

# Meeting Report

**Regarding:**

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

**Participating:**

Doug Bamsey, *Chair*  
Alun Griffiths (AGr), *ONR*  
David Prescott (DP), *ONR*  
Carwyn Jones (CJ), *Somerset Council*  
Allan Jeffery (AJ), *Green Party*  
Paul Stevens (PS), *Somerset Council*  
Joanna Whitehead (JW), *Somerset Council*  
Roy Pumfrey (RP), *Stop Hinkley*  
Sue Spicer (SS), *Burton Resident*  
Sue Goss (SG), *Stogursey Parish Council*  
Steve Pettitt (SP), *Cannington Parish Council*  
Shaun Ryall (SR), *Cannington Parish Council*  
Stuart Hill (SH), *C.H.A.I.R & Wildfowlers*  
Mike Haycraft (MH), *Otterhampton Parish Council*  
Mark Phillips (MP), *Wembdon Parish Council*  
John Burton (JB), *Somerset Council*  
Peter Payne (PP), *Williton Parish Council*  
Valdo Andrade (VA), *Avon & Somerset Police*  
Sarah Nason (SN), *Holford Parish Council*

**Date & Venue:**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 6pm**  
**Meeting held at: Bridgwater & Taunton College,  
Cannington**

Tina Gardener (TN), *Otterhampton Parish Council*  
Justin Sargent (JS), *Somerset Community Foundation*  
Claire Faun (CF), *Somerset Council*  
Derek Buller (DB), *Fiddington Parish Council*  
Rosemary Woods (RW), *Somerset Council*  
Terry Ayre (TA), *local resident*

**EDF Team:**

Andrew Cockcroft (AC), *EDF*  
Anne Lawrence (AL), *EDF*  
Andrew Goodchild (AG), *EDF*  
Jane Tomaney (JT), *EDF*  
Jo Manley (JM), *EDF*  
Drew Aspinwall (DA), *SEC Newgate UK*  
Robyn Evans (RE), *SEC Newgate UK*

**Apologies received:**

Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*  
Richard Cuttell, *W.H.A.G.*

**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)**

Item	Action
<b>1 Introductions</b>	
1.1 Doug Bamsey ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the meeting, ran through the venue arrangements and forum protocols, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.	
<b>2 Meeting Note and Matters Arising</b>	
2.1 The Chair reviewed the previous Community Forum meeting note from 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2023 including the actions and after-notes and invited any further comment.	
2.2 <b>ACTION 3.34</b> – Richard Cuttell (RC) had commented on cyclists travelling at speed down a narrow footpath to get to site. There was discussion on worn-off signage/paint on the path to show the cyclists where to go. <b>AFTERNOTE:</b> On 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024, Joanna Whitehead (JW) received confirmation that the Parish Council had not formally reported the issue. JW therefore supported in reporting the signage of the cycle path by supplying details and the link to the correct place on Somerset Council's website for the Parish Clerk to report the issue with the signage/painting to ensure this was logged on the system.	<b>AFTERNOTE</b>
2.3 <b>ACTION 3.4</b> – There was discussion on the HPC bus incident last year and JW had committed to relaying Stuart Hill's (SH) comments on the blocked culvert to the individual leading on this matter at Somerset Council. JW said the Council's legal representatives have not yet received the Police report into the accident, but its own investigations have shown that conditions were indeed icy, and the area was subject to a Police warning the day before the accident and the road was appropriately gritted. From its own investigations, they are not aware of anything that the Council did or failed to do to contribute to this very unfortunate accident or make it more likely. The Police report will be fully reviewed and assessed once it is received.	
2.4 <b>AFTERNOTE 3.6</b> – AC provided the formal statement from Avon & Somerset Police on the cause of the bus incident. Roy Pumfrey (RP) asked how EDF have received the Police report, but Somerset Council have not. Andrew Cockcroft (AC) clarified that EDF have not received the Police report, just the public statement on it. Anne Lawrence (AL) said HPC have requested the Police report but have not yet received it.	
2.5 <b>AFTERNOTE 3.18</b> – SH had asked whether there will be an ability to isolate parts of the system in the future for maintenance purposes. AC provided an afternote confirming that the equipment held within the pump house can be isolated for maintenance during outage periods. This will be achieved through the use of removal sluice gates that can be inserted and removed when necessary.	
2.6 <b>AFTERNOTE 4.6</b> – SH asked whether there is any key data on the HPC Inspire programme. A <a href="#">link</a> was provided to an independent evaluation report into the impact of HPC's Inspire programme.	
2.7 <b>AFTERNOTE 5.5</b> – SH asked about the silo collapse. An afternote was provided which referenced an update previously given by Anne Lawrence at the Community Forum in May 2021 on the investigation findings from the GGBS silo collapse.	
2.8 <b>AFTERNOTE 5.6</b> – It was further noted that the ONR provided feedback at the May 2021 Community Forum which summarised the ONR view that the duty holder had undertaken a thorough and comprehensive investigation and that the learning has been shared with wider industry.	

2.9 The meeting note was agreed.

### 3 Project Progress – (Andrew Cockcroft, Anne Lawrence EDF)

#### 3.1 Safety and Learning

Anne Lawrence (AL) gave an update on safety and learning. She informed members that the ONR have served enforcement notices related to fire safety arrangements following pre-planned inspections in November. She said this relates to an instance where Tier 1 contractors were working. She gave assurance that HPC take these notices seriously and are putting arrangements in place to deal with them before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

#### 3.2 Project Progress Virtual Tour

AC highlighted project progress over the past few months. The end of year film was shown and is available to watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2GkK1TQzCc>

#### 3.3 The Journey to Dome Lift

- The Polar Crane has been lifted into the first reactor building. Weighing in at 750-tonnes, it's one of the heaviest lifts ever carried out on site.
- The crane will rotate 360° on rails at the top of the building and will be used to install heavy equipment during construction, such as the reactor and steam generators. It will also be used when the power station is operational for refuelling and maintenance.

#### 3.4 Dome Lift

- The 245-tonne steel dome has been successfully lifted into place.
- The lift was carefully planned to take advantage of a weather window to allow the manoeuvre to be completed in low wind conditions.
- The Polar Crane is now protected and the building is now weather-tight.
- This accelerates civil construction work to MEH.

#### 3.5 Looking Forward to 2024

- Steam generators will arrive at site.
- The MEH phase will accelerate.
- The reactor pressure vessel will be installed.

#### 3.6 People Update

As Hinkley Point C moves into peak construction and the workforce grows, HPC will be working with Somerset Council and wider community groups to ensure the project continues to limit any impact on the local area.

3.6 AC said the current mitigation measures are having a positive impact and that direct complaints against the project are flatlining. He said that wider benefits continue to grow, highlighting that:

- Around 40% of the workforce are local.
- 1,300 apprentices trained so far with c.70 percent coming from the local area.
- £5 billion has been spent with thousands of local businesses from across the South West.
- Centres of Excellence are fully operational and will support the next generation.

3.7 AC said that a new advertising campaign is highlighting some of the 'local heroes' who have been forging careers at HPC.

#### 3.8 Pre-submitted Questions – Workforce Uplift

Submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

"How much progress has been made in discussions between EDF and Somerset Council on mitigations for the impact of 10 or 11,000 workers at HPC?"

Answer: AC said he attempted to answer this question in his project progress update.

RP asked for more specific details and said he has not detected anything in the public realm on workforce uplift.

AC said more information will be shared with Forum members when HPC have more detail and gave assurance that members will be kept updated and involved. On timescales, AC said would like to do this before the next Community Forum.

**3.9** SG said she understood that it was 12,000 workers that HPC were negotiating on, possibly even 15,000.

AC said the current workforce is around 10,000. He said HPC want to bring a final position on numbers and what this will mean in terms of mitigation.

SG asked if it could go up to 15,000 workers.

AC reiterated that this is the process that HPC are working on now to identify how many workers are needed.

SG asked how many workers are permitted under health and safety.

AC said there is no legal limit on numbers on site, but the site does have a carrying capacity and must be able to cater for people, provide sanitation and transport, and consider safety elements.

The Chair said the sooner the Forum can be updated the better.

**3.10** Andrew Goodchild (AG) added that the reference to 10,000 or 11,000 workers on site is within a 24-hour period. He said the actual number on site is not as high as this at any one time as there are shifts on site. He said the answer on numbers varies according to different topics, for example, when it comes to assessing accommodation requirements, this will consider the workers staying in the local area and not those workers who are travelling home.

SG said HPC must know the maximum number of people on a shift.

AC reiterated that HPC will share information as soon as they have clarity and a final position.

**3.11** SH said it is high time for more information on this.

AC said HPC will provide more detail once available.

**3.12** Allan Jeffery (AJ) spoke about the increase in numbers and sewerage, saying there is a public consultation from the Environment Agency about the increase in pollutants.

AC said the drive of this application is to normalise the levels because HPC has historically been at a low level.

## **4 Item 4: Overview of HPC DCO Consultation (Andrew Goodchild, HPC)**

### **4.1 Material Change Consultation**

AG gave an overview of HPC's DCO Material Change Consultation, covering the below:

- HPC's Proposals
- The Documents and Plans which explain and set out HPC's preliminary assessment of the likely impacts and benefits of its proposals
- The ways in which people can engage with HPC
- How to respond to the consultation
- Next steps after the consultation

**4.2** AG gave assurance that this consultation is the beginning of a broader process, and the application will eventually be decided by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

- Early 2024 – Statutory pre-application consultation
- Early 2025 – Submission of applications, consultation and pre-examination period
- Mid 2025 – Examination
- Late 2025 – Inspectors recommendation to Secretary of State
- Early 2026 – Secretary of State's decision

#### 4.3 Pre-submitted Questions – Material Change Consultation

Submitted by Roy Pumfrey, Stop Hinkley

“There is a suspicion that commenting to EDF on the Material Changes Consultation is pointless and that time would be better spent on formulating evidence for the Planning Inspectorate hearings. How would you respond?”

Answer: AG said all Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, DCO and Material Change applications must produce a consultation report setting out what people have said and how HPC has had regard for this. He said this will be submitted with HPC’s application and the inspector will consider the detail of this. He added that as a project, HPC do listen and seek to respond positively to comments people make.

4.4 SH said there have previously been fish deterrents fitted to power stations in the Severn Estuary and that he cannot understand why these are not being referred to in the consultation materials. He said there is also no mention of which fish are affected and which are not. AG encouraged SH to look at the Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment Report. It looks at more than 30 species of fish and describes the beneficial effects of each of the compensation measures on each of the species of fish.

4.5 RP said nobody will remember changes to the dimensions of the new dry spent fuel store compared to the original wet fuel store. He said it will be simpler to tell people the new dry store will be twice the volume as the original wet fuel store as a picture of how much bigger the building will be. AG said it is not quite twice the size but acknowledged that it is a significant building and a significant change as it is proposed to be nearly 80m longer in length.

4.6 RP said that in terms of its skyline it will be the third highest building on the site. AG said it is smaller than the reactor dome and the turbine halls.

4.7 AG said things have changed as a result of consultation in the past. RP said he is now clearer that people’s comments will form part of a report for the Planning Inspectorate.

4.8 Mark Phillips (MP) asked what will happen with regard to the AFD if the SoS turns down the application. AG said if the SoS turns HPC’s application down then HPC will probably need to halt work on the power station as it will not be able to undertake hot functional testing and will need time for the design, engineering and installation of an AFD. He said HPC have set out the reasons why this would be an issue within the shadow HRA. He said one of the alternatives is to wait until HPC have designed an AFD.

4.9 SG said Stogursey Parish Council have had interesting discussions with EDF regarding the change in size of the fuel store and had a positive discussion regarding some mitigation and are quite happy with what is proposed.

4.10 SG asked whether there is an update on the deflectograph survey and whether county highways have provided HPC with the figures yet. AG said this has not yet happened. JW gave an update saying there has been a delay in completing the survey due to a recent spate of poor weather. The final survey has now been completed and the results are being analysed. It will be important first to consider the outcome of the survey with colleagues at EDF as they have been undertaken to assess the level of deterioration that is attributable to the HPC project. In the meanwhile, any defects identified in the highway should be reported through the council’s website.

**4.11** AJ spoke on compensation for the AFD, asking where the seagrass and kelp would be on the map of the Severn Estuary. He said the tidal nature of the Severn Estuary is very muddy and questioned where there will be clear water to grow kelp and seagrass.

AG said HPC's intention is to try to find some suitable locations within the Special Area of Conservation. HPC plan to work with recognised industry experts and university research organisations to try to find the best possible location and the adaptive monitoring plan will allow them to undertake trials and ensure this works. He said they may do several trials in different locations before settling on the final location for the full 15 hectares. He said HPC will engage with the statutory nature conservation bodies on the process over next 12 months before they settle on the scheme to include in the application.

**4.12** AJ asked whether there would be hard copies or CDs with the consultation materials on them. AG said everything is on the website and AC encouraged people to let the team know if they have any trouble accessing the website or documentation.

## **5 Item 5: Office of Nuclear Regulation Report (Alun Griffiths, ONR)**

**5.1** Alun Griffiths (AGr) explained that the ONR are an independent statutory regulator and attend the forums as an observer.

### **5.2 ONR Report Q3/4 2023**

In this period, routine inspections of the Hinkley Point C site covered the following: plant construction and/or commissioning; emergency preparedness; nuclear safety committee functioning quality assurance and records; organisational capability, including the function of the Internal Regulator; conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety, including life fire safety; security.

ONR continues its engagement with the project via regular site inspections, visits and meetings at NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd's offices and supplier locations across the following themes: design and safety case; organisational capability (including supply chain and quality); pre-operations; conventional health and safety and fire safety; and security.

These inspections, along with routine contact with other international regulatory bodies provide ONR with valuable intelligence on the progress NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd is making developing its competence and capability to manage the design, procurement, and construction of HPC and will inform future permissioning decisions.

### **5.3 Permissioning**

- RPV installation will be a major permissioning point, using primary powers.
- In advance of major permissioning points ONR will apply flexible permissioning to allow the start of a number of other activities.
  - ONR concluded flexible permissioning in relation to the lifting of the dome onto the unit 1 Reactor Building. The conclusion of ONR inspection and assessment activities was that the licensee had demonstrated that its decision-making process for release of this dutyholder hold point was clear, rational and robust.
  - ONR applied flexible permissioning to the release for shipment of the first two steam generators from Framatome. ONR performed a series of inspections and assessed the licensee's relevant safety submissions to conclude that the risk of shipment to further downstream activities was low.

### **5.4 Non-routine matters**

- The investigations into the tragic fatality that occurred on site in November 2022 and the separate event at site that resulted in a worker sustaining injuries as a result of a rebar mesh wall falling continue.

- At this time, the ONR are unable to provide further details about the ongoing investigations as these remain live inquiries.
- Enforcement Notices have been served under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in relation to breaches identified during a routine inspection. The notices were served on:
  - NNB GenCo as the Principal Contractor
  - Contractors Bouygues Travaux Publics SAS and Laing O'Rourke Construction Limited, the joint venture partners in BYLOR JV.
  - Contractor REEL UK.
- These notices were served in relation to conventional health and safety matters and not nuclear related safety matters. Enforcement Letters had previously been served.

**5.5** RP asked what has happened in respect of fire safety to serve the enforcement notices. AGr said there were people working on a platform and they did not have emergency lighting and adequate fire signage coming down. He said there was no immediate harm to those undertaking activity on the platform, but notices were served because of a lack of an adequate fire risk assessment that should have identified those control measures in the first place. He explained that this is the level of non-compliance but as the ONR have served previous enforcement letters in a similar area, they would have expected the duty holders to address these and therefore have escalated to formal enforcement notices.

**5.6** RP asked whether the ONR will be submitting views on the material changes. AGr said the ONR is a statutory consultee so will be formally responding.

**5.7** SH asked whether learning is taken into the fatalities on site. AGr gave assurance that the ONR have looked at learning and continue to do so and will continue to look at the other measures the duty holders have introduced.

**5.8** AJ asked for a rough timeline of when the ONR may be able to give permission for nuclear fuel to come on site at HPC. AGr said the ONR will have a primary powers permissioning over fuel to site and would expect a safety case to permission this and would expect a minimum six months assessment period for this. He said the ONR engage with regulatory colleagues across the world, and this will be built into permissioning.

## **6 Item 6: Update: Community Fund – (Justin Sargent, Somerset Community Foundation)**

**6.1** Justin Sargent (JS) gave an update on the HPC Community Fund. He spoke on the headline figures and gave some examples of recent funding.

### **6.2 Burnham and Highbridge Community Association**

JS explained that with more workers moving into Brean, they are conscious of making sure this becomes a bigger focal point for the fund and have put £30,000 into supporting the Burnham and Highbridge Community Association to help with their heating system and overall energy efficiency to try to reduce their costs to run.

#### **Stogursey Youth Club**

JS said Stogursey Youth Club has received funding to keep it open.

### **6.3 SCF Contacts:**

Amelia Thompson, Senior Programmes Manager / [amelia.thompson@somersetcf.org.uk](mailto:amelia.thompson@somersetcf.org.uk)  
Peter Stolze, Programme Manager / [peter.stolze@somersetcf.org.uk](mailto:peter.stolze@somersetcf.org.uk)  
01749 344949 [www.hpcfunds.co.uk](http://www.hpcfunds.co.uk) / [www.somersetcf.org.uk](http://www.somersetcf.org.uk)

**6.4** JS said there will be a slight change in brand at the Somerset Community Foundation. They are going to keep the HPC community logo and have created a separate website for the HPC funds.

He also said the Foundation will be going out to recruit a new community panel member and are looking for someone from the west Somerset coast area. He encouraged Forum members to spread the word in helping appoint someone onto the panel.

**7 Item 7: Main Site Forum 19 October 2023 - (Chair)**

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

**8 Item 8: Transport Forum 16 November 2023 - (Chair)**

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

**9 Item 9: Any Other Business**

**9.1** SH said a removable signpost at Comwich does not seem to have been put back. AC and JW said they would look into this.

**10 Item 10: Date of next Community Forum**

**10.1** The next Community Forum will be held on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6pm.**

**10.2** The meeting ended.