

Press Release: For immediate release

26/9/2017

Have Your Say and Help Make a Difference in Your Community

Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) and Community Council for Somerset (CCS), in partnership with Clarity CIC, have launched a survey for people living and working in communities that will be directly affected during the Hinkley Point C (HPC) construction period.

The survey asks individuals and local community organisations - such as parish councils, village halls and local schools – what they feel would help to improve community well-being and quality of life.

The outcomes of the survey, alongside other evidence and stakeholder engagement, will help develop the priorities for the Hinkley Point C Community Fund. The grant awards panel, which includes representatives from EDF Energy, SCF trustees, local councils, and two independent volunteers, will then make decisions on applications for funding, received from communities which are directly affected by the development.

The £13 million community fund will support projects that improve social, economic and environmental well-being and enhance overall quality of life, or help people benefit from the positive opportunities offered by the project.

Val Bishop, Programmes Director at SCF said: “We are keen to hear what communities have to say as we develop the priorities for the Hinkley Point C Community Fund. The results from this survey will be used alongside information and reports from district and parish councils to help us to build a picture of what community members would like to see improved and will be working alongside CCS to deliver this effectively.”

Keeley Rudd, CEO of CCS said: “We are delighted that SCF and CCS are working together to give people a real chance have their voices heard so they can establish local priorities and influence what they would like to see improved in their communities. Our Village Agents are on hand to help people access the online survey, and we look forward to hearing what the communities have to say.”

The survey can be found online here: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/scfcommunityfund. A hard copy version can be obtained from local Village Agents, or by calling CCS on 01823 331222.

The deadline to complete the survey is Monday 23 October.

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Word count: 342

Notes to Editors:

Somerset Community Foundation

- Somerset Community Foundation have been providing a simpler and more effective way for donors to make a lasting difference in Somerset since 2002. By working together with individuals, families and businesses we increase the impact of local philanthropy, creating more vibrant and inclusive communities in our county. We currently manage over 70 funds for individuals, companies, trusts and public bodies and in 2016/17 we supported over 208 local charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises in our county.
- For more information on this news release please contact Sue Wheeler, External Communications Executive on sue.wheeler@somersetcf.org.uk
- For more information about Somerset Community Foundation and current funding available for local charities, please visit www.somersetcf.org.uk or call 01749 344949.
- Twitter: @Somerset_CF
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/SomersetCommunityFoundation

The Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Registered charity (number 1069260) and part of the Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) Network.

Our vision is for vibrant and viable communities with health, happy people and strong, sustainable businesses – the

perfect place to live.

We aim to strengthen communities, innovate and encourage enterprise, support and serve people and tackle disadvantage.

We deliver an extensive range of personalised support and services for rural (and urban) communities across Somerset. Our primary focus is on the needs of whole communities rather than narrowly focussed service provision.

We aim to build capacity, capability and vision in communities so that they can shape their own futures, address vulnerabilities and make their place the perfect place to live.

CCS has considerable experience and knowledge of how to carry out effective, inclusive and robust community consultation and engagement. This expertise has been invaluable across the county where we have worked with large numbers of communities creating the foundations for their Neighbourhood Plans, community plans and carrying out Housing Needs Surveys, as well as specific community need consultations on specific services and community facilities to help establish local priorities.

This work underpins the Village Agent work motivating communities to respond to local needs by working together to implement their own solutions (such as social groups or local car schemes) and by providing information and signposting to services and support provided by others.

Our Partner: CLARITY CIC (Based in Okehampton)

Clarity Clear Solutions for Social Purpose Organisations (Clarity CIC) is a registered Community Interest Company No 09147860. Registered Office: Thrushelton Mill • Lewdown • Okehampton • Devon • EX20 4QY

Clarity CIC's aim is to 'Help organisations that do good, do better'.

Examples of Recent Contracts of relevance are:

- Consultation with voluntary sector organisations and individuals on the impact of loneliness and what works in relieving it (Healthwatch Devon, 2016-17)
- Consultation with stakeholders as part of an evaluation (Exeter Community Initiatives, 2016-17)
- Consultation with stakeholders (staff, partners and clients) as part of an evaluation of Somerset Village Agents project (Community Council for Somerset, 2016)
- Consultation around plans for a green space in Torquay (Communities CAN, 2016)
- Consultation with local residents for a Neighbourhood Partnership in Torbay (Communities CAN, 2016)
- Large community consultation project in Exwick in Exeter for the local parish hall and community

organisation (Exwick Life, 2015)