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24 December 2017

Mr Patrick Flaherty
Chief Executive Officer
Somerset County Council

Cc: Ms Paula Hewitt
Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Director of Commissioning
Somerset County Council

Mr Andy Coupe
Strategic Manager, Major Programmes
Somerset County Council

Dear Mr Flaherty

Decision Report – Key Decision date 18.12.17
Hinkley Point C – Variation to Construction Traffic Management Plan and New deed of Development
Consent Obligations (S106 agreement)

I refer to the decision to permit the additional 250 HGV movements to Hinkley Point C. The parish council held a special meeting on 18.12.17 to consider a response.

We are extremely disappointed that this decision has been made without any consultation and due regard to the communities who will be most affected, regardless of the need to formally consult or not. This decision is of great concern to communities adjacent to the C182. It is apparent that due process within the workings of the Traffic Review Group does not involve consultation with local district and parish councils which to our minds is a basic flaw in its constitution and would need amendment.

This decision affects thousands of people. It is not encouraging that we are not very far into the programme and already, significant changes need to be made. Why was this not anticipated - after all, the jetty has been planned for years. We acknowledge that the jetty will allegedly take 80% of the traffic from the roads, but what is the reason why it is behind schedule and what other options have been considered?

This does not inspire confidence in the Developer. As a parish council, we are losing faith with EDF and also the planning authorities for the way this issue for example, has been addressed.

It seems that the factor taken into consideration for this decision has been how much mitigation will be awarded. We believe the transport infrastructure is wholly inadequate and incomplete. It begs the question as to why the development was allowed to start in the first place before the infrastructure had been completed to a standard fit for purpose. It is clear the mitigation fund will not be able to address these shortcomings in parallel with the commencement of the increased HGVs on our roads. Moreover, how can we be sure the mitigation is going to be allocated to the priority areas – because this has been decided without consultation?

The arrogance of EDF and its total disregard to the community (particularly those that live adjacent to the C182 who experience living with HGVs and AILs day in day out) is absolutely astonishing. I quote D.Eccle's comment on the BBC website on 12.12.17 "*there were (sic) around 16000 vehicles a day on the A39 and an extra 250 lorries would not make a huge difference*". He fails to mention the HGVs along the C182 stretch (Cannington to Hinkley Point). This is a 'C' road and it is simply not wide enough especially beyond Combwich, along which 2 HGV's often cannot pass in opposite directions without forcing one or both off the road damaging the highway; and this even before abnormal loads are transported from Combwich Wharf. This increase in movements will accelerate this deterioration.

In addition, the parishes whose only access is via the C182 do not have roundabouts or traffic lights to aid their progress onto the road and their onward journeys. We are concerned for the safety of road users and residents. We have already experienced 6 accidents in just under a year along a half a mile stretch of the C182 just beyond Combwich. A 50mph speed limit will be implemented early 2018 which is welcomed, but it will not address all the issues such as the HGVs cutting into the verges leaving a trail of mud on the roads, thereby illustrating the inadequate width of the road.

There is already more disruption, inconvenience, unhappiness and stress than was anticipated before the commencement of the HPC project. An additional 250 heavy vehicles a day may be a trifle to David Eccles but Combwich and no doubt other communities along the C182 are unlikely to appreciate his complacency. Mitigation monies are of course welcome and it is always easy to be wise after the event, but it hardly compensates for the misery this parish at least, is experiencing.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



John Berry
Chairman, Otterhampton Parish Council

cc

Rt Hon Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Mrs Allison Griffin, Chief Executive Officer, Sedgemoor District Council

Members of Transport Review Group:

Andy Coupe (Chair); Andrew Goodchild (West Somerset Council); Andrew Jones (EDF); Brian Buckingham (EDF); Claire Pearce (SDC); David Watson (Highways); John Bower (EDF); Mark Lewis (EDF) Rachel Lister (EDF); Steve Blackmore (Highways) Samuel Harper (SDC).

Cabinet Members

Cllr David Hall, SCC Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development

Cllr John Woodman, SCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Local Members

David Hall, Mark Healey, David Loveridge, Leigh Redman, Ann Bown, Mike Caswell, Bill Revans, Hugh Davies.

Opposition Spokesperson

Cllr Mike Rigby, Cllr Simon Coles

Relevant Scrutiny Chairman

Cllr Tony Lock