



Meeting Report

Regarding:

EDF Energy Hinkley Point: Community Forum

Date:

20 May 2010

Attending:

Chris Morgan *West Somerset Council*
 David Harper *Bridgwater College*
 Neil Pack *Somerset County Council*
 Andrew Goodchild *West Somerset Council*
 Doug Bamsey *Sedgemoor District Council*
 Allan Jeffery *Stop Hinkley*
 Keith Cattell *Mendip Society*
 Peter Malim *Stogursey Parish Council*
 Mark Bacon *Cannington Primary School*
 Trevor Howes *Civil Nuclear Constabulary*
 Steve Crago *Avon and Somerset Police*
 Alan Beasley *Save Cannington Action Group*
 Stewart Brook *NHS Somerset*
 Lynda Laird *Cannington Parish Council*
 Robert Ansell *Williton Chamber of Commerce*
 Marilyn Cattell *Mendip Society*
 Malcolm Hogg *Nether Stowey Parish Council*
 Sue Webber *Planning Aid*
 Jenny Lawrence *Somerset Racial Equality Council*

David Onamade *Somerset Racial Equality Council*
 Mike Short *Fiddington Parish Council/Chair HPSSG*
 Keith Talintyre *Otterhampton Parish Council School*
 Tom Blaxland *Bridgwater Civic Society*
 Ann Blaxland *Bridgwater Civic Society*
 Kevin Baker *Environment Agency*
 Crispin Aubrey *Forum 21*
 Sue Goss *WHAG*
 Lesley Flash *Stogursey Parish Plan*
 Paul Kite *Somerset Trust Badger Group*
 Vanessa Mason *Somerset Trust Badger Group*
 Alan Ladd *Chairman*
 Richard Mayson *EDF Energy*
 Martin Childerhouse *EDF Energy*
 Gordon Bell *EDF Energy*
 David Eccles *EDF Energy*
 Alex Kaufman *EDF Energy*
 Charles St George *PPS*
 Jo Hatton Jones *PPS*

Item**1. Introductions**

Alan Ladd (AL) welcomed those attending and asked those around the table to introduce themselves and the organisations they represent.

Richard Mayson (RM) announced that Ross Edwards from the Bridgwater office is now the proud father of a baby girl, Bella, who was born on Monday morning weighing 6lbs and 11oz.

RM introduced David Eccles (DE), who has been working with Simon Dunford (SD) for the past month during a transition period before SD takes up a new role within EDF in Paris on the engineering side. He does, however, continue to be involved with the Hinkley Project and will probably be in the UK again within a few months.

RM also introduced Martin Childerhouse, who joined EDFE in March 2010 as site leader. MC explained he had attended a couple of stakeholder meetings and was looking forward to attending future Community Forum meetings and meeting more local stakeholders in the coming weeks and months.

AL asked RM if he had any thoughts following the recent political changes. RM explained the political changes and that Britain is facing a looming energy gap and still needs low carbon energy. EDFE still believes that a balanced energy mix including nuclear is the way forward and nuclear can be delivered without subsidy. He said that although the planning situation is not completely clear with the IPC due to be abolished and replaced with a more democratic system, government statements are strong enough for EDFE to continue with and remain committed to its plans.

Before continuing with the agenda AL reminded attendees of the Terms of Reference for the Community Forum: *To consider and advise on issues that might affect the local community and key stakeholders as a result of EDF Energy's activities in the vicinity of Hinkley Point, principally those arising from the proposed development of new*

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nuclear power on land adjacent to the existing power stations.

2. Minutes and Matters arising

AL asked for an update on the actions in the previous meeting report:

Item 4 – Charles St George (CStG) confirmed that PPS is trying to rectify the duplication issues but hoped attendees appreciated the extent of the database and the number of people representing different organisations involves a lot of cross-referencing.

Item 5 – AL advised that the query regarding fault lines had been addressed in the minutes and bore holes would be addressed later in this meeting under item 4 of the current agenda.

Item 6 – CStG advised that an event had recently been held with Sedgemoor Homes and the Job Centre Plus which targeted young people in Bridgwater, some of whom were unemployed.

Item 7 – AL thanked those who had registered their attendance at the Community Forum and stressed the importance continuing to do so going forward to ensure sufficient seats around the table.

No further issues were raised.

3. Stage Two Consultation Programme/SOCC

Alex Kaufman (AK) advised that Stage 2 consultation on Preferred Proposals is expected to start in early July with public exhibitions before the school holidays. The consultation will last 12 weeks.

AK explained that a revised Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) has been sent to the Local Authorities for a formal 28 days consultation before it is published – hopefully around the 24 June 2010 in the Somerset Gazette. This will include more information about the consultation, including details of the public exhibitions. It will also be available on the project website.

There will be numerous documents explaining the Stage 2 consultation and Preferred Proposals – 1,000s of pages. For practical reasons full copies will be sent the local authorities and libraries and will be available at the Bridgwater Office and the documents will be circulated more widely on DVD and will be available to download from the website.

There will also be a number of summary documents that will be made widely available:

- Proposals Summary Document
- Summary of the Interim Consultation Report
- Non-Technical Summary

The consultation is expected to include eight public exhibitions as well as work place exhibitions at Hinkley Point A and B and the Council offices, workshops and focus groups. As in Stage 1, there will also be a series of parish and town council meetings/presentations.

Consultation events will be publicised through the Community Forum, newsletter, the publication of the SOCC, project website, media adverts and media coverage.

AK explained that EDFE would like to use the next meeting as an opportunity to discuss the Stage 2 consultation and Preferred Proposals. As such, she proposed changing the next Community Forum meeting to Thursday, 8 July 2010.

AL then invited any questions:

Q. Due to the change in the IPC how confident are you that the consultation will be robust enough?

A. CStG explained he didn't think the IPC would go over-night and expects a transition period. We don't know



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what the procedure will be but CStG advised he has been involved in consultation for many years and has never before designed or produced a consultation programme as extensive as EDFE's for Hinkley Point C.

Q. EDFE has been knocking on doors in Cannington, which has resulted in lots of Chinese whispers regarding boundaries of properties. Would be useful if everyone had been sent a letter explaining what information was required and the reason.

A. DE advised that contractors, Terraquest have been instructed to confirm names and address to ensure the correct people are contacted. He said he would take away the suggestion and put it in the thought process for future ones.

Q. One of the attendees had met a Terraquest representative and they had not proffered the letter, it was not explained well and those who had received it thought their properties were under threat of CPO.

A. DE advised he had been made aware of this, the point had been reinforced at the Community Forum and he would be raising it in discussions with Terraquest.

Q. It was suggested that Planning Aid might be able to help explaining the process required by the Planning Act and Sue Webber (SW) offered to have Planning Aid's details included in future letters if they are briefed in advance. **(ACTION)**

A. RM thanked SW for the offer and apologised for the anxiety created by the long gap between Stages 1 and 2 of the consultation, which has not helped but EDFE is doing its best to learn and improve and Stage 2 will now help us move forward on a more even keel.

Q. Half of Cannington thinks they are going to receive compensation and the other half has not been offered anything and this is causing anxiety. However, a recent meeting with DE had helped clarify the position for the Parish Council, who are now better informed.

Q. Thought responses to Stage 1 would be made available before the Stage 2 consultation?

A. RM clarified that they would be made available at the same time as the Stage 2 consultation and Preferred Proposals – the package of information will provide the issues raised and EDFE's response.

4. Investigation Works

MC provided an update on the site investigative works, which are summarised below:

- Completed: Williton, Comwich, Cannington and Junction 23 archaeology
- Ongoing: main site archaeology is finished but watching brief. Bore holes scheduled for July
- Future: Junction 24

These works have been successful and the results will be important for assessment going forward.

MC said that there had been a number of complaints about noise of drilling rigs in the southern land and that there will be some return visits for bore holes but they should be completed soon. He advised that EDFE had met with local residents on 12 May to discuss the preliminary works and there had been lots of constructive feedback that is currently being assessed.

MC explained it is important to understand the structure and geophysical nature of the land so EDFE can work out the best method to break it up and move it. Compression testing has been undertaken and the trenches are being monitored. Explosions have been monitored for noise and vibrations – the vibration was well within British Standards thresholds and would not cause any structural damage, however, it could be felt by local people and EDFE didn't think they would be able to, so apologises for any inconvenience or concerns as a result of the testing.

Q. Will you be correlating to previous testing at A and B stations? This was extensive and revealed a number of fault lines.

A. MC explained that EDFE know about the fault lines and their locations. All data will be logged and fed back



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into boreholes and MC made a commitment to look into the data from the B station testing. (ACTION: MC)

Q. How will these figures relate to the noise during construction?

A. MC advised that the tests to date are specifically on compression testing. The construction process will be detailed in the Stage 2 consultation documentation (in the Environmental Statement) and will look at equipment used and time periods.

Q. The main concern locally with the compression testing was that people had been told they would not hear or feel anything. Better communication will help alleviate such concerns in future.

A. DE and MC acknowledged this point and will take this on board going forward.

Q. A similar point was made with regards to Cannington: as soon as someone turns up in a high viz jacket people start jumping to conclusions. It would be good to put notices on parish notice boards and on gates in the areas affected.

A. AK explained that a series of surgeries had been held to help address such issues and these would continue going forward.

Q. Several suggestions were made for other methods including information on the project website and dedicated EDFE notice boards in key locations.

Q. Can bore holes be done without planning permission? Will these be amplified in coming weeks?

A. MC confirmed that planning permission is not needed and explained in lieu of trenching there will potentially be rigs on the southern land for about two weeks. He confirmed that EDFE would let locals know in advance (ACTION: MC)

Q. Will there be a 24 hour helpline?

A. AK confirmed that EDFE is looking into this at the moment to increase the speed with which local people can pass on a concern or have a query addressed.

Q. Is EDF Energy monitoring noise on site at present outside the compression testing and in the future?

A. MC advised that this will be addressed in the planning application and EDFE is currently monitoring/ measuring and potentially will change working methods to mitigate problems. He explained he has a hand held device he uses on site to measure key operations.

5. Preliminary Works

MC repeated that there was a resident meeting on 19 April regarding the preliminary site works, plans are being reviewed following the meeting and a follow up meeting is being held on 7 June. EDFE will continue to work with local people and stakeholders and is looking to gain their buy in before submitting a planning application.

Q. What will the preliminary works entail?

A. MC explained these would include securing the site (with fencing), clearing and terracing the site to make it ready for the future and a temporary jetty. RM advised that preliminary work is confined to the main site, does not pre-judge the IPC decision and will include remediation to restore the site if planning permission is not granted.

Q. This will cause upheaval to the A39 with material being brought in by road – moving soil, rocks, fencing etc. This is a significant part of the project and more emphasis should be put on it. Local people need to be kept fully informed to stop scare stories and rumours.

A. MC reiterated that the views of people are being considered following the meeting in April and the extent of



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the works will be detailed at the meeting on 7 June, with another opportunity for feedback.

Q. IPC scoping describes hedgerows as being of varying quality with some ancient or species rich and most of these are going to be removed as part of the preliminary works.

Q. One of the Forum members stressed the importance for transparency from EDF Energy. The majority of people are aware of the extent of the preliminary works and what is entailed and it is important the EDF Energy be up front and ensures people are fully informed of the activities that will be taking place and their likely impact. It is essential not to trivialise the affects of what is proposed or try to hide the facts. He felt that the majority of local people want to hear it as it is and that they may not like it, but at least they will be fully informed, and respect the transparency and honesty that EDF Energy stresses as a key priority.

Q. It is the responsibility of West Somerset and Sedgemoor Councils to consult with people under the Town and Country Planning Act. It has already been recognised that a letter drop will not be sufficient due to the scale of people interested and the Councils will be holding events in the areas most affected, such as Cannington and those on the corridor from the motorway. It is important to make sure people understand the proposals and the Council can answer questions and understand issues before it goes to members with a recommendation.

Q. You will not be able to get heavy gear through Cannington.

A. *RM explained that the scoping report is already with the Council and EDFE is expecting views from members. Current plans identify that materials moved on site are not expected to be moved off-site.*

Q. Is there anything other than fencing, removing hedges, terracing and the temporary jetty proposed?

A. *MC confirmed there would also be a security arrangement and infrastructure for temporary lighting.*

Q. Bringing material in by road won't work. There was a fatality outside Cannington in the last three weeks on a notoriously bad stretch of road. Roads are already in poor condition likely to get potholes and something should be done before construction begins.

A. *DE said he is very aware of the issue and has already started to engage with the local authorities on this and other issues..*

7. Any Other Business

Kevin Baker (KB) of the Environment Agency explained that he is involved with the consultation for the generic design assessment (GDA) of nuclear reactors that may be used around the country. They were hoping to launch it on 24 May but it has been delayed and they are waiting for DECC to come back with confirmation of dates. He asked if he could come back and let attendees know about it at the next Community Forum meeting. CStG confirmed it would be put on the agenda for the next meeting (**ACTION: CStG**)

Q. What is EDFE's opinion of the IPC's response to the scoping report and why English Heritage say they weren't consulted?

A. *RM explained that the scoping report was issued at the end of the Stage 1 consultation before analysis of the consultation responses. The IPC came back with lots of comments asking for more detail/information. Those requests will be met through the Stage 2 documents. Their comments have provided a useful checklist – 90% were already included but EDFE will ensure they are all addressed. He also confirmed that English Heritage has definitely been consulted as they had sent in a response to the Stage 1 consultation.*

Q. Hinkley Point has always been portrayed as a frontrunner for new nuclear power development; however, Wilfa now seems to be progressing rapidly.

A. *RM advised that EDFE's vision has always been to lead the way in producing a fleet of new nuclear build that wouldn't cost the earth and this is still the aim. He felt that EDFE's plans for Hinkley Point were further forward than proposals at Wylfa.*



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Q. How will National Grid's consultation tie up with EDFE's Stage 2 consultation? Understand the substation will form part of EDFE's proposals.

A. CStG explained that National Grid will shortly be announcing its consultation but is aiming to tie up with EDFE for our Stogursey exhibition.

Q. Access into the site and emergency access are key concerns that need to be seriously looked at.

A. All issues raised at Stage 1, which include this, will be answered as part of the Stage 2 consultation.

Q. On the IPC's website it states that 1,300 MW are proposed at Hinkley Point with an application expected on 12 December.

A. RM confirmed this is wrong on both counts. AK advised that she is aware of the issue and has been trying to get the IPC to update its website. RM explained the submission date has not been finalised, as it's not possible to anticipate what will come out of the Stage 2 consultation.

AK advised that some of the trenches in the north west corner of the site are filled with water but they have been safely and securely cordoned off, there are warning signs and the site is patrolled, but please alert any children who play in the area that these are not for swimming in.

RM thanked everyone for attending and their contributions to the meeting.

8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Thursday, 8 July 2010 at Bridgwater College – venue subject to confirmation. In view of the substantial items for discussion at this meeting it was agreed it should start at 6.30pm and may run slightly later than usual meetings.