



ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY PC TO EDF

Q: Is it correct that junction boxes are out of date and need upgrading to prevent all power cuts?

A: Rolling programme in place and networks under constant review.

Q: Many vulnerable people such as the old and very young suffered during the power cuts, Plumpton does not have a mains gas supply, and people rely on electricity for heating and cooking.

A: EDF appreciates this. There is a Priority Services Register (website (www.edfenergy.com) – go to Networks – click on box on right hand side entitled Priority Services) or contact co-ordinator Loraine Parris 0800 1699970)

Q: Power cuts have been going on for over a year, in good and bad weather.

A: Faults can occur from weather but may not be restricted to winter months – extreme rain, lightning strikes etc, birds, vermin, airborne debris can also cause cuts.

Q: Why do some areas of the village such as East View Fields hardly ever suffer from cuts while others have many more?

A: Would depend on what part of the network they are fed from.

Q: Please explain how Plumpton Green and East Chiltington and other rural areas are supplied with electricity. Where does the main supply come from, and what type of equipment is used, its age and what is your planned equipment replacement programme?

A: Power supplies from main substation at Lewes. Two high voltage circuits supply Plumpton and parts of EC and are fed from a different circuit to PG. (No answer given to planned equipment replacement programme)

Q: Resident contacted EDF about short blips in loss of power and told due to overhead wires. Are these wires reaching the end of their life and need replacing?

A: Confirm long and short cuts due to fault on overhead line network which has been located and resolved. Small hole in a disc insulator which caused rain ingress. Cables inspected regularly and are fit for their purpose. Also tree removed, which in high winds, would have caused short blips due to operation of automatic switch on high voltage overhead line network.

Q: Week 9th January, a wire detached from pole in a shower of sparks and fell into the road. EDF attended after several hours, but this happened again; occurred during dark hours – hazard to vehicles and pedestrians.

A: Engineer attended after 3 hours and made cable safe – 60 customers affected for up to 5 hours. Cables were made safe following the first report. (Nothing about second report of fault).

Q: (reported by letter, phone and e mail to CEO of EDF) Why did it take so long for the ‘problem’ to be rectified (disc insulator) after sending endless letters which were sent from PC in late summer last year until present time? PC requested visit from EDF representative to answer questions, but no one could attend the April 13th meeting, which was crucial to get feed back to the public for the APM. Initial letters only received an apology and compensation details

A: EDF unable to attend meeting in April but offered meeting in May.

Despite further communication from PC and Mr Norman Baker MP, no one was available to attend to speak to PC direct at the April meeting.

(PC – there has never been a conclusion to this, either to the PC or Mr Baker’s office).

Q: Loss of power has occurred for up to 19 hours and sometimes seconds, and has been plaguing the life of Plumpton residents for well over a year. Local businesses were affected (refrigeration units in local shop) computer data lost, electrical items needed reprogramming several times – one occasion 85 brief power cuts were counted between 3am and 7am. What is the explanation?

A: Detail of these follows:

HIGH VOLTAGE FAULT HISTORY

- 1. High voltage cable termination at Bevern Bridge Cottages Chailey failed causing interruption on 29/3/09 – further failure on 16/7/09 resulting in permanent fault. Cable termination was replaced.**
- 2. Transient interruptions in PG and EC began on 5.8.09 – further interruptions 25/26.9.09, 15.10.09, and 14/15/16.11.09. Large fir tree growing up through cables; attempts made to clear this but concern about debris falling on railway track. Co-ordinated with Network Rail and cleared on 17.12.09 though further interruptions on 20/22/23/25.10.09 and 15.12.09.**
- 3. Bad weather on 5.1.10 lines brought down close to Drews Farm causing interruption.**
- 4. Short interruption on 25.2.10 reports of low volts. Line patrol identified break in connection of cables on pole at North Barnes Lane.**
- 5. High number of transient interruptions on 27.2.10 which included a series of 80 interruptions on morning of 28.2.10. Disc insulator discovered on pole-mounted switch at Bowling Green Cottage – disc insulator replaced and circuit restored to normal!**

LOW VOLTAGE FAULT HISTORY

- 1. 13.5.09 branch at Lentrige Farm caused fuse to blow – 4 customers affected**
- 2. 29.6.09 low voltage fuse operated at substation at Whitehouse farm – replaced – 6 customers affected.**
- 3. 15.11.09 tree resting on lines in Southdowns caused fuse to blow – 33 customers affected – tree removed.**
- 4. 15.12.09 low voltage pole mounted cable termination failed at Sun Hotel – affected 33 customers. Customers transferred to different source as temporary measure. Alternative supply failed interrupting further 18 customers fed from Southdowns substation. Supply off in excess of 20 hours.**
- 5. 5.1.10 overhead cable down in East View Fields. 60 customers affected for 5 hours.**

EDF Conclusion: Plumpton, Plumpton Green and East Chiltonton have experienced an unprecedented number of supply interruptions during the last year. While it is understood the frustrations felt by the local community, EDF are confident that incidents are unrelated and no evidence to suggest an underlying problem with the construction, maintenance or operation of network in the area.

As a precautionary measure, EDF have commissioned a detailed inspection of two high voltage overhead circuits feeding the area, and instructed tree cutting provider to ensure that any outstanding access issues are resolved as a priority.

Nothing further has been heard from EDF. A representative is to attend the May Parish Council meeting when further questions that may be raised by the public at the Annual Parish Meeting will be raised.

**A full version of these questions is on the Parish Council website
(<http://www.plumptonpc.co.uk/pages/ppc/edf.html>)**