

**Leiston Town Council  
Hinkley Point C visit**

**11-13 October 2023**

NB. The observations made by councillors are yet to be compiled in detail, therefore this is a high level report.

Intended outcomes from the visit:

- To follow up from the visit by councillors which took place in March 2020 in year 3 of the HPC project; councillors had a number of concerns, including the site restrictions at Sizewell after seeing the extent of the HPC site. Councillors decided to visit again when the project was nearing peak construction.
- To experience first hand the construction site, the development site and associated development to support the build, bearing in mind that SZC will be an exact replica of HPC in a more constrained site.
- To meet with councillors from parishes close to the site, in order to learn from their experience what we can expect as the host parish. Their advice will enable Leiston Town Council to try and mitigate the potential negative impacts with the benefit of hindsight - and to make the most of the benefits.
- To meet officers from Somerset Council to discuss the relationship they have built with both the developer and the residents and to learn what has worked best for their community.

Councillors attending:

Cllr Lesley Hill  
Cllr Nicky Corbett  
Cllr David Morsley  
Cllr John Last  
Cllr Adrian Swift  
Cllr Paul Motion

The visit was hosted by EDF Energy at their Cannington Training Facility on a complimentary bed, breakfast and evening meal basis using their canteen facilities. This saved the Council hotel and meal subsistence costs, therefore the only cost to LTC was for the hire of the coach and driver, plus one evening meal.

**Wednesday 11 October**

Councillors arrived in Somerset late afternoon and met that evening with County Councillor Mike Caswell and two members of Stogursey Parish Council, which is the closest parish to the HPC site. Leiston Town Councillors had prepared an extensive list of questions, grouped into topics. These were put to the Somerset councillors and all were answered in full. The meeting lasted for two hours and was extremely useful, highlighting both the positive and negative impacts of the project. It was evident that the early years of construction were the most disruptive and that now the project had reached Year 6, the impacts were less obvious.

Although there are some longer term effects - both positive and negative - it would be some time before their full impact would be known. LTC will continue to liaise with these parishes in order to monitor the socio-economic outcomes.

### **Thursday 12 October**

Day spent on site at Hinkley Point C. Hosted by Andrew Cockcroft (HPC), Marjorie Barnes and Richard Knight (SZC).

Classroom presentation by Andrew Cockcroft - update on progress of HPC.

Visit to Sedgemoor Campus (8 miles from site) to tour contractor accommodation and leisure facilities and chat to the site manager for 'Host', the bespoke company consortium tasked with the accommodation and welfare of non home based contractors.

Visit to the park and ride site located close to the M5 and a meeting with the site manager for Q&A.

Afternoon walking tour and minibus drive around the entire HPC site, which included the perimeter of the reactor building, the viewing platform, the GP surgery and the training facility. The group also learnt first hand how the site security system and contractor screening works.

Evening car drive around the vicinity to see the site lit up after dark. This was not accompanied by EDF.

### **Friday 13 October - 10am to 1pm**

Somerset Council, Taunton (now unitary, formerly four Districts and one County).

The same questions were put to council officers as were put to the councillors on Wednesday evening. This means we can easily identify any anomalies. The officers were extremely accommodating and very keen to support us over here in Suffolk. They recognise how much the Somerset experience can assist us with our journey through the SZC build. We have pledged to continue the dialogue with them.

The group returned to Suffolk straight after the meeting, arriving back at approximately 8pm.

The learnings from the visit will be collated and used to inform us as we move toward the triggering of the SZC Development Consent Order. The group agrees that it was two days very well spent and we have been invited by EDF to return when Hinkley Point C reaches its next significant milestone. We are determined that what we have learnt will enable us to serve the Leiston community to the best of our ability as we move forward with SZC.

Following our visit, we will now arrange a meeting to present a comprehensive report to council and agree some actions.

Nicky Corbett

Vice Chair, LTC and Chair of Energy Working Group  
7 November 2023