



Hartlepool Power Station Local Community Liaison Committee Minutes of meeting held at Hartlepool Further Education College on Wednesday, June 5 2024



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Attendees

Mark Lees, EDF - Station Director Hartlepool Power Station (Meeting chair)
Kirsty Hopkinson - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Sharne Lane - Hartlepool Power Station
Jennifer Charlton - EDF, Hartlepool Power Station
Ross Nuttall, EDF - Hartlepool Power Station
Louise Taylor - Hartlepool Power Station
Matthew Pardo - EDF
Sarah Clarke - Hartlepool Power Station
Ann Oxley - Teesmouth Field Centre
Claire Gubbins - Teesmouth Field Centre
Claire Shakespeare-Watts - Teesmouth Field Centre
Martin Green - Local resident
Heather Moorhouse - North Yorkshire County Council
Scott Redpath - Office for Nuclear Regulation
Gil Parker - Alice House Hospice
Jon Davenport - Environment Agency
Tim Shurmer - Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit
Mark Elliott - Hartlepool Further Education College

Apologies

Chris Stocks - PD Ports
Debbie Kershaw - Hartlepool Borough Council
Paul Rowling - Hartlepool Borough Council
Michelle Bendelow - Stockton Borough Council
Stephen Smith - Greatham Parish Council
Robin Beach - Hartlepool Borough Council

Introduction

1. Mark Elliot, Head of Hartlepool FE College's school of Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering welcomed attendees to the college and explained the courses on offer to young people.
2. He said that new and emerging industries setting up in Teesside would soon need apprentices and qualified pupils from the college. Because of this it was important that the college trains youngsters for the jobs of the future, so he appealed to industries to work with the college.

LCLC business

3. Hartlepool Power Station Director Mark Lees then formally opened the meeting noting the college's facilities.
4. He discussed both actions from the previous meeting which were both closed out. a) This concerned staging a meeting at Hartlepool FE College.

b) This concerned arrangements for testing of nuclear fuel flasks once they left Hartlepool Power Station. Discussions were held.

Hartlepool Power Station Operations Update

5. Mark offered an operational update for Hartlepool Power Station. He said that late last year a steam valve incident at Heysham 1 power station in Lancashire had identified the potential for a similar issue in Hartlepool.
6. Because of this, he explained, a decision was taken in January to take the reactors offline and investigate the same steam valves as caused issues in Heysham.
7. He said that during operations to bring the reactors back to power, in March, a boiler tube leak on one system needed engineering attention before the reactor could be brought back to service. The second reactor was brought back to full power in April.
8. He discussed how station teams had worked extremely hard during this period and that there had been extensive consultation with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) throughout.
9. He also mentioned an issue from November last year in which there had been a loss of water supplies. He explained that talks had been held with the ONR and that future risk had been mitigated by the addition of extra plant at the station.
10. Martin Green asked if steam valves investigated at Hartlepool were found to have the same issues as at Heysham. Mark responded that investigations of the valves did identify minor issues which were speedily addressed.
11. Scott Redpath said that ONR was involved in the steam valves, boiler tube leak and water loss issues, and mentioned that the body had issued the station an Enforcement Letter following the water stocks issue.

Environmental issues and site safety

12. Ross Nuttall said it has been 11 years and four months since the last top tier environmental event.
13. He went on to explain that the station had recently received the Wildlife Trust Biodiversity Benchmark Accreditation, an award presented to businesses able to demonstrate their sites are being managed in a way that improves areas for wildlife.
14. He also mentioned Soles4Soles. In this initiative old footwear used onsite is collected and sent to the charity. It then repurposes the equipment and donates it to those in need.
15. Ross also discussed how the station was now sending marine waste, gathered as part of routine operations, to anaerobic digestion plants

which use organic material to generate zero carbon energy. Ross reported that so far this year 40 tonnes of matter had been sent to the digester, leading to electricity generation, which saved the UK more than 32 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

16. Ross discussed how, since the last LCLC, there had been one lost time injury. The injury was to a maintenance technician who injured his calf in the maintenance workshop.
17. He explained that in January there had been a release of Taprogge balls from the power station. He said that beach searches were carried out at the time to retrieve all the balls that could be identified and that since that time few balls were being found.
18. He discussed how EDF is investigating the viability of employing divers to investigate the seabed around the power station.
19. Jon Davenport of the Environment Agency mentioned that Tees Valley Wildlife Trust was charting where balls had been found on beaches and said that the Maritime Management Organisation and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, were working together to look at the impact the balls could have on the environment. He noted that the measures undertaken by the station in recent years meant that fewer balls were being released than ever before.

People update

20. Kirsty Hopkinson said that Hartlepool Power Station presently employs 540 EDF staff and 250 contract partners.
21. She told the meeting that there had been around 400 applications for just four maintenance apprentice positions.
22. She spoke about a new apprenticeship scheme being delivered by the University of Cumbria which has two candidates, and how there will be seven graduates starting in September.

Community update

23. Hartlepool Power Station Visitor Centre Co-ordinator Louise Taylor told the meeting that this year the centre has had more than 1000 visitors.
24. She mentioned in March the centre celebrated its tenth birthday with a visit from a primary school group.
25. She told how EDF had adopted The Alzheimer's Society as its latest corporate charity partner and various groups onsite had already undertaken fundraising challenges for the organisation.

26. Mark added that the visitor centre guides are a vital link to getting young people interested in working at the power station, and a lot of staff first became interested in working here following a visit to site.

Regulatory updates

27. Jon Davenport of the Environment Agency said the body is working with station to ensure it is doing everything it can to be ready for defueling and decommissioning works, presently estimated to start in 2026.
28. He talked about three separate inspections which had taken place (environmental monitoring programme, a district survey laboratory inspection and a ponds inspection) since the last meeting and all produced only minor recommendations.
29. He then spoke about the upcoming Environment Agency Habits Survey. Completed every ten years, the survey aims to establish how people use the area closest to the power station. Estimates could then be made of the radiological doses received by the 'typical' person. The work is due to start in July and Jon promised to provide an email address for people to use to report activities to help make the report as accurate as possible.
30. Scott Redpath of the Office for Nuclear Regulation informed the group that all inspections, reports and enforcement actions by the ONR could be found on its website <https://www.onr.org.uk/our-work/what-we-regulate/operational-power-stations/operational-sitesfacilities/hartlepool/>
31. He discussed how the power station repeated an emergency exercise in February, which had previously identified shortfalls in arrangements. The repeated test was passed.
32. He went on to talk about station work to address the risk of extreme ambient temperatures inside the power station.
33. He mentioned some upcoming inspections and then how the ONR is engaged in several design assessments for small modular reactors with various companies.
34. He said the Hartlepool Power Station Q1 inspection report should be available on the ONR website within the coming weeks.

Teesmouth Field Centre (TFC)

35. Claire mentioned how the TFC is busy and fully booked with schools and other groups.
36. She discussed how they will have been onsite for 54 years in October 2024.
37. She told the meeting that they have staged three joint visits with the power station since the last LCLC in December 2023 and that this year they have had over 1500 people visit.

38. She mentioned a beach clean completed at North Gare, which saw 21 bags of rubbish taken away and ended saying that it was good to see that there is a lot more marine life on beaches.

Alice House

39. Gil Parker discussed the Brightsparks event in March which was hosted by EDF. EDF sponsors Brightsparks, in which schools are given £20 and encouraged to use it to fundraise. This year's charity challenge was won by St Helen's Primary School in Hartlepool, which raised £2000 for the hospice.
40. Gil thanked EDF for being involved in the events.

Any Other Business

41. Mark Lees discussed a visit to the power station by Labour Shadow Cabinet member Ed Miliband. On the visit the MP spoke to staff and media about the importance of the power station to the town, area and region.
42. Mark also mentioned an event held in the spring which brought together politicians and businesses from across the region to discuss future green ambitions and highlight the numerous projects EDF is backing across the Tees' area.
43. Kirsty Hopkinson discussed how EDF's profile will continue to grow, and the power station become more visible, as public interest in new nuclear at Hartlepool continues to grow.
44. The room discussed the venue for the next meeting. Mark said he would like to have one meeting a year in a different venue. The next meeting would be staged at the power station on November 27. Further details to be circulated nearer the time.
45. **ACTION** Kirsty to invite an EDF renewables representative to a future LCLC meeting to outline the company's activities in the Tees area.
46. Mark Lees thanked participants for attending and closed the meeting.