

# DRAFT Meeting Report

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

**Date: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 – 6pm**

**Victory Hall, Stogursey, Bridgwater**

**Participating:**

Drew Aspinwall, *Chair*

Chris Ford, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Allan Searle, *Stogursey Parish Council*

John Burton, *Somerset Council*

Valdo Andrade, *Avon & Somerset Police*

Mike Laver, *Burton resident*

Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*

Chris Morgan, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Sue Spicer, *Burton resident*

Rosemary Woods, *Somerset Council*

**EDF Team:**

Andrew Cockcroft, *EDF*

Stacy Walker, *EDF*

Andrew Goodchild, *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall, *SEC Newgate*

Robyn Evans, *SEC Newgate*

**Apologies:**

Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*

## **1 Introductions**

- 1.1 Drew Aspinwall ('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 from the last Forum held: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 (Chair)**

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

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

### **3.1 Safety and Learning**

Andrew Cockcroft (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. For example, 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. AC said there is likely to be a full update on this at the next Community Forum meeting.

### **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**

- 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 the 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's operatives as they handle nuclear fuel assemblies and other internal components.

### **3.5 Turbine Hall**

- The Turbine Hall has now reached the 16.6m level.
- Work can now begin on the upper steelwork, roof trusses and cladding, which paves the way for the installation of the 300-tonne crane later in the year.

### **3.6 First Nuclear Island Pump**

- 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, maneuvered 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.

### 3.7 Offshore Marine Works – Casing Drives

AC said that installation of the casing drives was louder than HPC had anticipated but that they took action to address this after concerns were raised, for example, adjusting the working hours for this operation. He thanked the Parish Council for their patience and tolerance whilst the work was undertaken.

All six casing drives are now complete, but the jack-up vessels will remain in place for the coming months as technical work continues and drilling operations take place. AC gave assurance that the community will be updated if HPC foresee any impact of this.

- 3.8 Bruce Eyley (BE) said it was useful when HPC explained how long the operation would last for and that this should be a lesson for the future.  
AC agreed.

- 3.9 Chris Morgan (CM) said the volume of the noise was exacerbated by the fact that it took place late at night and with the worst possible weather conditions.  
AC said the weather conditions and calm sea played a big part in the volume of the noise. He acknowledged that whilst these are prime conditions for offshore work, they were bad conditions for carrying noise. He said HPC learnt a lot from this experience and will carry it forward.

### 3.10 Offshore Marine Works – Drilling

AC outlined the next steps for the offshore marine works which involves lowering a drilling rig down through the centre of the casing, then through a capping process.

- 3.11 Sue Spicer (SS) asked whether anything will be visible when it is finished.  
AC said it will all be underwater and not visible.  
SS made that point that you can see it at B Station.  
AC responded that it is different to B Station as well as being much further out.

### 3.12 Wider News and Planning Updates

Andrew Goodchild (AG) gave a wider update on planning.

#### Environment Agency Consultation on HPC's Water Discharge Activity Permit

AG said the EA's consultation ended on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and HPC are now awaiting a decision, but on the basis that the EA consulted on what looks set to be a positive decision from HPC's perspective.

He said this will effectively decouple the impact of the AFD from the water discharge activity permit and allow HPC to progress this discussion through the material change to the DCO. He added that this aligns the Hinkley position with that taken at Sizewell.

AG said there is currently a very heavy overlap between the DCO, the marine licence and the water discharge activity permit, which is making things difficult in terms of decision-making and responsibilities. He explained that if the EA approve the variation to HPC's permit, it will allow HPC to look at the impact of the removal of the AFD in the material change consultation and application.

**AFTERNOTE:** The EA granted the permit variation on 31 July. All documents can be found online [here](#)

**AFTERNOTE**

### 3.13 Hinkley Point C DCO Material Change Consultation and Application

AG said HPC are in the midst of detailed conversations with the statutory nature consultation bodies to agree the scale, scope, and arrangements for the creation of a compensatory habitat scheme. This will comprise a number of elements, including the creation of a saltmarsh, supplemented by planting activity in the Bristol Channel such as seagrass, kelp forest and oyster beds to help encourage fish reproduction in the assemblage. He also highlighted plans for water barriers on the River Usk, Wye and Severn to allow the migratory species to go to the grounds to reproduce in order to alleviate concern about the additional loss of fish and marine life through the cooling water infrastructure if the AFD were to be

removed. He said HPC intend to put together the details of the changes and compensatory habitat measures and then consult on this in the autumn.

**3.14** Mike Laver (ML) asked what compensatory habitats would be put in place in the Bristol Channel, arguing that he could not imagine kelp forests in these waters.

AG said he is referring to the Bristol Channel in its widest sense and that HPC are trying to work with experts, universities, and research organisations to identify the best zones for planting in order to achieve maximum positive impact.

ML said the proposals seem to be aimed at improving the habitat for fish, but not necessarily in the local area.

AG explained that it will be in the area in which the fish may be affected by the cooling water infrastructure. He reiterated that HPC are working with stakeholders who will help identify and advise on the best possible locations for this.

**3.15** BE asked whether the measures will look to improve water quality.

AG recognised this as an issue but said it is not something that HPC can directly do anything about. He said HPC have discussed the possibility of providing funding to enable the relevant bodies to address this but have not been able to align this conversation as they would have liked to.

### **3.16 Cycle Path**

AG said HPC received feedback on the proposal for a cycle path at the end of last year and they have since been engaging with the workforce to determine how many workers would use it.

This has involved using the biannual workforce survey to ask workers for their views, as well as engagement with colleagues at A and B station. He said a decision has not yet been made on this and that it will be revisited.

**3.17** ML asked about the other submissions within the DCO, such as the dry store.

AG said it will all go into one application and HPC will consult on the details of this in the autumn. Aside from the fuel store, he said the other elements are relatively minor and do not have a critical path aspect to them in terms of the construction programme.

**3.18** ML asked about the state of other nuclear projects across the world.

- AC said Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant is fully online and up to full power and welcomed that the power station has successfully reduced the cost of wholesale electricity in Finland.
- Fuel loading is due to take place in 2024 at Flamanville Nuclear Power Plant in France.
- AC added that Taishan Nuclear Power Plant is operating but still working through an issue in which the vibrations have been found to cause minor damage to the nuclear fuel itself. He said the UK will not be using the same design for fuel assemblies as those in Taishan.

## **4 Update: Socio-Economic Report - (Stacy Walker, EDF)**

### **4.1 2023 Socio-Economic Impact Report**

Stacy Walker (SW) 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.

#### 4.2 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.

#### 4.3 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.

4.4 Case studies were shown of a T-Level placement student and a nuclear engineering apprentice to show the diversity that the training places provide to people in the local area.

### 5 Topics for Future Main Site Fora - (Chair)

5.1 Sue Spicer (SS) highlighted a BBC Radio 4 programme segment on placing artificial rockpools onto manmade structures like harbour walls. She suggested this could be a suitable topic for discussion and that she would be interested to know if the ecologists at HPC have considered such a scheme. AC and AG welcomed seeing more detail on this.

**AFTERNOTE:** SS shared more information available at this [link](#).

**AFTERNOTE**

5.2 Chris Morgan (CM) said the Parish Councils have waited 16 years for Section 106 money and land to be handed to them via Strongvox. He said this included two parcels of land and £15,000 index linked. He said they have also been given £75,000 from EDF to improve parking in the village. He said there are two pots of money, and they want to be able to put these together to provide adequate car parking in the area. There was an exchange with Rosemary Woods (RW) on this.

The Chair summarised that there was a need to have a meeting to discuss the Section 106 money which is not land related to the EDF estate.

On the £75,000 from EDF to improve parking, AG said it is available and there is a process for this.

5.3 AC encouraged members to share whether HPC have the balance right in terms of what they cover at the Fora. He asked whether members would like more deep dives into technical topics as an example.

5.4 BE asked whether there is bandwidth for a Community, Main Site and Transport Forum. AC said this is part of a conversation to have with Forum members as HPC want to avoid delivering the same presentations to similar groups, but equally, they do not want to disenfranchise anyone.

5.5 BE said there should be a way to bring issues from other forums to the Main Site Forum. AC recognised that there is a read out at the Community Forum of the other Forum meetings but that this is not the case for the Main Site and Transport Forums.

5.6 BE said there could be an opportunity to bring all Forum members together for an update at the same time and then deliver different sector updates within this.

5.7 AC made the point that there will be an eventual transition into a Site Stakeholder Group.

- 5.8 ML said the value in the Main Site Forum is that it is local, and the issues that should be discussed will vary depending on the time.
- 5.9 The Chair encouraged people to put forward any suggestions they have and for this to be revisited at the next meeting.

## **6 Any other business – (Chair)**

- 6.1 RW asked whether all AIL movements had gone well.  
SW said the two most recent movements saw HPC's biggest delivery in terms of width and length.
- 6.2 SS said she had seen some red helicopters about and asked whether this had anything to do with EDF. AC said there had been emergency drills taking place for the offshore rigs in collaboration with the coastguard, adding that HPC gave notification of this.
- 6.3 Allan Searle (AS) asked for an update on fly parking.  
AC said it is important that people report fly parking as it enables the fly parking team to track hotspots and start enforcement action. He said three people have lost their jobs for repeat fly parking.  
SW added that people should still report fly parking even if they do not manage to note the vehicle registration number as the fly-parking team can still visit the area.

## **7 Date of next meeting: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm**

- 7.1 It was confirmed that the new Fora Chair, Doug Bamsey, will chair the next meeting.

2023 dates for the Community, Main Site and Transport Forums

All 6pm start and on Thursdays:

**Main Site Forum:** 23rd February 2023 / 22nd June 2023 / 19th October 2023

**Community Forum:** 19th January 2023 / 18th May 2023 / 21st September 2023

**Transport Forum:** 16th March 2023 / 13th July 2023 / 16th November 2023

- 7.2 The meeting ended.