 2.2 **Item 3.23:** The Chair highlighted an afternote providing details for people to sign up to the notification service for rolling road blocks on the C182. Andrew Cockcroft (AC) encouraged people to sign up to the service if they have not already done so.
- 2.3 **Item 3.33:** The Chair highlighted an afternote confirming that a report raised by Sue Jones of lighting shining into windows in Burton, the issue was resolved the following day.
- 2.4 **Item 5.7:** The Forum discussed an afternote provided by John Pingstone on planning applications and details. Sue Goss (SG) wanted to put on record that she had asked the question on whether storage could be built 5 metres deeper rather than 5 metres taller and then said she is fairly happy with this afternote. SG noted that this type of storage is used at Sellafield and asked whether this decision is being taken by HPC on economic grounds. There was a discussion on storage methods, with AC noting that Sellafield mostly use wet storage methods. He said both types of technology are accepted as best available techniques and confirmed that this decision has not been undertaken by HPC on the basis of cost. SG said she is happy with the storage method changing to dry as it is much cheaper and safer with regard to decommissioning, but that she is concerned that HPC will not consider going underground, asking whether this is being done on economic terms. AC explained that it is due to a need to maintain air circulation. SG said her understanding was that this can be done underground. AC said he is not aware of any dry storage for spent fuel that is done underground. **ACTION** AC provided a written response on dry storage for spent fuel and discussed it with SG at the following MSF meeting. **ACTION**

There were no further comments and the draft meeting note was agreed.

## 3 Project Progress Update – (Andrew Cockcroft, EDF)

- 3.1 (AC) gave a presentation running through progress on site and major milestones, reported that:
- 3.2 **Covid-19 – Developing Our Response**
- HPC continue to keep the situation under review as a Covid Managed Project – ready to take action if necessary.
  - Gradual reduction in Covid-19 measures continues.
  - HPC vaccination centre remains in operation and will continue to do so. It has provided substantial benefit to those on site and minimised impact on local services.
  - Approach is guided by the Government strategy of “living with Covid-19”.
- 3.3 **Cost and Schedule Review**
- AC spoke on the recent publication of the review into the cost and schedule of the project. AC offered reassurance that he had not withheld information when speaking at the Community Forum, on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, noting that EDF Group had not issued the information at the time of the Forum.

In February, the project began a review to consider the full impact of the pandemic on the project. The main impacts were:

- Site numbers reduced from 5,000 to around 1,500.
- Reduced efficiency as a result of social-distancing.
- HPC lost in excess of half a million individual days of critical work in 2020 and 2021.
- The supply chain was also hit hard and is still impacted now. In April 2020, 180 suppliers were fully shut down.
- Adapting the reactor design for UK-specific regulations has required more engineering time and more materials. Marine works have also cost more.

The review confirmed a revised date of June 2027 for Unit 1's commercial operation and a budget increase of £3bn (a projected range of £25Bn to £26Bn). There is no cost impact on British consumers or taxpayers.

**3.4** John Burton (JB) queried the budget increase.

AC clarified that the range of the budget is now £25-26Bn, up from £22bn-23bn.

**3.5** A video was shown at the Forum in which HPC's Delivery Director, Nigel Cann, gave his latest tour of the construction site. The video is available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7QLjvc1YY8>

**3.6** **Associated Developments – Comwich**

- The refurbishment scheme for Comwich Wharf is broadly complete.
- The possibility of Barge in Barge (B2) delivery was considered but has been found unsuitable.
- A new alternative solution that aligns with the original DCO is under review.
- There will be close working with Otterhampton Parish Council as planning applications are submitted.

**3.7** **Marine Works**

- The project plan to lift all 6 heads (2x outfall and 4x intake) this summer.
- This is a huge engineering challenge that represents a major milestone for marine works.
- The connection to the tunnels will follow.

**3.8** **Update: Workforce Uplift**

- All matters now agreed by all four Councils, Emergency Services and National Highways at the Transport Review Group and Socio-Economic Advisory Group.
- All key strategies have been updated.
- Supplementary Section 106 agreement in place.

**Pre-submitted Questions Project Progress Update**

**3.9** **Southern Stockpile Areas**

Submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

"Could you ask the planning team if they could provide the latest LiDAR figure for the Southern stockpile areas, please?"

Answer: Andrew Goodchild (AG) said as all tunnelling had now finished no additional material has been placed on the stockpile so it is impossible for it to be taller than it was. He confirmed that the stockpile has now reached its maximum height although work will continue as the stockpile is sorted and material is slowly used to backfill around completed buildings in the deep dig.

**3.10** **Temporary Jetty**

Submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

"Do you have any idea now as to when the last delivery can be anticipated for the jetty in view of the latest project delay? Also, in view of that, have discussions begun as to how and when this temporary structure will begin to be dismantled - and return Shurton Bars to its previous natural and un-spoilt condition?"

Answer: AC said the jetty needs to remain in place until construction has finished and therefore will be available all the way up until commissioning. It was confirmed that it is a temporary structure and there is a planning condition to remove it eventually.

#### **4 Planning Update – (Andrew Goodchild, EDF)**

**4.1** Andrew Goodchild (AG) gave an update on various planning matters.

##### **4.2 Material Change to the DCO**

Application to be made to the Secretary of State for:

- Permission to remove the requirement to install an acoustic fish deterrent system.
- A change in the method of spent fuel storage from “wet” to “dry”.
- Changes to the plot plan to accommodate a relocated and re-designed Meteorological Mast.
- Permission to retain the existing Temporary Substation as a permanent feature to supply electricity to HPA and HPB.
- The addition of four new structures to house sluice gates and lifting beams which would be used during outages.

##### **4.3 Material Change to the DCO – Timetable**

AG gave an update on the timetable of the application and the opportunities for members of the community to input:

- There are two competing matters for when HPC will be able to launch the consultation, these being the assessment work being undertaken which is due to be complete by the end of August and the Secretary of State’s decision on the permit application.
- The statutory Pre-Application Consultation period is currently scheduled for Autumn 2022. There will be a period of around six weeks where HPC will consult on the details and hold online sessions, with a virtual drop-in room and consultation events. There will be opportunities for people to submit their views.
- The submission of the application, consultation and pre-examination period is likely to take place in early 2023 whilst the examination period is likely to take place in Spring/Summer 2023.
- At the close of the examination the inspector/inspectors have two months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then has a period of two months to make a decision.
- AG explained that it is a long process and it is likely that a decision will be taken by the Secretary of State on the application at the end of 2023.

**4.4** Mike Laver (ML) asked whether it means that construction will not start on the dry storage facility until a decision is taken.

AG confirmed that this is correct. He said the dry storage facility does not need to be there until 10 years after commissioning. The installation of the acoustic fish deterrent and the trigger of water abstraction is currently scheduled for mid-2025.

##### **4.5 RSR Permit - Change from Wet to Dry Storage**

Alongside the DCO process, HPC has made an application to the Environment Agency to vary its existing Radioactive Substances Regulation (RSR) Permit.

- The EA will shortly consult on the content of this application.
- The change to the fuel store and to the RSR permit does not alter the quantities of spent fuel produced or to the discharge limits originally approved.
- Only spent fuel from HPC will be stored at HPC.
- There is no change to the radiological impact to members of the public from discharges or to the wider environment as a result of the changes proposed to the permit.
- A dry Interim Spent Fuel Store (ISFS) does not require a stack.

#### 4.6 Hazardous Substances Consent

- HPC is making a Hazardous Substances Consent application to Somerset West and Taunton Council.
- As with all operational power stations chemicals and gases such as Diesel and Hydrazine are needed to operate and maintain equipment – e.g. the station’s emergency diesel generators and ultimate diesel generators require diesel tanks to provide them with fuel.
- The Council will seek advice and guidance from the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency as described in the relevant guidance.
- Application process expected to take approximately 12 months.
- There is a copy of the application available at Cannington Court.

#### 4.7 Workforce Uplift – Next Steps

- AG explained that the team at HPC have now turned their attention to the actions which flow from the agreement on the workforce uplift which AC had described. These actions include the implementation / promotion of a Car Share Strategy; and
- Rolling out additional accommodation including a proposed extension to caravan site at Moorhouse Farm.

#### 4.8 SG asked whether HPC will provide the caravans.

AG said the idea is that the workers will bring touring caravans with them to Moorhouse Farm. On some of the other sites, including Quantock Lakes, HPC are expecting them to be a mixture of static caravans as well as tourers. He confirmed that the third site is at Mill Farm in Fiddington for another 58 touring pitches, and HPC have made an application to Sedgemoor District Council.

#### 4.9 Chris Morgan (CM) pointed out that the hedges have grown on the corner at the top of the hill towards Holford. He said it has been a bone of contention for years and if there is going to be a significant increase in traffic then this needs to be dealt with.

AG said HPC have had a preliminary discussion with colleagues on the County Highways team and submitted a pre-application request to Somerset West and Taunton Council. He added that they have not finalised an application and committed to look into the matter.

#### 4.10 Applications for the Design of Permanent Buildings

Each permanent building on the HPC site requires approval from Somerset West and Taunton Council for:

- Its final design (siting, scale and appearance);
- Requirement PW3;
- Its external materials;
- Requirement PW5.

Over the last 18 months, around 75% of total submissions have been agreed and 25% are outstanding.

#### 4.11 Future Submissions to the Council

- Permanent Hard and Soft Landscaping both inside the Operational Power Station (MS25) and outside the fence line (MS28).
- Permanent Fencing (MS8).
- Surface Water Drainage (MS30).
- Operational Travel Plan for the Generating Station (MS39).
- Operational Travel Plan for the Public Information Centre (MS40).

#### 4.12 SG asked how many parking spaces there will be on site.

AG said there are around 500 parking spaces for the workforce in the design and a further 400 spaces for outage workers and those using the visitor centre. He explained that HPC built on top of Hinkley Point B’s (HPB) outage car park, meaning there was a requirement to provide an outage car park for HPB. However, HPB will be in decommissioning by this time and so there is an interesting discussion to be had on whether HPC will still need to build this outage car park.

In light of the information on parking spaces provided by AG, SG said it seems as though there are enough car parking spaces for everyone who works at HPC.  
AG said the operational workforce is about 900. He said there will need to be some car sharing and potentially some buses, and HPC will need to encourage people to get to work by other means than private car.

SG asked whether the Cannington Park & Ride will remain.  
AG said there is no definitive answer on this, but it is a possibility.

#### 4.13 **Combwich to Site Cycleway**

- Consultation on the proposed cycleway from Combwich to the Hinkley Site will take place in September.
- Seeking views on the routing, surfacing, needs of users, signage and width.
- Public events in Stogursey and Combwich.
- Online events and potential workshop at the October Main Site Forum.
- Information, Q&A and Questionnaire will be hosted on HPC website.
- Application submitted late 2022 depending on feedback and development of detailed design.

#### 4.14 SG asked which district council will make a decision on this.

AG said he suspects it will be the new unitary council by the time the application is made.

SG said she read some mention of Sedgemoor District Council.

AG said the route from Combwich to site goes over the boundary between Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton, so prior to April 2023 HPC would have to make two applications. However, if the application is made in April 2023 it will be one application to the new 'Somerset Council'.

## 5 **Community Safety Update – (Victoria Dingwall, EDF)**

### 5.1 Victoria Dingwall (VD) gave an update on community safety.

### 5.2 **Collaborative activities- fly-parking**

VD spoke on the HPC multi-Agency Community Safety Delivery Organisation and illustrated how this structure works together. She said the group has identified fly-parking as one of the most prominent community safety issues and they meet regularly and cross-share information on this. VD used fly parking as an example to demonstrate how the multi-agency structure operates:

**The Community Relations Team:** Responsible for public contact (email and phone calls), logging and tracking responses, trending & reporting, and focussing resources and efforts in the right places.

**SPS Team:** Responsible for responding on the ground to fly-parking, local area patrols, ticketing, direct responses to community reports, and escalation process / disciplinary action.

**Community Safety Officer (Nicola Hale):** Responsible for local area patrols, relationship building, on the ground support, and actively targeting hot spots action.

**Hinkley Police Team:** Responsible for dealing with obstructions and violations, Community Speed watch, and new Anti-social Behaviour powers in relation to fly-parking.

### 5.3 **Collaborative activities**

VD outlined other collaborative activities:

- **On site messaging** – There will be an upcoming community safety campaign which will cover matters such as fly-parking, modern slavery and community integration.
- **Multi agency events** – VD said there is multi-agency working on events and they are looking to pull this closer to site now that Covid restrictions have eased.

- **Community concerns** – Fly parking is one of the main concerns but behaviour and other issues are also dealt with by the group together.
- **Investigations and escalations** – The group has a system where it can investigate and pursue matters internally, particularly in term of Code of Conduct breaches.
- **Community support** – Work takes place to help signpost funding and support.
- **Community cohesion** – VD said she is working closely on the volunteering programme at HPC in which the workforce is allowed up to two days a year volunteering. VD said that a recent call for volunteers was launched to help set up a welcome centre in Taunton for Ukrainian refugees, welcoming that there has been a lot of interest in the call for help. VD encouraged members of the Forum to get in touch with her on possible volunteering opportunities for the workforce.

- 5.4 VD passed on apologies on behalf of Nicola Hale who was unable to attend the Forum. She encouraged people to reach out to Nicola Hale if there is anything they would like to discuss. She made the point that priority escalations would be best sent to the community relations team so they can respond if Nicola is not at her desk. Nicola Hale’s contact details are:  
Phone: 01278619636  
Mobile: 07464981763  
Email: [community.safety@sedgemoor.go.uk](mailto:community.safety@sedgemoor.go.uk)

#### **Pre-submitted Question Community Safety**

#### **5.5 Fly parking C182 Layby**

Submitted by Richard Cuttell

“In January it was confirmed that the fly parking team work 7 days a week with gaps in the less busy times during the week. In March it was confirmed there was an enhanced fly parking team and a new strike process. I reported 5 vehicles on 12 June with no tickets. The only response so far from Sacha @ HPC enquiries is “Who confirmed the team work weekends.”

Does the team work weekends as we have been assured in the past?

Sorry this question is not brief but the history needed to be quoted.”

Answer: VD said she was disappointed to hear about this instance. She reported a response from the SPS team, confirming that the SPS team do work weekends and monitor the C182 layby. Unfortunately, on the weekend in question, the SPS team were two members down due to staff absences. VD informed the Forum that the team are in the process of recruiting a further two new members and encouraged people to continue to raise issues.

- 5.6 SG mentioned two positive examples of HPC workforce volunteering that have taken place in the past – a beach clean and work with a primary school on gardening.

- 5.7 SG said Stogursey Parish Council is hoping to be kept informed in the future if there are any discussions between the Hinkley sites, County Council Highways, and Avon & Somerset Police regarding protesters on the Shurton junction C182. She said the Parish Council had to write a formal letter of complaint after the recent protest, which went on for five nights.

VD said she saw this correspondence and recognised the importance of communication on such matters. CM said the response received was reasonable but made the point that a lot of older residents felt it was intimidating to go through both sides of the junction.

AC gave assurance that HPC can inform the Parish Council if they are made aware of such events.

Neil Kimmins (NK) reported that Avon and Somerset Police did not receive any complaints or calls against the group at the time and that a joint response was issued with the county council. He said the group are part of Stop Hinkley and he is sure they would be horrified if they knew that they had upset or intimidated local people, as they are part of the local community themselves. In terms of road safety, NK said a ‘Police slow’ sign was placed by the junction, and stated that no incidents were reported and the group parked considerably. He offered to assist in communicating with the group.

- 5.8** ML said he is surprised there weren't any issues of obstruction, saying it is already a dangerous junction. NK said he visited on the Monday and his team, and the Civil Nuclear Police visited every day and there were no reported issues at the time of visiting. He encouraged people in the community to report any road safety issues they witness at the time they occur.
- 5.9** SG said one of the road safety issues was that there was a very large campervan parked on the Hinkley side of the junction. SG said the junction is very narrow and difficult for two large vehicles to pass each other and it is dangerous as traffic travels fast there. NK asked SG if she would like him to reach out to the group to speak to the Parish Council. SG said she would like this to take place if they are planning another camp. NK said he does not expect the size of the event to be repeated anytime soon. The Chair added that NK's offer to liaise with the group is helpful.
- 5.10** Mike Laver (ML) said that both himself and SG are members of community speed watch and have been monitoring the speeds once a week for an hour in Burton. He reported that there are normally around 100-150 vehicles an hour and at least 10% of these vehicles are speeding beyond 35mph. He recognised not all vehicles are HPC workers, saying it is HPB and members of the public as well, but argued that it is an issue that is getting worse. He noted that they are still awaiting the installation of a digital speed indicator, asking if EDF can put any pressure on the various bodies involved to get this installed. AC suggested increased high visibility in the area. NK said Avon and Somerset Police try to join speed watch when available. The Chair suggested this can be an issue raised at the Transport Forum when the county council will be in attendance.
- 5.11** SG said the county council highways team are dragging their feet in accepting the fact that the speed indicators are in the right place and it is being held up. AC asked SG to send this correspondence direct and the HPC team and Avon and Somerset Police can speak with them and understand if there are any barriers.

## **6 Any other business**

- 6.1** CM raised the issue of rubbish bins in Stogursey filling up very quickly and overflowing due to the large numbers of workforce in the community using them. The Chair said this refuse issue should be an issue to be raised with the district council. AC suggested HPC could provide support on this via the lengthsman but stressed that the project cannot bring waste from elsewhere onto the site.
- 6.2** SG thanked the HPC team for undertaking a clear up of the footpath. AC and Luke Stevens (LS) apologised for the delay in getting this done.

## **7 Date of next meeting: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 6pm**

- 7.1** The meeting ended.