

DRAFT Meeting Report

Regarding:

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

Participating:

Paul Kelly, *Chair*
Allan Jeffery, *Green Party*
Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*
Richard Cuttell, *W.H.A.G*
Roy Pumfrey, *Stop Hinkley*
Sue Spicer, *Burton Resident*
Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*
Steve Pettitt, *Cannington Parish Council*
Joanna Whitehead, *Somerset County Council*
Shaun Ryall, *Cannington Parish Council*
Stuart Hill, *C.H.A.I.R & Wildfowlers*
Mike Haycraft, *Otterhampton Parish Council*
Mark Phillips, *Wembdon Parish Council*
Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*
Leigh Redman, *Bridgwater Town Council*
Nicola Hale, *Community Safety Officer, Sedgemoor
District Council & Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Date & Venue:

Thursday 18th May 2023 – 6pm
**Meeting held at: Bridgwater & Taunton College,
Cannington**

Briony Waterman, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*
Valdo Andrade, *Avon & Somerset Police*

EDF Team:

Andrew Cockcroft, *EDF*
Stacy Walker, *EDF*
Jane Tomaney, *EDF*
Drew Aspinwall, *SEC Newgate UK*
Robyn Evans, *SEC Newgate UK*

Apologies received:

Anne Lawrence, *EDF*
Jon Ayers, *Environment Agency*
Alex Jenner, *Environment Agency*
Rosemary Woods, *Somerset County Council*
Peter Payne, *Williton Parish Council*

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

Item	Action
1 Introductions	
1.1 Paul Kelly ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the meeting and ran through the venue arrangements and forum protocols, including invited all attendees to introduce themselves.	
2 Meeting Note and Matters Arising	
2.1 The Chair reviewed the previous Community Forum meeting note from 19 th January 2023 including the actions and after-notes and invited any further comment.	
2.2 Stuart Hill (SH) asked whether his apologies were received for the last meeting. AFTERNOTE: The final meeting note has been updated to reflect this.	AFTERNOTE
2.3 Leigh Redman (LR) said he was previously told the animation shown at the last Community Forum, which demonstrated the process of connecting the intake heads to the cooling water tunnels, could not be shared, asking whether a shortened version could be shared instead. ACTION/AFTERNOTE: Andrew Cockcroft (AC) said there is now an updated version of this film. This was sent to LR following the meeting and EDF will look to publish the film online.	ACTION/ AFTERNOTE
2.4 5.13 – AC said meetings should now have taken place with Bridgwater Town Council and North Petherton Town Council regarding planning application plans for Junction 24 Hinkley Logistics Hub.	
2.5 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, EDF)	
3.1 Safety and Learning AC highlighted work taking place with the HPC workforce to mark Mental Health Awareness Week. He acknowledged that mental health is an issue in the construction industry and that HPC is taking unique action to safeguard the mental health of its workers. HPC is the only major project to have a chaplaincy, with five chaplains actively supporting the workforce, as well as a growing team of mental health first aiders.	
3.2 AC confirmed that responsibility for the investigation into the on-site fatality has not yet officially transferred to the ONR, but this is expected in the coming weeks. HPC will keep Forum members updated as this takes place and the ONR will share a full report with both HPC and the Forum in due course.	
3.3 Project Progress Virtual Tour A film was shown in which former HPC Delivery Director Nigel Cann gave an updated site tour. It is available to watch here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wehewmT5J5I	
3.4 Reactor Cavity Pool (March) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 2 years of work the 768-tonne, reinforced concrete and stainless-steel Reactor Cavity Pool was lifted out of the East Pool Bunker and into the Reactor Building. Lying at the heart of our Reactor Building, it provides a tank of water that completely covers the Reactor during refuelling and maintenance. This means it can be safely opened when needed, with the water providing a vital layer of shielding to HPC operatives as they handle nuclear fuel assemblies and other internal components. 	
3.5 First Nuclear Island Pump (April) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first of a series of pumps that will be used across the Nuclear Island has been successfully installed in one of the Unit 1 Safeguard Buildings. 	

- The pump will deliver cooling water for the sprinkler safety system located on the underside of the Dome, which would activate in the unlikely event of a fire or accident in the Reactor Building.
- Once delivery from Avonmouth was complete it was picked up by crane, moved through one of the Safeguard Building's equipment hatches, lowered down to the 9.6m level, slid into position on skates and finally raised onto its installation plinth.

3.6 Offshore Marine Works Casing Drive

- Work is taking place to complete the initial casing drives for the outfall and inlet heads which sit on the seabed.
- This will involve drilling down through the intake heads to connect into the horizontal tunnels.
- The first phase of this is to install the casings before the drilling operation can take place.

3.7 AC explained that the first operation to install the casing drive was noisier than HPC had anticipated and caused a bit of concern and surprise amongst the local public, with around 50 telephone calls and complaints. He said HPC did inform people about it but did not expect the noise to travel quite as far as it did. HPC responded by ensuring all work remained within specified noise limits (under the DCO) and took steps to only carry out work in evenings if operationally necessary. HPC has since carried out a couple more casing drives and found the noise has been significantly lower.

3.8 Sue Goss (SG) said the operation could still be heard as far as Watchet at 7am. AC said people may still hear it but gave assurance that HPC will be working within its DCO allotted times and noise limits. HPC have very strict noise limits for daytime working which reduce substantially at night. AC also gave assurance that HPC has active noise monitoring in place for this work, with people looking at the noise readings as work took place, and reiterated that work will stop if noise gets close to the DCO limit.

3.9 SG said the microphones at the pumping station in Shurton seem to have disappeared.

ACTION: AC said he will check this.

ACTION

3.10 Bruce Eyley (BE) noted that there were a couple of complaints in Kilve on social media but that another member of the public explained what was happening in the comments, which was useful.

3.11 AC said the work is not going to be very long term and a casing drive itself takes around 90 minutes to complete. However, he recognised that it is still impactful and apologised again for this.

3.12 Offshore Marine Works Drilling

The next steps will be the offshore marine works drilling operation. AC said the drilling is quiet in relative terms and therefore should not cause disturbance.

3.13 SH said he was amazed at the size of the Rector Pressure Vessel and congratulated HPC on the fact that he did not experience any impact in terms of the delivery. AC welcomed this and said HPC will try to repeat this going forward.

3.14 2023 Socio-Economic Impact Report

AC discussed the findings from the 2023 socio-economic impact report.

- Hinkley Point C proves that the transition to net zero can also deliver huge social and economic benefits, changing lives and communities for the better.
- New training centres will offer 30,000 places as the project reaches peak construction. The project will help them to upgrade their skills to get better jobs, better pay which in turn supports regional productivity.
- £24m has been invested directly into education, skills and employment.
- 30,000 training places available between now and HPC's completion.

- 1,131 apprentices have been trained at HPC so far (the original target was 1,000).
- 19,250 jobs have been created directly on site so far (the target is 25,000).

3.15 HPC – Regional Economic Impact

- £5.3bn spent with companies in the South West to date against a target of £1.5bn during construction.
- 64% of the value of HPC contracts have been awarded to UK-based companies to date against a target of 57%.
- For every £1 spent by the project, an additional £2.50 is generated in wider economic value for the local region.

3.16 Supporting Local Services and Providing Wider Benefits

- There is 1 full-time community safety officer.
- HPC funds 6 full-time police officers to support the community. They help to overcome challenges and help workforce integration.
- £700,000 has been invested in tourism.
- There is a £9m housing fund.
- The Hinkley Health Centre provides an on-site GP surgery and minor injuries unit. Hinkley Health has a full-time doctor, 16 nurses and other private services and is reducing demand on local services.
- There is a free community bus service connecting Somerset's rural areas.

3.17 Case studies were shown of a T-Level placement student and a nuclear engineering apprentice. AC welcomed that the project is enabling young people to stay in the area, helping retain local talent.

3.18 Roy Pumfrey (RP) argued that in many instances workers will only stay local in the short term. He said in the case study the nuclear engineering apprentice states that she will take her experience elsewhere once the project is finished.
AC explained that, in this instance, the engineer in the case study is referencing a move from the construction phase to joining the operational fleet.
He went on to say that the project is a national picture opportunity into renewables and low carbon energy and that HPC will need to work with others to bring in other low carbon energy projects to the area to extend HPC's legacy.

3.19 SG asked how many apprentices from West Somerset are able to take advantage of these opportunities as most of them have to move away to find employment and training.
AC said he would review the apprenticeship data and include in an afternote if available.

AFTERNOTE: 68% of apprentices are from the local area (within a 90 minute travel zone).

AFTERNOTE

3.20 Pre-submitted Questions

Submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

"Wouldn't EdeF /NNB acknowledge that huge Socio economic benefits would also have been delivered if programmes to reduce demand for electricity and boost renewable generation had been followed without mostly concentrating on HPC and its surrounding area?"

AC recognised that socio-economic benefits come from other projects as well and reiterated that the energy industry needs to support the low carbon transition. He highlighted findings from the academic literature on this subject, saying there have been a few tentative studies into the socio-economic impact of wind farms. He concluded that nuclear is rare in its ability to deliver a wide range of benefits due to its scale and complexity.

3.21 On the reducing demand side, RP argued there would be a lot more jobs as there are millions of houses that could benefit and reduce their electricity demand simply by doing something about

their insulation.

AC agreed but argued that the jobs created would be at a much lower level than engineering STEM based jobs. He said skills are what drive productivity and growth rather than jobs themselves and stressed that there is a need to be providing higher paid, higher skilled jobs.

- 3.22** Joanna Whitehead (JW) said the Government's Powering Up Britain document makes the point about reducing demand for electricity in the first instance. It lists a range of funded initiatives in terms of insulation, making heat pumps more affordable, things people can do individually, corporate action, as well as targets given to the Council to drive down demand for energy by businesses in the area. JW said some of these things are being funded and put through this policy.
- 3.23** Richard Cuttall (RC) asked how the community can be assured that monitoring stations are working and whether Somerset Council still monitors and audits the results as was agreed at the Main Site Forum two years ago.
AC said the Council still has access to the data and clarified that this was originally brought up at the Community Forum where an action was taken via the then local authority to monitor this. JW said an environmental group was put in place about 18 months ago which is managed by the Council's environmental team and gets reported up to the Socio-economic Advisory Group. She said EDF have to say whether they have exceeded any of their limits and targets and this is very regularly monitored.
AC added that there is an element of self-governance, noting that HPC proactively reported the noise from the offshore marine works casing drive.
- 3.24** SH said a lot of the traffic control cameras have gone missing and the traffic situation is appalling. AC said the delivery management system is in place with GPS now used instead of cameras with regard to the buses and explained that it is difficult to control all of the bus routes coming from all local areas.
AC said the cameras on HPC buses are being used to actively report dangerous driving to the police.
- 3.25** AC said HPC do not report on when buses come in batches and said discussion on the monitoring of buses and spacing can be covered at the next Transport Forum meeting.
- 3.26** On noise monitoring, SG said previously EDF funded the environmental health team at West Somerset Council for several days a week to monitor the results of the noise monitors and put this on the website for local people to view. SG said she hopes this will continue with the unitary council and asked whether HPC are still funding it.
AC said he is not sure if it is still being funded. It was confirmed that there are people actively considering and looking at this data which will be placed on the council website.
- 3.27** Responding to LR on the number of buses able to travel in convoy, AC said there is no formal limit in the DCO on the number of buses permitted to be in convoy at any one time.
- 3.28** LR encouraged Forum members to make a note of the date, time and location of any dangerous driving that they witness and to report this to HPC.
- 3.29** LR said the minutes from SEAG and TRG used to be placed on the Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council websites and easily accessible. He asked for the new locations to be shared. JW noted that Alex Smith left Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) and there is now around a year's worth of documents to go back on. She said the first priority is to get the back catalogue updated and placed be on the legacy SDC site and the second priority is to ensure this is easily accessible.
- 3.30** RP said that of the 19,000 jobs only 9,000 are on site at any one time. He therefore asked whether it is simplistic to say that 10,000 who have worked at HPC no longer have a job at HPC. AC said this is the number of new jobs that have been created to date for individuals. He acknowledged that there are instances where some people join the project for a few years before

moving on to other projects.

3.31 RP said Nigel Cann has left for Sizewell.

AC said that Nigel Cann's transfer to Sizewell is an important example of replication across the projects as Sizewell is being viewed as units 3 and 4 of the programme. He said Nigel Cann has a lot of personal learning that can be transferred directly to the start of the Sizewell project.

3.32 SH spoke on the poor state of roads in Cannington, saying there are several points where the road keeps giving way.

AC said SG raised similar points at the Transport Forum on 16th March 2023 and Andy Coupé (Acé) provided a response and afternote at the time on the road quality of the C182.

AFTERNOTE: The afternote from the Transport Forum has been sent directly to SH and can also be seen below.

AFTERNOTE

'The C182 is subject to a deflectograph survey every two years as an obligation of the original DCO S106. Interestingly, the most recent survey that was undertaken in 2021 confirmed that the road is in good structural condition with the exception of the length beyond the junction of Burton/Shurton and the HPC site. As a result, this section was the subject of surface treatment within the past 18 months or so.

Deflectograph surveys have been shown to give reliable estimates of the residual life of a road. Although the measurements are taken on the road surface the deflection measured is the sum of deflections in all layers of the road, including the sub-grade on which the road has been built. This means that the measurements reflect not just weakness visible at the surface, but also weaknesses that are developing within the pavement.

The key issue the C182 faces is its width and alignment which means that the road is liable to overrunning from large vehicles. This results in accelerated deterioration of the road edges. This led to the haunching works which were undertaken a few years ago.

Acé said the next survey is due this year and it will be interesting to see how the structural condition of the road continues to fair given the winter we have had. In the meanwhile, any defects in the road should be reported through the Council's online reporting system and repairs will be made in accordance with its intervention standards.'

3.33 SG said Andy Coupé reported that a deep survey of the C182 would be undertaken and that she looks forward to this taking place as the road, particularly in the Stogursey Parish area, is appalling.

3.34 Richard Cuttall (RC) expressed his frustration at cyclists travelling down a narrow footpath in convoy and at speed to get to and from site, as well as the fact that there are still reversing sounders on construction equipment.

ACTION: AC apologised for the reversing beacons and said he would look into the points raised.

ACTION

3.35 **Wider News and Planning Updates**

AC said the Environment Agency is running a second round of consultation into Hinkley Point C's Water Discharge Activity Permit. He said they are currently consulting on their proposed decision to grant HPC the approval to vary the water discharge activity permit to remove the requirement to install an Acoustic Fish Deterrent system.

AC said it does not constitute the wider consultation on the merits of the removal of the AFD on the whole, which falls within the DCO material change consultation. He said HPC's material change application is likely to be towards the end of this year and people will be able to give their views.

4 Item 4: Update: Community Fund - (Andrew Cockcroft, HPC)

- 4.1** Justin Sargent was absent, so AC stood in to deliver some high-level updates on behalf of Somerset Community Foundation.
- 4.2** AC said the community fund continues to deliver big benefits and said there has been an upswing in the number of applications. He said there is a lot of support available to support people through the funding application process.
- 4.3** SG said Stogursey Parish Council tried to take advantage of this for some speed indicator devices and were turned down and are now still waiting for this funding to be approved via other avenues. AC said he is sorry about this and that funding applications are approved by a wider community panel. He said the fund is focused on mitigating some of the more intangible impacts of the project.
- 4.4** AC highlighted Somerset Sight and the Nornen Project and Burnham Heritage Centre as recent recipients of funding.
- 4.5** SCF Contacts:
Amelia Thompson, Senior Programmes Manager / amelia.thompson@somersetcf.org.uk
Peter Stolze, Programme Manager / peter.stolze@somersetcf.org.uk
01749 344949 www.hpcfunds.co.uk / www.somersetcf.org.uk

5 Item 5: Main Site Forum 23rd February 2023 - (Chair)

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

6 Item 6: Transport Forum 16th March 2023 - (Chair)

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

7 Item 7: Any Other Business

- 7.1** SH said he is still not receiving AIL updates.
ACTION: Stacy Walker (SW) said she would look into this with SH. **ACTION**
- 7.2** Drew Aspinwall (DA) announced that Doug Bamsey will be taking on the role as Chair of the Community, Main Site and Transport Forums, starting in September 2023.
DA will chair the next Main Site Forum and Transport Forum in the interim period.

8 Item 8: Date of next Community Forum

- 8.1** The next Community Forum will be held on **Thursday 21st September 2023 at 6pm.**
- 8.2** The meeting ended.