

Hinkley Point C Mitigation Fund Research and Consultation 2017

Executive Summary

Conducted by
The Community Council for Somerset and Clarity CIC
For: Somerset Community Foundation



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Introduction

This research was commissioned by Somerset Community Foundation to help inform the development and priorities of the Hinkley Point C Community Fund. The fund has been created to support projects in Somerset that will promote well-being and enhance quality of life to mitigate intangible and residual impacts for communities affected by the development of the new power station at Hinkley Point C (HPC development).

The research had two parts:

- **Secondary research:** identifying existing community consultations and plans (eg parish/community plans, housing needs surveys, vision documents), and analyzing these to pull out key priorities and trends. NB This did not include strategic documents at District or County level (or similar).
- **Primary research:** conducted with the aim of gathering a snapshot of current attitudes and opinions, and to test out the findings in the secondary research. This included a **survey** (on-line and hard copy) for individuals and locally based community groups and organisations; and **telephone interviews** with village agents covering the area and a small number of key organisations.

The research was conducted by two organisations with extensive experience:

- The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) works to support community groups, organisations and individuals in Somerset
- Clarity CIC support voluntary and community sector organisations across the South West

Aims of the Research

- Establish what would improve people's well-being and quality of life in their community
- Examine perceived opportunities for communities resulting from the Hinkley Point C development
- Explore the extent to which communities are *currently* affected by the HPC development, and how they see their communities affected in the *future* as the HPC development progresses

Reports

This Executive Summary contains the main points gained from all elements of the research & consultation and makes some recommendations for the fund.

In addition, the following Appendices are available which give far more detail:

- Appendix 1– Desk Research Summary Points
- Appendix 2– Parish Summaries for Sedgemoor
- Appendix 3– Interviews Summary Points
- Appendix 4– Full analysis of the Consultation Survey

Limitations of the data

There was a limited budget and timescale available for this work. Therefore, a lack of evidence for a particular issue, or within a particular parish should not be viewed as suggesting there is **no** need – simply that this hasn't been evidenced to date. The detailed Appendices that support this Report contain comprehensive information about who has and hasn't responded and give much more detailed information on the feedback.

Who we heard from (and who we didn't)

We searched for community plans and consultations for 86 parishes in Somerset (identified by Somerset Community Foundation as parishes they felt were more likely to have been affected by the Hinkley Point C Development).

We found 114 relevant documents, relating to 74 of the parishes.

- 29 Housing Needs Surveys
- 24 Neighbourhood /parish plans
- 20 responses to previous HPC consultations
- 10 Village Design Statements
- 17 'specific' consultations (eg Environment Agency, Village Hall)
- And for 14 parishes, data from the Parish Council Website or minutes was used

Sedgemoor District - 76 documents (45 parishes)

West Somerset District – 23 documents (17 parishes)

Taunton Deane District – 15 documents (12 parishes)

Feedback to the survey:

- 635 responses were received to the survey.
- The majority were from the Districts of Sedgemoor (47%) and West Somerset (36%)
- 79% were individuals, and the others represented an organisation
- In terms of age, those over 45 were over-represented and those under 25 were under-represented
- The ethnicity of respondents was broadly comparable to that of the general population in the area

Chart: Survey respondents by type

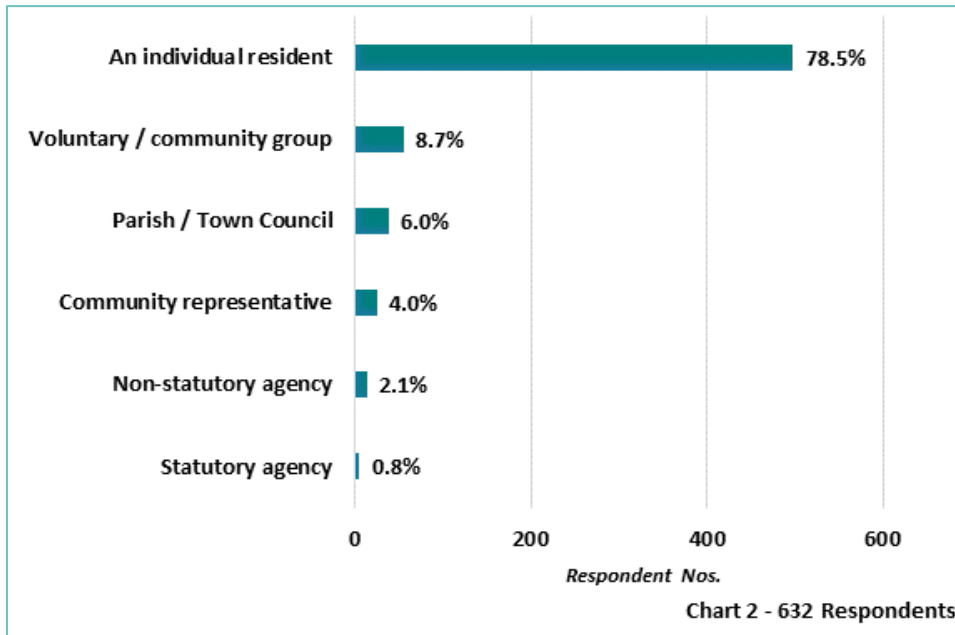
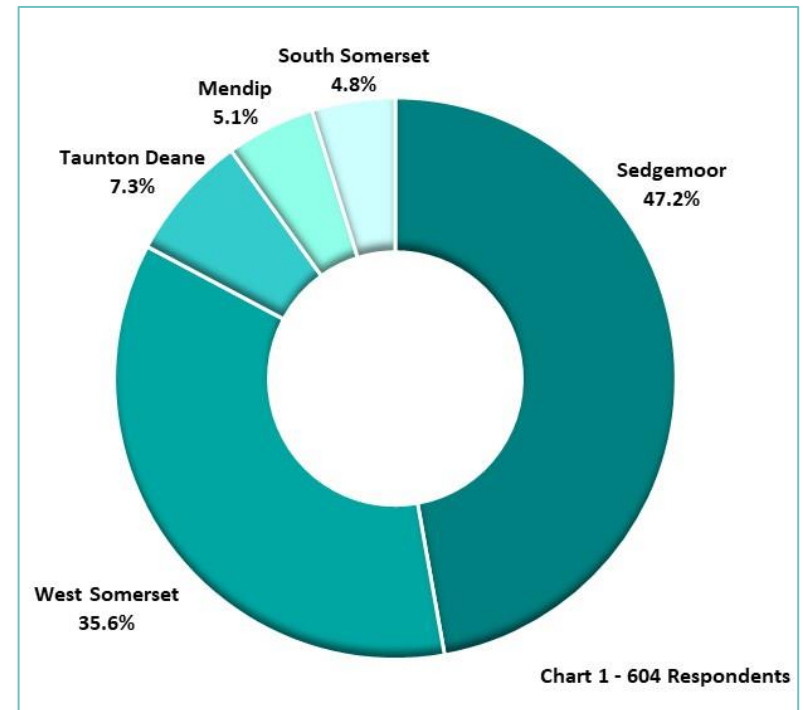


Chart: Survey respondents by District



Interviews were undertaken with:

- 7 Village Agents covering relevant patches of Somerset
- 2 organisations supporting young people
- 1 BME support worker
- 1 advice agency
- 1 organisation supporting families

They were selected to provide more depth of data and insight, and to cover gaps in the survey responses.

Quality of Life – what would make a difference in your community?

The data on this and the next page, summarises feedback gained through reviewing community plans within the specified parishes, and through the survey carried out in 2017 – the questionnaire; and interviews with key local organisations.

Interviews: The following were highlighted as being key issues by at least half of the 12 interviewees:

- **Isolation & loneliness**
- **Local services (shops, schools, pubs, healthcare)**
- **Traffic congestion & road safety**
- **Jobs and employment**

Crime and transport were the next most frequently mentioned.

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Interviews: Interviewees were asked for their top priorities. Responses given by more than 1 interviewee can be seen below:

- Transport (4 respondents)
- Social activities/groups – support for new or existing (3)
- Improving communications between Hinkley Point and local communities (3)
- Support for people with mental health issues (2)
- Support for carers (2)
- Support/activities for young people (2)
- Increasing volunteering (2)
- Support for people with low incomes/narrowing the gaps (2)

Other 'top priorities' identified were: support for older people; developing more community shops; affordable housing; flood mitigation; easing traffic congestion; sports facilities; community cohesion & feeling safe; making services accessible.

Desk Research: Local community plans and other consultation documents were analysed, and these are the most commonly identified issues for communities, across all the documents (each was raised in at least 10 of the documents):

- **Traffic congestion & speeding**
- **Cycle & footpaths; bridleways**
- **Transport**
- **Community facilities – parks, sports, halls**
- **Local services (shops, schools, pubs, healthcare)**
- **Support / activities for young people**
- **Environmental projects / improvements**
- **Affordable housing**
- **Flooding**
- **Economic development (jobs, training, businesses)**
- **Tourism**

NB These were grouped using the categories from other areas of the research, but also highlighted some issues that hadn't been explored in the survey.

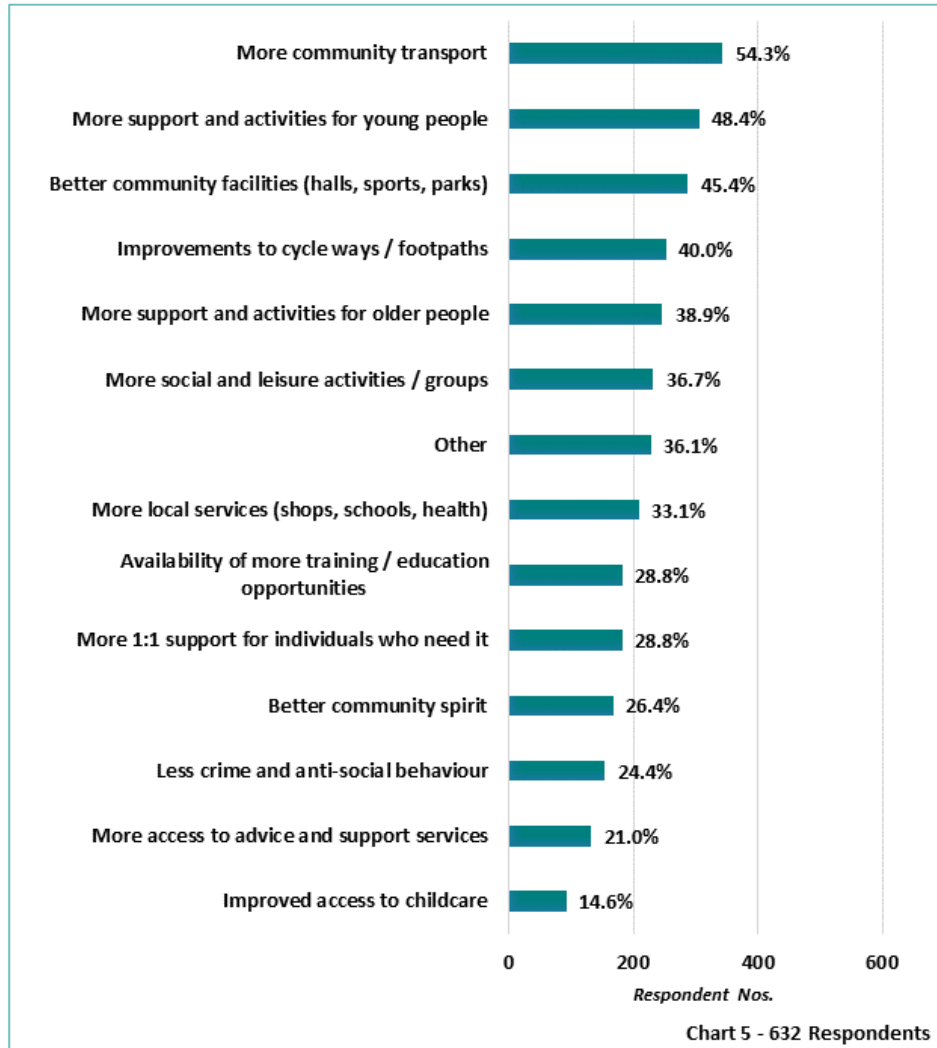
Other issues highlighted (all consultation):

low aspirations; arts & cultural provision;
teenage pregnancy; prostitution; domestic violence;
housing; mental health issues;
broadband; jobs; litter & dog fouling; rural isolation;
volunteering.

Chart: Survey responses

'What would improve people's well-being and quality of life in your community?'

NB these options were supplied and respondents could tick as many as they liked



The survey asked respondents to prioritise their 'Top 3' priorities. The most frequent responses are shown below:

Table: Survey Respondents' Top 3 priorities.

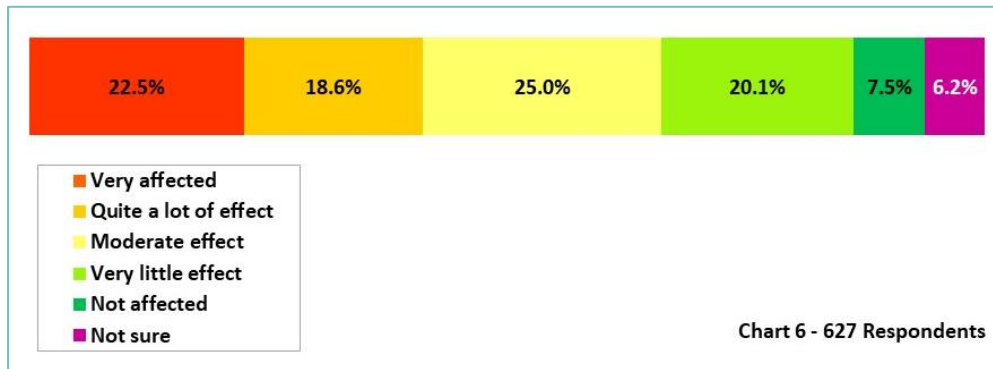
Which of these issues are your top 3 priorities?	
More community transport	241
Better community facilities (halls, sports, parks)	205
More support and activities for young people	199
Improvements to cycle ways / footpaths	167
More support and activities for older people	137
More social and leisure activities / groups	112
More local services (shops, schools, health)	105
Better community spirit	97
Less crime and anti-social behaviour	96
More 1:1 support for individuals who need it	93
Availability of more training / education opportunities	87
More access to advice and support services	55
Improved access to childcare	30

Other priorities included (all consultation):
 Traffic; arts & cultural activity;
 broadband; housing;
 environment/green spaces

Impact of Hinkley Point C Development

The survey and the interviews sought views on the current and expected impact of Hinkley Point C on local communities. Some evidence was also found through the desk research of the same concerns.

Chart: **Survey responses** – level of impact of Hinkley Point C development



And future impact....



Tables: **Survey responses** (open questions)

Positive impacts from Hinkley Point C Development

Potential Positive Affects	Total
Jobs for local people	106
Investment in local area	61
Village/town growth	20
More money spent locally	14
Road improvements	14
Young people opportunities	14

Current Affect	Total
Traffic	617
Housing impact	109
Local economy impact	75
Pollution: noise / air / light	58
Village / town growth	32
Services - pressure on health / schools/ other	32

And future impacts expected...

Future Affect	Total
Traffic	429
Housing impact	154
Local economy impact	139
Services - pressure on health / schools/ other	89
Community spirit impact	49
Village / town growth	49
Pollution: noise / air / light	45

Interviewee feedback:

- 9 of the 12 interviewees felt that their area was already affected by Hinkley Point C Development
- 11 thought it would be in future (1 wasn't sure)
- The most commonly mentioned advantages were: jobs; and opportunities for young people
- The most commonly mentioned disadvantages were: health services being stretched; impact on community spirit; and traffic congestion.

Survey feedback:

Further analysis of survey respondents who are feeling **strong effects resulting from the HPC development**, shows that for the outstanding majority these appear to be negative effects, and in particular related to **traffic**.

Quotes shown on this page are examples of feedback given in the **survey**.

Already starting to be pressure on housing and increased pressure on Dr's, pubs and shops

Pressure on all aspects of infrastructure in towns and villages due to increased traffic and increased numbers of people being brought into Somerset to work on HPC

As a young single person it is impossible to find any accommodation locally. Every shared house or 1-bedroom property is taken by HPC workers. It's also pushed prices way up.

I can see the huge benefits in terms of job opportunities in now and in the future, however, at the moment all I experience is the knock-on effects of all the road works!

Traffic through village up by 27%.

Feelings of uncertainty and concerns about future effects

Some people have moved to the area specifically for employment. House prices perhaps increased by 10% in two years

Loss of local tradesman to the high wages at Hinkley

Mitigation

Interviewees were asked what they thought would reduce the potential impacts of the development. The Table shows responses given by at least half of the 12 interviewees:

Help to Reduce Impact	Number of Interviewees
Support for organisations offering groups & activities locally	11
Funding for workers to support the local community	10
Funding for local solutions to health & social care issues	8
Funding for local facilities (eg parks, halls, sports fields)	7
Support for communities to consult with people on their priorities	6
Funding for community events	6

Most people are talking about Brexit rather than Hinkley

The Table on this page summarises the issues highlighted throughout the different research elements, and shows where there is consistency, and where there are differences.

Table: Summary of priorities

Issues Identified	Desk Research	Survey	Interviews	HPC impact - Survey	HPC impact - Interviews
Activities/support for older people		✓ *			
Activities/support for young people	✓	✓ *	*		
Housing (especially affordable)	✓			-ve	-ve
Community facilities (halls, sports, parks)	✓	✓ *	✓		
Community spirit / events		*	✓		-ve
Crime & anti-social behaviour		*	(✓)		
Cycle, footpaths and bridleways	✓	✓ *			
Economic development & tourism	✓		✓	+ve	+ve
Environmental improvements	✓			-ve	
Flooding	✓				
Poverty / deprivation			*		
Services - school/health/shop/pub	✓	✓ *	✓	-ve	-ve
Social activities (general)		✓ *	✓ *		
Traffic – congestion/speeding	✓	✓ *	✓	-ve	-ve
Transport	✓		(✓) *		
1:1 support (isolation, MH, carers)		*	✓**		
Training		*			
Growth / development				-ve	

✓ indicates that this was frequently mentioned across the documents/respondents;
 * indicates that this was highlighted as a top priority by respondents.

When looking at all of the data, there are a number of issues that are consistently raised:

- Activities/support for young people
- Community facilities
- Cycle & footpaths
- Housing (affordable & impact of HPC)
- Services (statutory & shops/pubs)
- Traffic (congestion / speeding)
- Transport

There are a couple of areas that weren't raised in the community plans analysed that were seen as key in the other consultation methods e.g.:

- Crime & anti-social behavior
- 1:1 support – e.g. with loneliness, for carers, with mental health
- General community activities/groups

Issues raised in the documents analysed, but not supported through the wider consultation were:

- Environmental projects & flooding

There are a number of categories where this Fund is unlikely to be able to make any direct impact: e.g. traffic; statutory services (schools, health); affordable housing.

Conclusions

- It is felt that the Hinkley Point C development is already having an impact locally, and that this will increase in future
- The main impact reported by local people from Hinkley Point C to date is on: **traffic** (congestion, road safety, time taken to get to places, noise, pollution, damage to roads...).
- Concerns around future impact focus on **housing** (affordability, prices going up or down); the added **pressure on existing services and facilities**; and the **change to the mix of population** – more young people, particularly young men.
- On a positive note, many respondents acknowledged the potential of **jobs** for local people and **increased spending** within local businesses.
- There were a variety of issues highlighted that will improve quality of life. Some of these fall within the potential areas of this fund e.g.: support for young people; community facilities; support for vulnerable individuals. Others don't – traffic & roads; pressure on statutory services; affordable housing.

A huge **thank you** to all those individuals who completed surveys, talked to us and gave their views, and to the organisations and Village Agents who promoted the consultation.

Alongside this summary report, the following were produced for Somerset Community Foundation:

- Appendix – Desk Research Summary Points
- Appendix – Parish Summaries (for selected parishes Sedgemoor, West Somerset and Taunton Deane)
- Appendix – Interviews Summary Points
- Appendix – Full analysis of the Consultation Survey

This report has been produced by Clarity CIC – www.claritycic.org.uk based on consultation and research undertaken by ourselves and Community Council for Somerset – www.somersettrcc.org.uk for Somerset Community Foundation.