

Meeting Report

Regarding:
EDF Energy Community Forum

Date:
17 November 2011

Attending:

Alan Beasley *Save Cannington Action Group*
John Edney *Somerset County Council*
Lesley Flash *West Hinkley Action Group*
Sue Goss *West Somerset Council*
Margaret Playle *Bridgwater College*
Andrew Goodchild *West Somerset Council*
Trevor Howes *Civil Nuclear Constabulary*
Allan Jeffery *Stop Hinkley*
Alyn Jones *Somerset County Council*
Colin Allen *Cannington Parish Council*
Jenny Lawrence *Somerset Racial Equality Council*

Christopher Durham *RAC Foundation*
John Swayne *Sedgemoor District Council*
John Roberts *Nether Stowey Parish Council*
Tom Blaxland *Bridgwater Civic Society*
Alan Ladd *Chairman*
David Eccles *EDF Energy*
Steve Barnsley *EDF Energy*
Clare Hennessey *EDF Energy*
Gordon Bell *EDF Energy*
Charles St George *PPS*
Jo Hatton Jones *PPS*

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<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Alan Ladd (AL) thanked attendees for coming, asked attendees to go round the table and introduce themselves and reminded them of the terms of reference of the Forum.</p> <p>Clare Hennessey and Steve Barnsley introduced themselves, explained that they had recently joined EDF Energy and outlined their respective roles.</p>
<p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>AL ran through the minutes and matters arising from the last Community Forum meeting on 15 September 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 2, item 2: The dates of the meetings would take into account the need to avoid the first Thursday of each month. Meeting dates will be dealt with under item 9. • Page 3, item 4: Trevor Howes (TH) confirmed that his meeting with Stuart Hill (SH) had occurred and the relevant information had been supplied. • Page 4, item 4: Alyn Jones (AJ) updated the Forum and said he had consulted the Council's Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer and the decision was that once the S106 agreement has been finalised a consultation will occur on each route with groups in the local community and further afield. • Page 4, item 4: Andrew Goodchild had prepared a presentation explaining the Section 106 obligations – see item 6 below. Sue and Mike Short requested this be a standing item on the MSNF agenda. ACTION: PPS • Page 4, item 6: EDFE felt that it was inappropriate to include an item on the jetty whilst the public inquiry is taking place. • Page 5, item 8: Charles St George (CSG) gave an update on Forum registration and explained that a letter was sent (13 October) to those not registered with a further chance to register. A number of forms have been returned however there are also a number, which have not been. CSG listed the organisations that have not registered and suggested that they should be removed from the list. He noted that they would be welcome to rejoin in the future if they wish to do so through the new registration process. He asked if there were any objections. John Edney (JE) said that he was surprised that the Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce had not responded. He asked that PPS check

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that this has not been overlooked. **ACTION: PPS.** He also asked if Bridgwater Town Council was on the list and CSG confirmed that it was. It was agreed that the rest of the groups would be taken off the list. Alan Jeffery (AJ) said he would also check with Forum 21.

- Page 5, item 9: David Eccles (DE) has emailed Lynda Laird (LL) and Colin Allen (CA) confirmed that the information had been received.

3. DCO application update

DE gave an update in relation to the submission of the DCO application:

- The application was submitted on the 31 October 2011.
- The IPC has up to 28 days to decide whether or not to accept the submission, which means a decision should be known by 29 November 2011.
- People will then need to register their comments with the IPC and will be able to view the application on the IPC website.
- There will be public hearings in the summer of 2012 and determination of the application is anticipated by the end of 2012.
- A comprehensive navigation document was submitted with the application.
- There should not be any surprises in the application as it reflects proposals put forward at recent Forum meetings and during the public consultation events.

Alyn Jones (AJ) explained that the local Councils were invited to respond to the IPC on the adequacy of EDF Energy's consultation and were given 14 days to do so. The Councils' joint report, confirms that EDFE did what it said it would do in the SoCC, but criticised certain aspects of the consultation process. The Councils' response is available on the SCC website.

DE then explained that EDFE has committed to undertake information events during the IPC registration period and would publicise details widely. There is no obligation for the Company to do this, however it was felt to be important. If the IPC accepts the application, EDFE will write to those that responded to the consultation informing them that the application has been accepted and providing details on how to find and comment on the information.

Information sessions will also be organised in similar venues to those used for the consultation events. These will be advertised in the local and national press and in a newsletter to be circulated before Christmas. Hard copies of the application and exhibition materials will be available in EDFE's Bridgwater office, along with summary documents on the application, the consultation report and the non-technical Environmental Statement.

DE explained that the information sessions would not be held during Christmas or New Year holiday periods. Lesley Flash (LF) asked whether any sessions would be held on a weekend locally. CSG confirmed that a couple of Saturday events are planned.

Andrew Goodchild (AG) explained that the IPC will be consulting on the application and holding outreach events but is not yet clear on the details, although it is likely to happen after the validation of the consultation (probably December, but times and venues are not yet confirmed).

AJ asked whether EDFE would set the timeline for the registration process with the IPC and DE confirmed that it would.

John Edney (JE) sought clarification on which bypasses would be included in the consultation. DE confirmed that the Northern Bridgwater bypass was not included but the Cannington Western bypass was.

4. Transport Forum update

DE summarised the key points of note that were raised during the Transport Forum on 27 September and 25 October 2011:

- Somerset County Council gave a presentation on transport conditions.
- There was discussion on issues relating to Huntworth Roundabout.

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- Improvements to C182 including horse crossings and links to PROW, which are yet to be resolved.
- The C182 clearway and the possibility of setting a 50mph speed limit has been submitted to the County.
- Issues relating to Claylands Corner were discussed.
- An update on cycling provision was given.
- Cannington Mitigation Package and improvements for pedestrians in connection to the site preparatory works has also been discussed and there will be a public engagement exercise to accompany this. A workshop and exhibition will be held in November to discuss two options with the local community before a final scheme is worked up in discussion with the Parish Council and submitted to the County.

John Swayne (JS) raised issue about EDFE's information on traffic at the Huntworth roundabout, which he believes to be flawed or inaccurate as it suggests that there are no problems at this roundabout at present. DE confirmed that this was an accurate representation of the discussion at the meeting and said that further information is due to be passed to the County. There would be a further update for the Transport Forum on 9 December.

Chris Durham (CD) asked whether the main road to Hinkley Point will be upgraded to an A or a B road, or if it will remain as a C road. AJ advised that he was not sure if the road would be upgraded but that sufficient funds would be allocated for the maintenance of the C182 within the transport mitigation provided by EDFE.

Alan Beasley (AB) said that at the jetty inquiry anomalies had arisen about what constitutes an HGV and it appears to be defined as a vehicle with three or more axles. AB said that he had recently counted traffic and saw a number of large vehicles of only two axles such as TNT and other delivery vehicles. He asked if these would be classed as HGVs and was concerned that if they were not then the number of additional HGVs might effectively be twice as many as people were expecting.

DE said he would look into this and provide a footnote on the minutes of the meeting (see below).

Footnote: At the Preliminary Works stage we used a definition for HGVs that included all vehicles with 3 axles or more, as they could be easily measured. As we've progressed our definition of HGV's has expanded to encapsulate vehicles above 3.5 tonnes. Both definitions are accurate and acceptable for the relevant authorities that examine our transport assessments.

AJ advised that he would also double check what the Council defines as 'HGV' but believes it includes vehicles with two axles. **ACTION: AJ**

5. Main Site Neighbourhood Forum meeting

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DE advised that the same general areas were covered during the last two Main Site Neighbourhood Forum meetings on 21 September and 19 October 2011:

- Noise and air quality monitoring process and update.
- Update on decision making for S106 from West Somerset Council (WSC).
- Focus on mitigation available for those villages immediately neighbouring the site.
- Lidia Bosa, who has been working closely with local residents to progress the scheme, provided an update on the Main Site Neighbourhood Support Scheme.
- The business case for the Enterprise Centre is coming together and an update will be provided at the next Main Site Neighbourhood Forum meeting.

CA asked AJ about an article relating to junction improvements in Bridgwater and asked if the report has been published. AJ stated that an interim transport assessment has been released and he will check to see if it can be sent out as it is out of date and there are gaps in the information. **ACTION: AJ**

CA said that sight of the traffic modelling would be useful, as the information will help to formulate responses to the IPC. AJ reiterated that he was hoping the information would be available as soon as possible as he understands the pressure for Sedgemoor District Council to have this information for its response.

6. Site preparation works and S106 obligations – Andrew Goodchild

Andrew Goodchild (AG) gave a presentation on the progress of the site preparation works and S106 obligations. A brief overview of the slides can be seen below and the full version is appended.

The structure of the slides was as follows:

Latest Position

- Negotiation is complete – all parties prepared to sign agreement.
- Anticipate the Planning Decision Notice to be issued next week (subject to all parties signing the Section 106 Agreement).

Next Steps in Process

- Once Decision notice issued there are some 'pre-commencement' conditions that need to be discharged before EDFE can begin work.
- All subsequent phases also have 'prior to phase...' conditions that will need to be agreed.
- Decision Notice and Section 106 Agreement will go on WSC's website – along with guide to the documents.

Explanation of Phasing

- Phase 0 – Some fencing (not over PROW); archaeological work, barn demolition and selected tree removal.
- Phase 1 – Remaining fencing; vegetation clearance.
- Phase 2 – Main earthworks.
- Phase 3 – Down time between site preparation and DCO.
- Phase 4 – Reinstatement, if DCO application is not granted.

DE made the point that the barn demolition is likely to be in the spring of next year due to bat hibernation.

CA asked whether Phase 3 would end in December 2012. AG said that he was not sure about specific timings, but thought that it would be around that time. EDFE want to start work as soon as the DCO is granted (if granted).

Content and Draft of S106 Agreement

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- See copy of AG slides circulated with the minutes for a breakdown of details and phasing.

JE felt that in terms of health provision the sums of money were low. AG explained that this is just for the site preparatory works. The numbers of workers moving into the area will be sufficiently low to be absorbed into the local existing services. This would probably not be the case when it comes to the DCO – this provision had been included so that the Council can prepare for the next stage. AJ advised that EDFE will also be providing healthcare for local workers at this stage.

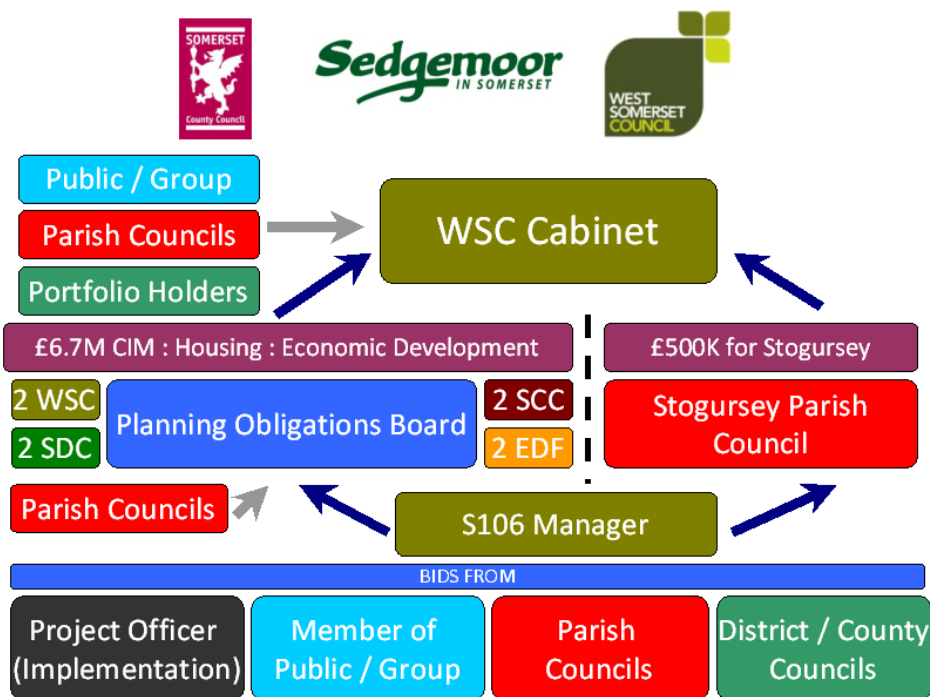
Jenny Lawrence (JL) explained the need to develop skills in the local area. Somerset Racial Equality Council (SREC) will work with BME groups living in the district and county; lots of local people need help with English language skills, as it is not their first language. The next level up (intermediate) includes people who need training. JL asked if this was something that could be looked at as currently they are only allocated very basic funds.

AJ confirmed that English as a foreign language was one of the issues raised with EDFE in the past, especially in relation to the preparatory works where English has been identified as an issue. Addressing this could help gear up for the DCO. He emphasised that it is still early in the process but acknowledged that the local area has a mixed community.

AB commented that there are lots of languages being used locally, particularly eastern European languages which are widely used in industries such as packaging. Teachers need to be prepared to do this, as it is a specialised skill. AJ agreed and said that he is already aware of this and it is being looked into.

Lesley Flash (LF) said that English as a foreign language should not just be aimed at secondary and higher education but also children in primary schools and nurseries. AJ explained that SCC has been looking into all aspects of education as the County Council has a duty of care to any child from birth and will ensure that there are sufficient funds for education.

AG went on to explain that the allocation of Section 106 funds has been designed to be a completely transparent process with all S106 funds being formally considered by WSC cabinet in public.



JE asked how this money will be administered and if all the money would be processed as detailed in the above diagram? AG confirmed that this was essentially the case.

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There are some areas in SCC that are outside of WSC and SDC that could benefit the local and wider community – these areas do have the opportunity to be considered however the funds are initially ring fenced for the specific geographic areas.

Bids will be judged on numerous criteria including the area of impact. Therefore Cannington and Stogursey will be more impacted and as a result have a higher score and would therefore be more likely to receive funds.

AB suggested that the development of the Cannington Bypass should be progressed as fast as possible. AG explained that the Council has urged EDFE to progress the bypass as quickly as possible and the County will continue to press this issue and has been having discussions with EDFE at a high level with regard to this. AB expressed concern that the first phase of construction traffic will start before the bypass is ready.

CA and AJ replied that they were aware of this and it has been noted in the Transport Forum minutes. AJ added that everyone concerned was trying to push it forward as soon as possible and pressure has been applied to EDFE to include this in the S106, however, the Technical Assessment did not necessitate the bypass for the site preparatory works.

Margaret Playle (MP) asked what the implications would be if the landowner does not sign the S106 agreement.

AG explained that if the landowner does not sign, planning permission cannot be issued, as the land would not be secured. However the County has been working hard to resolve the issues. The landowner in question is more interested in the technical issues relating to the reinstatement by WSC and what would be required to a fine detail, which has been the main thrust of debate. Changes have been made and it is hopeful that all parties will sign so that it can be issued next year.

AG clarified that the S106 money would not become available until planning permission was issued, which was usual for major developments.

CA asked whether a project officer would be available from phase 0 in order to assist in the administration of Cannington's £500K. AG explained that the first tranche of funds would be allocated in the first week following planning permission and that project officers will be available then to assist in the process.

8. Any other business

JE asked that the notes of the meeting reflect the appreciation of Forum members for the officers of the three local authorities who have been able and efficient in the way that they have dealt with the Hinkley Point C project. Many skills, including diplomacy have been exercised. He said that officers have experienced criticism and he would like to point out that officers attend meetings in their own time, have tried to deal with issues calmly and he would like to give a personal thanks to officers for their support. This sentiment of appreciation was agreed and seconded by EDFE representatives.

9. Date of next meeting

There was a discussion about the dates for meetings of the Forum during 2012. AJ suggested and the Forum agreed that a meeting should be held during the likely period for IPC registration so that Forum members could be briefed on the content of EDFE's DCO application.

It was agreed that dates for meetings during 2012 should be finalised and circulated by the secretariat once it had been confirmed that EDFE's application had been accepted by the IPC. As a consequence the dates for Forum meetings during 2012 are as follows:

- 12 January 2012
- 12 April 2012
- 12 July 2012
- 11 October 2012