

## **SIZEWELL PARISHES LIAISON GROUP**

### **NOTES OF THE MEETING WITH Cllr. CHRIS MORGAN DEPUTY LEADER WEST SOMERSET DC ON 26<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012.**

## **HINCKLEY POINT NEW BUILD NUCLEAR REACTOR**

Planning Application issues.

The community/councillors/officers felt frustration that things move so slowly and with difficulty in negotiations with EDF. This is a Planning Application so get resources to mitigate the building process. In other words compensation for the upheaval caused, over a 10 year period, by a construction programme equal to the Olympic site in East London.

EDF asked us what we wanted. We expected community resources but were disappointed in the EDF response. We recognised that there would be some benefit to local employment but the retired would live out the last years of their lives on a building site and children entering primary school now would be taking their GCE's on completion of construction.

We were concerned at Hinckley Point about the transport of building materials-5000 lorry movements per day at the height of construction. We wanted a new road to the A39 to mitigate the problem (our access roads to Hinckley Point are similar to Sizewell). EDF said No! SPLG and the SCDC/SCC are advised they should identify the transport infrastructure needs NOW with EDF and that they should be built BEFORE starting construction of the power station. What has been achieved for the transport infrastructure? Basically nothing! We have instead Park & Ride and people carriers, diverted through my village, heightening CO2 emissions. Not a new by-pass road-yet we are only 5 miles from the M5!

EDF need to keep faith with a local community who, in general, support the building of a nuclear power station. For example, why should EDF plan to provide temporary worker accommodation on-site? We advocated that EDF build housing off-site which is then given to the community as social housing after construction is complete. Local services (e.g. pubs & plumbers) will be short staffed as workers are employed at the construction site on higher wages. Training & Education is important to implement NOW to prepare local people for employment at Sizewell. In France training facilities is second to none. Funding and training is provided by other organisations, whilst EDF take the apprentices. We were offered courses in hairdressing!

We have been able to establish from EDF a Community Fund of £30 million and £500,000 for the village nearest and most affected by the Hinckley site. The Community Fund is there to enable local groups to apply for funds based on a criterion of "Mitigation caused by the construction effects" The building will affect a whole range of people and places-even if they don't think so at this point in time! The knock on affect could reach South Wales (only 12 miles as the crow flies from Hinckley) and Lowestoft for Sizewell. We have not received a penny from Central Government. Government want the power station but are not willing to contribute anything to the services and infrastructure required to support a community that

will host a huge building programme. Local authorities, who are reducing their annual budgets, find themselves in the middle of a huge complex planning application with EDF. West Somerset is the smallest DC in the country. Again no help is forthcoming from Government. However, West Somerset will NOT automatically grant planning permission before sending its proposals to the Government Inspector for a final decision.

Local businesses/companies need to be encouraged to apply for contracts with the site contractors. However, they may not be selected for any number of factors (experience/skills etc). Local for EDF and contractors is defined as up to a 90 minute drive.

West Somerset authority would like to keep the Business Rate locally (as in France with nuclear power stations). The amount would be approximately £5 million per annum (about the same as their precept) over the life period of construction & generation (60 years). To achieve this change in government policy, the UK sites that will be building nuclear power stations need to jointly lobby the Treasury.