



# Meeting Report

**Regarding:**

EDF Energy Hinkley Point Nuclear New Build:  
Community Forum

**Date:**

10 December 2009

**Attending:**

Richard Mayson *EDF Energy*  
Simon Dunford *EDF Energy*  
Dave Stoke *EDF Energy*  
Liam Herbert *PPS*  
Charles St George *PPS*  
Alan Ladd *Chairman*  
Andrew Goodchild *West Somerset Council*  
Sarah Fox *Somerset Wildlife Trust*  
Neil Pack *Somerset County Council*  
Alyn Jones *Somerset County Council*  
Stewart Brock *NHS Somerset*  
Lynda Laird *Cannington Parish Council*  
Colin Allen *Cannington Parish Council*  
Mike Short *Fiddington Parish Council*

John Edney *Somerset County Council*  
Ann Blaxland *Bridgwater Civic Society*  
Tom Blaxland *Bridgwater Civic Society*  
John Roberts *Nether Stowey Parish Council*  
Allan Jeffery *Stop Hinkley*  
Kevin Baker *Environment Agency*  
Doug Bamsey *Sedgemoor District Council*  
Sue Goss *WHAG*  
Lesley Flash *Stogursey Parish Plan*  
Christopher Durham *RAC Foundation*  
Barry Pearce *South West Planning Aid*  
Fiona McMillan *Bridgwater College*

**Item****Action****1. Introductions**

AL opened the meeting and reiterated the terms of reference for the Community Forum. Those attending then introduced themselves and the organisations they represent.

**2. Stage one consultation – initial options and proposals**

Richard Mayson and Simon Dunford gave an introductory presentation to the Forum on the scope and detail of the Stage One consultation and the responses and turnout at the exhibitions to date.

SD noted that EDF Energy had so far not had much response on the community benefits aspect of the proposals and would be looking to the Forum and public generally for views on this and what over and above jobs, cash injections and legacy projects were in people's minds.

AL then opened the discussion on the Stage One Consultation and asked for views on the Key Consultation Questions in the Initial Proposals and Options Summary Document.



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Andrew Goodchild – WSC, noted that WSC will reply formally, but he would be interested to learn more of the views of people responding to EDF Energy as this will help the Council more fully understand local concerns and needs.

Sue Goss – Local people are very concerned about the landscape buffer and want it moved back to the north onto the ridge with the land to the south becoming a zone clear from development.

Lesley Flash – the local community would like to see the space between the buffer and the edge of the site boundary given over to local use from the start of the project. This view was supported by Sarah Fox from the West Somerset Wildlife Trust.

With regard to rights of way and public footpaths the local community want them to be kept open for as long as possible and that new, acceptable alternatives should be in place and open before the old ones are closed.

Michael Short – Fiddington Parish Council. There is a groundswell growing against the transport and accommodation plan with a view that everything should be placed on the site. Local parishes are 100% behind a northern bypass for Bridgwater – park and rides are not a legacy as they will be torn up when the development is finished. With regard to the accommodation legacy, there is not enough detail in the EDF Energy documents as to what the legacy will be and whether it will be “given” to the community.

John Roberts – Nether Stowey PC. The cluster of parishes are already trying to deal with road accidents on the A39. Once the road is closed due to an accident there are no alternative routes and any increase in traffic will be an additional hazard and problematic.

Christopher Durham – RAC. Noted that the proposals to utilise the wharf at Comwich were excellent and that a bypass for Cannington was inevitable. However, he wanted to know what would happen to traffic not related to the nuclear build. He was also disappointed there was no proposal for a northern bypass at Bridgwater.

Motorway junction sites – the J23 site is a better option for traffic flows

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through Bridgwater.

Both proposed sites for Williton would create difficulties at the junction with the A358.

Keith Talintyre – raised the issue of traffic problems entering both Combwich and Stockland Bristol at peak times as the oncoming traffic causes significant difficulties entering and exiting the junctions.

Sue Goss – noted that Stogursey would be very reluctant to host more than 700 workers on a site campus.

Lynda Laird – Cannington PC – noted that the whole road network is not sufficient for what EDF Energy has planned, especially with the additional Minehead traffic in the summer.

Lesley Flash – the junction of Shurton Road and the Hinkley Road is already dangerous and difficult due to speed and volume of traffic.

Allan Jeffery – Stop Hinkley. Asked about the 80% of materials that EDF Energy say will come via sea – is this by volume or by weight. SD noted that this was by volume – it was about reducing the number of lorry journeys

Fiona McMillan – Bridgwater College. It is important to manage any future traffic through Cannington village. This is also a major transport issue for Bridgwater as at peak times the traffic tails back to The Exchange. The question is how will this be alleviated?

Colin Allen – Cannington PC. The parish council is having difficulty explaining why the northern bypass route is not an option and they are looking for help from EDF Energy to explain this.

SD – EDF Energy has spent the last year updating the “Saturn model” to determine if a bypass is required. Currently they are in the phase of updating and validating this model. This model then has to be approved by the Highway Agency and it will show the impact on the road network – with or without the development at Hinkley.

Additionally EDF Energy has been using the Paramics traffic model

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and on the basis of this are almost certain that there is no justification for a northern bypass within the current guidelines from national government.

Lynda Laird – asked when the traffic surveys for the modelling were done – did it go through the summer?

SD – it was modelled at different times of day and at different times of the year to establish a consistent baseline.

Doug Bamsey – Sedgmoor DC. Sedgmoor and Somerset County is doing a great deal of transport assessment and so its important that people get comments and individual evidence in. Currently no final view and no decisions have been taken. All comments on transport plans for the development should go to EDF Energy but can be copied to the council.

Richard Mayson, EDF Energy – We will take into account everyone's views and we value specific comments as well as the general views. In terms of legacy benefits, at this stage we are more concerned about general views and judgements about what goes where rather than specifics.

Ann Blaxland – Bridgwater Civic Society. Regarding the accommodation strategy in Cannington, the proposal at the college is to remove a sports facility and put permanent accommodation on the site. 120 additional workers will be an intrusion in the village and will take away the amenity of that site as well which is close to other properties.

Fiona McMillan – noted that it was important to look at this in terms of the whole package and not just accommodation.

Lesley Flash – noted that 700 workers on site will be a “temporary” peak for seven years.

John Edney – Somerset CC. Noted that EDF Energy's proposals represented a disproportionate increase in the size of Cannington with an additional 320 “temporary” residents in a village of 2800 people. Why was the decision taken to choose Cannington, surely it would

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have been better to assimilate these people into Bridgwater? We need to consider the quality of life in Cannington.

Richard Mayson – in essence the accommodation plan is based on the view that half of the workforce will live and travel from within the local community. The question has been where does the other half go – so EDF Energy has looked to disperse these as much as possible in the surrounding area.

Keith Talintyre – what do you plan to bring in through the wharf at Combwich?

SD – We will take equipment off barges and store on the ground before moving to site. We need to understand what are the best times for us to do this and what advanced warnings we need to give.

Lesley Flash – We are not clear what benefits EDF Energy is offering the community.

Richard Mayson – we are working on the approach to this with each of the local councils.

Doug Bamsey – this is an important element for all the councils. Some things are about mitigation and other will be a business case and then what does the local community gain in terms of jobs/training and positive legacy issues.

The council will be coming to cluster meetings and community meetings to listen to views and what communities see as important to them. This is about long term benefits on long term issues

Michael Short – noted that we should be looking at the whole community and what will benefit the wider community so that it has a significant benefit in the longer term.

John Edney – noted that there was not much time left in phase one to consider this, phase two consultation will be important so when and how long will it be?

Richard Mayson – said that EDF Energy is legally obliged to have

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regard to all community views and will not short circuit this requirement. The second round of consultation is expected to run from approximately mid March 2010 to mid May 2010.

Barry Pearce - Planning Aid South West. Noted that the community generally finds it difficult to understand issues relating to community benefit. He offered the services of Planning Aid to put on events to help community groups understand what they can do in this area.

Doug Bamsey noted that any activity by Planning Aid on this should be co-ordinated with the council.

Fiona McMillan – welcomed EDF Energy's approach to developing local skills as part of the community benefits, but noted this should be across the skills base and not just focused on construction.

## 3. Preliminary Works

AL then asked the meeting to consider the issues and questions relating to the preliminary works.

Sue Goss – asked if the application for the preliminary works in April would be going to the IPC or to West Somerset Council.

Richard Mayson – confirmed that these applications would not be to the IPC. The application for the sea wall and works on the main site would go to WSC. EDF Energy had been advised that from a legal position the application for the temporary jetty should go through the Department of Transport for consideration under a Harbour Enforcement Order.

Lesley Flash – noted that there is a lot of concern that things will be removed which cannot be reinstated or put back should the main IPC application fail. The view was that EDF Energy should not do anything relating to this before IPC approval has been achieved.

Andrew Goodchild – noted that West Somerset will consult separately on these applications and they will want everyone to come forward with their views. These are important applications to WSC.

Ann Blaxland – Asked what the impact of traffic would be from these

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works.

SD – EDF do not expect this to be significant although there will be some additional traffic.

Christopher Durham – asked how vulnerable EDF's plans are to future levels of Government funding.

Richard Mayson – stated that the project is entirely funded by EDF Energy and not subject to any support from government.

## 5. Engagement with Hard to Reach Groups

Charles St George reported that at the last meeting the ability of both EDF Energy and the Forum to engage with hard to reach groups was discussed. Following on from this, a strategy and proposal to address this was presented to the Forum.

Fiona McMillan – noted that she can assist with engagement with older students (20-40yr age group) through student groups within the college.

The strategy and plans identified in the report were agreed for EDF Energy to action.

## 6. Any Other Business

John Edney raised the issue of reactor design and commentary that had been reported in the national and local press about the approval of reactor design.

Richard Mayson – EDF Energy is seeking a healthy challenge on the analysis of the reactor design. We are halfway through this process and the regulator is pleased with the progress so far. HSE is also talking to the regulators in the USA and France so the process is more joined up.

## 7. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Proposed dates for meetings of the Forum in 2010 are:

## Action

PPS to follow up



**Item**

25 February 2010

22 April 2010

24 June 2010

30 September 2010

The Forum agreed that future meetings will alternate between Bridgwater College in Cannington and the Hinkley Point site.

**Action**