



Hartlepool Power Station Local Community Liaison Committee - Minutes of meeting held at the station on Wednesday, January 8 2025



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Attendees

Mark Lees, EDF – Station Director Hartlepool Power Station (Meeting Chair)
Kirsty Withers – EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Andrew Auty - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Ross Nuttall - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Jamie Moss - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Sarah Dunn - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Lee Dodgson - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Robin Beach - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Toni-Leigh Bowler - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Keeley Potter - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Jenny Railston - EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Matthew Pardo - EDF
Chris Stocks – PD Ports
David Coupe – Middlesbrough Borough Council
Peter Gavigan – Middlesbrough Borough Council
Gil Parker – Alice House Hospice
Stephen Smith – Greatham Parish Council
Scott Redpath – Office for Nuclear Regulation
Clare Gubbins – Teesmouth Field Centre
Clare Shakespeare-Watts – Teesmouth Field Centre
Ann Oxley – Teesmouth Field Centre
Paula Wilkinson – Teesmouth National Nature Reserve
Martin Green – Local resident
Tim Shurmer – Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit
Andrew Tickle – Hartlepool Borough Council
Jon Davenport – Environment Agency
Matthew Dodds – Hartlepool Borough Council

Apologies

Debbie Kershaw – Hartlepool Borough Council
Michelle Bendelow – Stockton Borough Council

Introduction

1. Mark Lees opened the meeting, noting how good attendance was.

Actions from Previous Meeting

2. Kirsty Withers had been asked to invite an EDF renewables representative to a future LCLC meeting to outline the company's activities in the Tees area.
3. Kirsty confirmed that there was no representation today and asked that the action be left open. **ACTION**

Hartlepool Power Station life extension

4. Mark Lees gave an overview of the last year and a look forward to 2025. He confirmed the news of a life extension for the generating power station to 2027.
5. He explained the process that EDF had gone through in order to be able to make the decision.
6. Scott Redpath of ONR explained it was an EDF decision but that his organisation engaged with the work throughout.
7. Mark discussed about the station lifetime stretching out for several decades. Noting the generation, defueling and decommissioning work to come. He spoke about long term job prospects in nuclear and what this meant for the staff who work at the power station, and the benefits that brings to the surrounding community.
8. Kirsty Withers added that work was already underway to sketch out future job requirements at the station and to start engaging staff to determine what their long-term plans were.

Station operations update

9. Mark talked about a recent shut down for work on steam boilers. He confirmed that a steam leak had been identified and sealed, but that the reactor had needed to come offline until that work was complete.
10. Andrew Auty spoke about reactor graphite and explained that inspection works are undertaken during each shutdown of the reactor, to fully understand the condition of the graphite. He explained Hartlepool has been successful in obtaining samples of graphite from control rods. This is the first time this has been done in the world and provides EDF scientists with data for modelling the future condition of the graphite core.
11. Mark Lees confirmed that there will be a statutory outage in April, which would bring in hundreds of people to the area.

Environmental issues and site safety

12. Andrew Auty discussed how the station had operated outside its parameters, this was self-identified and immediately corrected by the control room team. This incident was reported to the ONR inspector.
13. Additionally during this period, when the station was operating at a lower power level, a query was raised around the safety case position and ongoing operations. After detailed examination the safety case position was confirmed as adequate.
14. Scott Redpath followed up by confirming that preliminary enquiries had been carried out by the ONR to satisfy that what the station had done and explained the process around the incidents' classification and that no further action was required.

15. Andrew also spoke about an injury to a technician's finger which had been reportable as it breached Manual Handling Operations Regulations.
16. He also talked about an industrial safety enforcement letter received regarding asbestos controls. A fuse containing asbestos, in a sealed unit, had been replaced when it should not have been. This replacement had meant asbestos regulations had been breached. Scott Redpath confirmed that upon investigation the risk was identified as negligible and that the ONR would not have known about the incident had the station not reported it. Scott was satisfied that measures were in place to ensure this sort of event does not happen again.
17. Jamie Moss stated that the site has had a lot of engagement with the Environment Agency and that specific inspections of combustion plant, hazardous waste and how the site controls major hazards and a joint ONR and EA inspection, had all recently been completed.
18. He told the meeting about work he has been involved with to repurpose safety footwear. Since implementing this initiative the station has donated 71 pairs of safety footwear to deprived areas via the Soles4Souls charity. This avoids having to send old shoes to landfill.
19. He spoke about marine waste. Previously the site had sent marine waste to landfill. However it now has a contract with a company which will send marine waste taken in by plant operations, to an anaerobic digestion plant. This plant produces energy and the amount diverted from landfill produced enough power to meet the needs of 30 homes for a year.
20. Jamie then mentioned noise complaints after the station was taken offline. During these events noise from the station was audible in local homes and some local residents had contacted Cleveland Police and Hartlepool Council about the noise. Robin Beach explained to the meeting that the station is re-establishing a notification system. This will mean when similar events occur a proforma is sent to Cleveland Police, which then cascades the information to relevant local authorities and emergency services. If the public makes contact about the noise, they can be informed about what is going on.
21. Robin was asked to consider what is feasible regarding the cascade channels to ensure the correct people can be reached and pass any messages out.

ACTION

22. Mark Lees mentioned environmental awareness training and Jamie Moss explained that this is offered to all Hartlepool Power Station staff. Jon Davenport expressed interest in sitting in on the course.
23. Robin Beach took the meeting through emergency planning and the exercises carried out last year that learning can be taken from. He then took the meeting through the plan for 2025 and offered the opportunity to anyone who was interested to come along to observe.

People update

24. Kirsty Withers said that Hartlepool Power Station presently employs 540 EDF staff and 250 contract partners. She added that from now on the station would expect to recruit around 40-50 people a year.
25. It was queried what people numbers looked like from 2027 onwards. Kirsty responded that as the station's end of life neared there would be a natural tapering off of staff and the number expected to be required for defueling operations would be around 480. She confirmed that this would change at the end of defueling where it will be around 300.
26. She confirmed that four new apprentice positions will be recruited for a September 2025 training start.
27. She confirmed that the station is also supporting two local colleges. At Hartlepool College the power station sponsors a classroom and donates redundant plant for students to work on. Power station staff are also invited to judge competitions and present awards. At Middlesbrough College the station is sponsoring a student who will have a placement at the power station to carry out a project on which they can base their coursework.
28. Future plans include pairing with local schools for week-long work experience opportunities.

Community update

29. Hartlepool Power Station Visitor Centre Co-ordinator Keeley Potter told the meeting that this year the centre has had 3441 visitors through the door. She also confirmed the power station raised a total of £5685.79 through fundraising. Of that total £2002.79 went to the Alzheimer's Society charity, £1855 went to Hartlepool Food Bank, and £1828 went to Alice House Hospice.
30. Hartlepool Food Bank also received a food shop funded by EDF and staff food donations. Alice House Hospice also received a £5000 annual donation.
31. Keeley discussed the rebranding of the Visitor Centre and encouraged anyone interested to book a visit by contacting her directly.

Regulatory updates

32. Jon Davenport confirmed that his updates were in the circulated report but went on to mention hazardous waste, combustion plant inspection, auxiliary boiler, radioactive waste management and Control of Major Accident Hazards inspections. He said that there was a lot of good practice identified, giving the example of a minor release of gases that didn't need to be reported, but was. He said the station was compliant with legislation and well maintained. He made the recommendation to keep paperwork up to date.
33. Scott Redpath confirmed that he didn't have the quarterly report finalised for the meeting but confirmed that it would be on the ONR website by the end of January. He mentioned that all documents are published at

<https://www.onr.org.uk/our-work/what-we-regulate/operational-power-stations/operational-sitesfacilities/hartlepool/>

34. Scott explained that ONR regulates 36 license conditions at the power station. He talked through the condition (LC10) that focuses on training and ensuring there were enough qualified and experienced people. He mentioned the joint work with the Environment Agency and the future aspects of decommissioning. He also discussed the site's boundary and ensuring the station's fence is maintained and the licensed site boundary is known.
35. He touched again on the low power operation event and the enforcement regarding asbestos.

Teemouth Field Centre (TFC)

36. Clare Gubbins confirmed the centre had welcomed 100 schools through the doors and 3200 visitors in 2024.
37. She told the meeting that in October 2025 it will be the field centre's 55th year of operations. She discussed that the field centre has permission to keep operating potentially to 2031, but that comes with its own challenges in terms of fundraising and staff retirements.
38. She confirmed that there are joint visits planned with Hartlepool Power Station Visitor Centre during June/July 2025 and thanked EDF for ongoing support.

Alice House

39. Gil Parker thanked EDF for actively supporting events and helping with volunteering. He expressed how grateful the hospice is for support.

Any Other Business

40. Tim Shurmer confirmed that the annual community calendar had been produced and he had copies to circulate at the meeting.
41. Mark Lees answered queries about the site's potential future and confirmed that there continues to be interest in the field alongside the power station as a potential new nuclear site, but there was no clarity from Government as yet.
42. The next meeting will be on May 28 with a location to be confirmed.
43. Mark closed the meeting.