

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

Barry Leathwood
32 Nursery Close
Combwich
BRIDGWATER
Somerset TA5 2JB

Tel: 01278 652399

CLERK

Mr. P. M. Shaw
5 Riverside
Combwich
BRIDGWATER
Somerset TA5 2QX

Tel: 01278 652626

David Eccles CBE
Head of Bridgwater Office
14 King Square
Bridgwater
TA6 3DG

24th March 2011

Dear David

OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO EDF STAGE 2a CONSULTATION – MARCH 2011

1- The Council recognise the following changes to the preferred proposals outlined in the original Stage 2 Consultation.

- No fabrication facilities (where parts are assembled) at Combwich.
- No on- site storage buildings.
- No provision will be made for bus parking.
- Fewer security, welfare and admin buildings.
- Reduction in site from 13 to 10 hectares.
- New access road linking wharf to lay down area.
- New drainage channel.
- Change in site boundary.

Whilst we generally welcome some of these changes, as ever apparently with EDF, a close examination of the (sometimes missing) details is required to truly understand the proposals put forward.

2- The Parish Council are pleased that EDF have now joined us, Sedgemoor and West Somerset District councils in recognising that large buildings, fabrication works and bus parking are simply unacceptable on this high flood risk Greenfield location.

We do not approve of EDF's continued proposals for-

- Some form of 'road' freight use on the proposed Combwich site.

- The huge scale of the proposed lay down area, which is completely out of proportion to any reasonable use of the wharf (which must take into account the residential amenity aspect of neighbours but clearly EDF's proposals still do not).
- The proposed maximum use of the wharf including a new goods wharf.
- The proposed provision of 50 parking spaces for contractors vehicles at any laydown facility at Combwich is questioned. Has EDF replaced the concept of a bus depot at Combwich for a car/4x4 parking depot catering for contractors at the main hpc/associated development sites?
- We will seek confirmation that no provision for bus parking actually means no bus parking at Combwich.
- The lack of meaningful mitigation measures with regards to number and times of deliveries, hours of operation and residential amenity.

3- To avoid repetition the Parish Council stance has generally not changed from that outlined in our comprehensive response to the Stage 2 consultation.

In consideration of information now available on the numbers of vehicles passing our village due to your proposed development, we may wish to consider with EDF some possible form of traffic management / Solution to enable our community to exit the village of Combwich and also the Otterhampton road where it connects to the C182.

The Council is pleased that as verbally confirmed by EDF representatives at the recent exhibition (Otterhampton Village hall 1st March 2011) any comments / representations received before the close of this Stage 2a consultation will be in time to be considered and have the potential to affect EDF's proposals and their application for consents to the Infrastructure Planning Committee.

Therefore Otterhampton Parish Council refer EDF to the draft Supplementary planning document on HPC drawn up by West Somerset Council and Sedgemoor District Council. We concur significantly with the contents of this document with regard to its Combwich proposals (however the council believe operational times quoted do not fully take the effect on residential amenity of nearby dwellings into account) and will also be submitting a copy of the Otterhampton Parish Community Plan together with this response to your Stage 2a consultation for your Consideration. A transport overview, outlining our concerns, as part of the 2a response is also included.

4- The Parish Council hope that following the close of this latest stage of consultation, meaningful dialogue and discussions can actually take place in a sensible attempt to close the gap between your proposals and the reality at our rural village of Combwich. The increase of the community fund from one to twenty million pounds acknowledges just what an inadequate amount was initially proposed.

In view of your private agreement with Stogursey Parish Council, Otterhampton PC could consider how a similar agreement may be achieved.

Subject to these discussions, the Council looks forward to your eventual application to the IPC and will of course respond with confidence that we can and will affect your proposals in our community with the IPC.

Our community as you know, generally supports the building of HPC and cautiously will accept its share of responsibility for the delivery of 180 AIL's through the wharf.

Finally we remind you of the other two major projects at Steart that may greatly affect our community during the same time scale as your proposals and the need for a holistic approach by all developers with any cumulative effects recognised and mitigated.

Yours Sincerely

Otterhampton Parish Council

Enc A transport overview, outlining our concerns, as part of the Stage 2a Consultation
Otterhampton Parish Community Plan