



Stop Hinkley Activities June 2019 to May 2020 prepared for AGM

Stop Hinkley (SH) has had another busy year.

SH continues to meet for a business meeting on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm. The meetings are open for anyone with an interest to attend.

Sue Aubrey (SA), Jo Smoldon (JS), Allan Jeffery (AJ) and Val Davey (VD) continue to work as a Coordinating Team. SA, JS and AJ meet when necessary to respond to Consultations, write letters or to discuss nuclear issues of concern. VD painstakingly works on the Newsletters and sends them out as well as working on the website, and on the membership and as treasurer. Pete Roche (PR) who runs the No2nuclear news round every day is an invaluable resource to consult on nuclear issues and acts as our Press Officer with Roy Pumfrey (RP), AJ and Richard Carder (RC) available to respond as local media contacts.

The Community Forum (CF) for Hinkley Point C (HPC) and the Site Stakeholders Group (SSG) meetings for Hinkley A and B (HPA/B) are always attended by SH. Concerns about the decommissioning of HPA and the working of HPB, which shows aging of its graphite core. RP and AJ attend the CF and AJ and Alan Debenham (AD) attend SSG.

RP compiles a monthly SH News Round that you will now find on the SH Website. Roy has a good relationship with Clinton Rogers, BBC Points West, and regularly appears on TV giving the SH view opposite to EDF. He also keeps in touch with Stephen Salter from the Bridgwater Mercury (BM) which regularly publishes letters or articles putting the SH view.

SH is invited to National meetings for anti-nuclear NGO's run by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). These meetings are always attended by at least two SH members at least one will be a member of the Coordinating Group. During the last year, we have found the ONR to be open to working well with us. RP and Katy Attwater (KA) have been taking active roles in SH. RP keeps a close eye on what is happening at HPC and speaks at public meetings. KA is concerned that anticipated rising sea levels will be dangerous to coastal nuclear power plants and has continued throughout the year to raise this concern with ONR, continuing to hold them to account.

This last year, SH has worked more closely with other anti nuclear groups, particularly those on the east coast concerned about the new nuclear developments of Sizewell and Bradwell

JUNE 2019

Nigel Cann EDF admitted that HPC had learned from the mistakes made at Flamanville, now there is less scope for faulty welds.

The tunnel boring under the sea was having difficulty as water is pouring in through cracks in the rock.

EDF have proposed that every household will pay £6.00 every year towards cost of building Sizewell C this is called the Regulated Asset model (RAB).

Magnox organised two Consultations as they want to move Intermediate Level Nuclear Waste (ILW) from Sizewell, Oldbury and Dungeness to be stored at HPA. Several SH members attended both open sessions, with displays and Magnox staff to answer questions. SH responded to the Consultation by endorsing the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NLFA) response.

In another Consultation, the NNB part of EDF wanted to make another material change to their plans for HPC, as they did not want to construct the Acoustic Fish deterrent (AFD) which prevents fish being sucked into the cooling water stream. SH submitted a response against this as it would mean more fish will be killed in the estuary. Other concerned parties are Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (Slimbridge) and Severn Rivers Trust and angling groups.

RP is taking a lead with emergency plans for HPB (RREPIR'19) and is communicating with Somerset County Council (SCC) and Katie Day, ONR.

24th June National Decommissioning Agency meeting in Bristol, JS and AD attended. Talks about decommissioning and storage of high level waste in the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for which a willing host community has not yet been found!

26th June BEIS meeting London, JS and AJ attended, this was the first time JS had been to a BEIS meeting and it was an opportunity for her to meet other anti nuclear NGO's. The civil servants who attend have to follow the Government line, they listen to reports from the NGO's and we hope some of our anti- nuclear views are absorbed. Benefit of attending informal discussions with NGO's.

On the 30th June, EDF proudly achieved 'J zero', completion of the concrete base for Unit 1 reactor, Unit 2 anticipated to be completed in one year's time. JS had a letter in BM, Western Daily Press (WDP), Western Morning News (WMN) and on-line at Somerset County Gazette (CG) regarding the 'hoo haa' about the concrete pour at HPC. RP also wrote a letter

A change! Government announced support for on-shore Wind!

June marked the 7th Anniversary of Witch Watch, a group of anti-nuclear women going out every full moon to Hinkley Point. This is quite an achievement.

JULY

The 'Chernobyl' series was released on Sky TV, this can still be watched free on 'Now TV', in 2020 and on TVs that can watch Amazon Prime for cost of £10. This had very good reviews, won awards and it is thought to be authentic, well worth watching.

Parts for the ground boring machine for HPC arriving at Combwich wharf by barge - BM.

RP on SKY TV, a live interview as part of a day's broadcasting on 'Climate Change' at Hinkley B.

The Core Group were invited by Pete Smith, an ex-engineer from HPB who now lives in Devon, to see a German anti -nuclear, pro renewable film. He now does a lot of action with Extinction Rebellion

(XR). SH has so far failed to make a meaningful connection with our local XR. We do think it is important to pass on the message that nuclear is not carbon free.

AUGUST

AJ and AD visited Hinkley by invitation of SSG . They were kitted out with safety equipment and went inside and around Hinkley A and B and saw Fed waste process which is taking longer than they expected. They saw the ILW store on A station. They could see the boxes the waste goes into, which are sealed with grouting. Low level waste goes by road up to Drigg. District councils are against storage of waste from other nuclear sites.

BM ran a detailed article about the Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD) that EDF would like to dispense with the requirement that the marine licence and environmental permit depend on.

Tokyo TV filmed AJ asking questions about what local people thought about HPC being built by the French and Chinese Governments, particularly as the longer it goes on the more the electricity will cost, it would be cheaper to stop building now. Japan undecided whether to continue with nuclear.

KA did press release about grid loss of power followed by a letter from JS

Many SH members responded to ONR about their engagement experience with CF and SSG.

The Guardian reported mental health issues with some workers at HPC, alone away from home.

Another Consultation, a request for our views on RAB, PR asked to respond on SH behalf along with the NFLA.

SEPTEMBER

Complaints that there is not enough accommodation locally but hostels are not full. Hostels are not popular with HPC workers. Rarely 80% occupied.

Fukushima made headlines as TEPCO want to dump millions of gallons of radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean as they have run out of storage capacity.

At HPC, the jetty is up and running and has taken its first load transported by sea.

Richard Cuttrell, West Hinkley Action Group, went to Sizewell and horrified locals there with his story about HPC, he is not anti nuclear and his complaints are that there is too little mitigation money relative to the disturbance to local communities.

Somerset County Council (SCC) Councillors unanimously rejected proposals for waste from 3 Magnox power stations to be brought to HPA. This was covered in Press very well and SA had spoken at the SCC meeting and was interviewed by BBC local radio.

KA continues her pressure on ONR, she recently received two documents from them on the scientific advice used by EDF to review design of HPC before they started building it. The BECC report that was

used was prepared for Sizewell C and not HPC. It was out of date and inaccurate. KA asks PR to do more research on this report.

RP met SCC Civil Contingency Unit officer looking at changes in Emergency planning at HPB and used opportunities to respond to EDF's technical assessment for emergency planning protocol.

24-26th September Second Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) workshop in Paris on Risk Communication. RP attended representing the only anti-nuclear amongst 124 other delegates. English was the main language with translators for Japanese speakers. People there from Fukushima saying there were unreported hotspots around Fukushima. National Radiological Board spokesman talked about HPC radioactive mud and RP argued against the points he put.

OCTOBER

'Big Carl', the 'biggest crane in the world', has been erected at HPC. Ian Horsfield had letter in local Press pointing out problems with HPC and a follow up letter in WMN. Cost of HPC has gone up to £22.9 billion delay due to groundwork problems and bad weather! Observer story covering delay and cost increase.

Tony Gosling interviewed AJ on Radio BCfm, in Bristol, discussing nuclear issues which was made into a podcast.

Flamanville, HPC's sister station in France, faces a three year delay until 2022, so is it worth producing electricity for a year and then stopping and correcting the steel top by replacing it with one from Japan? Would it not be better to wait?

Chief Nuclear Inspector Mark Foy wrote a recent report without mentioning climate change, KA to bring this up at every opportunity.

JS was told by the police at Witch Watch that they were on high alert for people that may climb the buildings and high structures at Hinkley Point.

Police recently warned Somerset holiday homeowners over 'pop up brothels' attributable to the influx of HPC workers.

RP attended drop in session in Stogursey about the latest on Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPiR) 2019 - Detailed Emergency Planning Zone. RP sent report to BM and BBC- Clinton Rogers. EDF preferred 1km evacuation zone, SCC response recommends staying with 3.5km zone. Residents more disgruntled with EDF activity than the emergency planning arrangements. Presentation to be repeated at SSG later in October. RP plans to attend to ask about HPB as an ageing reactor, so why not larger zone? Why stable iodine tablets are given out in France 20km from reactors yet in UK zones much smaller? RP responded to on-line questionnaire on emergency planning. Iodine tablets paid for by EDF but distributed by Public Health England.

SA went to London to meet NGO's from Sizewell to deliver a 'Sumofus' petition against RAB funding for Sizewell C to BEIS.

25th October AD representing SH at SSG meeting

SH were invited to speak at a NFLA conference in Colchester on 26th October. SA, AJ and KA left the day before and stayed overnight in Colchester. They talked about practical difficulties since the building of HPC: increase in traffic, lorries, buses, rising house prices, light pollution, villages much busier difficulty in parking. Concern about the design of the power station as the design does not take account of more recent information about rising sea levels. The difficulties of making the 3km long tunnels under the estuary and concern that EDF are wanting to change the design agreed in the DCO and do away with the AFD, so allowing more fish to be killed. The audience were people who lived and worked near the proposed new nuclear power plants at Sizewell and Bradwell. There was a lot of interest in what SH talked about and SH was invited to go to Sizewell and repeat the presentation.

BBC Somerset showed a program asking people their opinion about the consultation on 'Proposed Detailed Emergency Action Zone for Hinkley B' RP was asked for SH view.

28th October ONR Webinar Mark Foy presenting his Annual Report. This was unsatisfactorily as it was not easy to ask questions and impossible to have a discussion.

EDF having problems in France, escalating costs of Flamanville so their share price dropping.

NOVEMBER

RP letter online at BM in answer to local councillor's pro-nuclear letter in BM recording her visit to HPC

7th Nov AJ and KA attended ONR meeting in London where they learned more about the concerns for the aging graphite core at Hinkley B, 6 months behind Hunterston. Mark Foy presented a paper about responsibilities of ONR. AJ met the new chair of ONR and he gave feedback on what was happening at HPC. Donald Urquhart and Mark Foy presented jointly the complex relationship between MOD and ONR.

27 November SH put on a special meeting attended by 26 people, for Kazuhito Kobayshi, a Japanese man who had come from Tokyo to talk about the devastation after Fukushima and his concern for the children who are showing signs of thyroid cancer. He raised funds to organise summer holidays for them. He was a delightful, gentle man and we walked around the HPC site with him the next day. He gleaned his information about Fukushima from undercover journalists as a managed image is being presented in Japan.

ONR have made emergency planning a Local Authority responsibility and Somerset is keeping the 3.5km zone around HPB for potassium iodate tablets. ONR are still available to Councils for advice. EdeF will still pay for information calendars to residents and the iodate tablets.

DECEMBER

Olkiluoto in Finland, still not finished, delays still occurring. In China, EPRs are connected to the grid but have heard nothing since.

4th December BEIS meeting in London JS and AJ attended. £18 million research for Small Modular Reactors (SMR). Concept of zero carbon is driving energy policy. BEIS meets with LA's and Chambers of Commerce but not open to interested public. BEIS committed to listening but BEIS cannot

negotiate policy. It remains a disappointment that ministers do not turn up to BEIS/NGO meetings. There was a presentation on National Policy Statement for GDF. Government says GDF will exist, waste from new build will go into repository. NPS does not sit well with communities. Waiting for EDF contribution to GDF.

SH sent letter to Japanese Against Nuclear (JAN) apologising for not supporting vigil on 13th December but sending our thoughts, constantly with them since 2011.

Together Against Sizewell C (TASC) were taking out a judicial review to prevent the destruction of a piece of woodland by EDF. SH offered our legal challenge fund, but Sizewell group said they were managing to Crowdfund sufficient money. However, SH pledged some funds if they lost the case.

JANUARY 2020

EDF were proud that 'Big Carl' made his first lift in 3 months. We had heard that he was not stable and sinking into the shale, and having difficulty lifting because it was too windy.

Observer article...Time that the government stopped objecting to on shore wind plans.

We had news that Daniel Grunberg had died in her home in France. She and Crispin were joint co-ordinators of SH, then called Stop Hinkley Expansion, during the first Public Inquiry in 1988-89. Danielle was a passionate member of an anti-nuclear group initially involved with campaigning against Nirex burying the waste locally. She was a founder member of the Bridgwater Against Nuclear Group (BANG) campaigning to stop burying the waste.

Rolls Royce announced plans to build SMR's in Snowdonia.

Steve Thomas wrote a report stating it would still be cheaper to scrap HPC NOW . Is the French government taking on a liability they don't need, considering the position of their own nuclear commitments in France?

As a result of KA's persistent pressure on ONR to answer questions about sea level rise, ONR agreed to come to Bridgwater to have a meeting with SH. They offered to respond to a series of questions arising from concerns that all the national evidence showed that sea levels were rising much quicker than had been anticipated only a few years ago. ONR were to meet SA, AJ and RP from SH, and they invited Jill Sutcliffe, the NGO co-chair of NGO/ONR meetings, Andy Blowers and Varrie Blowers from Blackwater Against New Nuclear (BANNG) and Chris and Jenny Wilson from TASC

The anti- nuclear members came the day before and SH were able to entertain them at a local restaurant the evening before which was a good opportunity to catch up with them informally. All the anti-nuclear members going to the meeting the next day met at this meal.

28th January, key members of ONR and one Environment Agency rep attended the meeting at the Mercure hotel, Bridgwater with SH, Jill Sutcliffe and NGO 's from Sizewell and Bradwell. KA introduced the NGO concerns which she had worked hard over the last year with the ONR raising these concerns that the design of HPC and storage of waste had not adequately addressed the more recent reports of rising sea level. KA is holding ONR to account in that if she felt any response was unclear she would come back again to get a clearer answer.

SH felt that ONR did everything they could to allay our fears and tried to convince us they were there for the safety of the public and not as cheerleaders for the nuclear industry. They said they did have plans in place for extreme circumstances and they also agreed to continue to work with us to allay any further issues we were not completely happy with.

SH were delighted that ONR put on this meeting especially for us and we felt they made every effort to respond to meet our needs and we were honest if they fell below our expectations. Mark Foy suggested the ONR might look in future to holding an event to look at Climate Change.

FEBRUARY

As a result of the success of our presentation at Colchester, we were invited to go to present it again to local councillors at Sizewell. SA, AJ and JS set off on 1st February and we stayed in Joan and Mike's holiday accommodation. The next day, we were shown around the existing Sizewell site, the nearest town of Leiston and the nearby Minsmere nature reserve. In the afternoon, we went to the meeting where we were first shown a French film about EDF and the problems of the nuclear industry in France and then SA and AJ delivered the presentation: what it is like to be living next to EDF building HPC and our concerns about the design. Is it adequately protected from rising sea levels? AJ talked about the AFD that EDF do not want to build. The councillors who were there were very interested about our talk and mentioned a group of them were planning to come to Bridgwater to see HPC for themselves.

We were taken out for a meal in the evening by TASC members we were really well looked after over the whole weekend.

We had also taken 10 of our nuclear waste barrels to give to another anti nuclear group campaigning against Sizewell.

Alok Sharma is the Secretary of State for BEIS and he is Chair of the organising committee for COP26, the climate change event due to take place in Glasgow in November 2020 (now postponed until 2021). The government has still not decided whether Sizewell and Bradwell will be funded by the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) method, which would mean electricity consumers paying a levy to fund the power station from the start of construction. It is rumoured that EDF might be asking the Government if they can use this method to fund the final stages of HPC.

Plans revealed that more potentially radioactive mud from HPC is to be dumped off the Welsh coast. Previously in 2018 after strong opposition and legal challenge some mud was dumped off Cardiff. EDF have submitted plans to Natural Resources Wales to deposit a further 780,000 tonnes of sludge. Tim Deere-Jones, marine pollution consultant, wrote a report on behalf of NFLA and SH to submit to consultation.

28th February AJ and AD attended the SSG meeting where there was a discussion by ONR on the graphite depletion of the core. Both HPB reactors were down, EDF hopes to get both reactors back working at end of June. HPB reactors are reaching same graphite cracking problems as Hunterston in Scotland which has been closed for over a year.

HPA Magnox NDA is now completely run by the government, no American middle management. Fed waste removal is taking much longer than anticipated.

MARCH

Following a whistle-blower suggesting attending a Stogursey Parish Council meeting addressed by EdeF, RP had letters in BM and CG about additional staff potentially needed at HPC. JS had letters in WDP, WSFP and WMN

AJ attended an Engineers meeting about the tunnel boring at HPC. Two intake tunnels each 3.5 Km long and one outfall 1.8 km long at a 47 m depth to start tunnelling. The three expensive tunnelling machine heads will be left under the sea! Each tunnel is expected to take a year, if all goes well.

The Coronavirus was beginning to effect activities that were being cancelled. AJ was going to speak at the Remember Fukushima rally in London on 14th March and JS and IH were to go with barrels but following travel advice they decided it was unwise to attend. Instead a letter of support was sent. As an alternative action for the anniversary of Fukushima, a group of SH members delivered a letter to Somerset County Council that was circulated to the Press. Press Release was sent out on Climate Change and Remembering Fukushima.

Both CANCELLED: the ONR/NGO Manchester meeting on April 30th. Two SH members would have attended, staying overnight the day before and the BEIS/NGO meeting 4th May in London

APRIL

3rd April RP took part in a conference call with anti nuclear NGO's and the ONR about the continued working at HPC, but ONR were satisfied that EDF are trying their best to allay people's fears. Flamanville is closed so how is it that HPC is open? ONR agree with EDF that the integrity of concrete can only be assured if they keep going.

Work has continued at HPC and the month has been spent doing everything we can to get EDF to stop work. Letters to the Press, Press Releases, joining together with other NGO's to write letters to ONR and BEIS. EDF agreed to reduce workers on site from 4,600 to 2,000. Whilst ONR had said that EdeF could reduce to 1,000 on site, that never happened. Workers were refusing to social distance in the canteen as they said on site they cannot social distance.

Latest on AFD. JS written a letter to her MP. Severn Rivers Trust (SRT) embarrassed that they had missed what was happening at HPC re AFD and water intakes when they were heavily involved with the Severn Barrage and the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon keen to get involved now. Both SRT and Wetlands Wildlife Trust (WWT) are both badly affected by Covid-19 as most staff on furlough. SRT want to engage with SH and are considering a legal challenge. The Environment agency, had received 110 responses to the permit change on the AFD, hopefully a decision will be made in July whether or not to approve the change to not use the AFD. A further consultation will be required if they are minded to approve EDF'S changes.

MAY

Letter printed in WDP by JS on concerns 5G Chinese technology running our national infrastructure. The next week JS had letter in WMN regarding risk of particulates in mud dump on Wales.

Latest news on AFD, KA is keeping in contact with all interested bodies.

Tunnelling has continued to be carried out during time of virus despite Social Distancing being impossible in the tunnels

Re mud dumping, Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance (WANA) want a panel of experts formed to supervise an Environmental Impact Assessment on planned work. No response from Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Environmental Law Foundation considering a legal challenge on mud issue.

SH signed a joint letter to the First Minister, Mark Drakeford which went out at end of May, signed by 33 other people representing concerned groups, requesting adequate testing of soil from Hinkley before removal.

Conference call meeting of Community Forum, felt unsatisfactory. Work continues at HPC, a lot of contracts have been terminated and workers are supposed to be staying in the hostels due to C19 but only 50-60% occupancy. Workers reduced on site to 2,000 now ramping up to 2,500.

Latest contact with ONR, finally Minutes were sent regarding the January meeting. KA continues to keep pressure on ONR to follow through on any issues left to follow up. To summarize, ONR are satisfied their plans are adequate however, SH are looking for plans for worst case scenarios. As new climate change predictions are revealed they consistently show higher sea level rises and more extreme weather events leaving current models for nuclear power stations out of date.

Regarding ONR, SH need to differentiate between climate change sea level rise and C19 issues.

'The Atom, A Love Affair' is now finished. It is a film about history of the nuclear industry and once lockdown is over SH hopes to put it on locally.

Sue Aubrey, May 2020