Hinkley Point C and the Gold Rush Economy

Soaring rents are not just a big city problem when huge infrastructure projects descend on small towns. Rents in Bridgwater, the town closest to Hinkley Point, have risen by about 8% in the last year. This extraordinary increase has put local people at risk of homelessness due to their inability to compete with the high wages paid to Hinkley Point C workers.

David Eccles, EdeF Spokesman, has been quoted as saying "*Hinkley is delivering a massive boost to the economy of the whole South West and that means that some things get more expensive because more work for the Supply Chain means a better economy.*

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Roy Pumfrey said: "*The callous attitude of the EdeF Spokesman betrays their disregard for any local people unlucky enough to be caught under the wheels of the HPC juggernaut. A Gold Rush economy has arrived in Somerset and anyone expecting a major infrastructure project to arrive in their vicinity anytime soon should be aware of the implications for their neighbourhood*".

Meanwhile, local Councillors and Officers shrug their shoulders and wring their hands at how ineffectual their efforts to push a few hundred bed spaces forward have proved to be. Seven hotels are being built in Bridgwater that cannot hope to survive, except as B&Bs for displaced local people, after the main HPC works end. A 'perfect storm' has enveloped the town as Universal Credits, reduced benefit levels and the demands of Hinkley C combine to adversely affect those at risk of homelessness.

Even casual visitors to the area are finding it hard to find a simple B&B, so the tourist industry will undoubtedly be badly affected.

It's still not too late to cancel Hinkley Point C. It might incur a cancellation cost of around £2bn, but consumers could save around £50bn over its lifetime, or £1.5bn per year over 35 years.

Stop Hinkley Contact:
Roy Pumfrey
roy@stophinkley.org
Tel: 07886 028 910