

CLlr R Cooper

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Richard,

Happy New Year to you and your colleagues.

Thank you for your letter of 23 December 2020

In his email to Community Forum members on 16 March 2020, independent chair Brian Stewart OBE clearly stated: 'The Sizewell C Community Forum is part of the consultation activity for Sizewell C and as EDF were going to submit the application imminently, it was likely that the meeting on 26 March would have been our last opportunity to come together.'

The chair also indicated this would be the last meeting of the Community Forum at the preceding meeting in December 2019. This is because the Forum was an element of the pre-submission public consultation (as outlined in the Revised Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and the original SoCC). Its role therefore ended upon submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application in May 2020.

It was extremely unfortunate that the meeting could not take place due to COVID restrictions and before we all got used to alternative technologies aiding virtual meetings. However, the chair's email also stressed the crucial need for continuing engagement between the Sizewell C Project Team and local parishes and community groups.

To assist in this process, we have issued briefing documents at each stage of the DCO planning process to parishes and other local stakeholders. These briefings explain where we are in the process, the next steps and how local people can have their say. I have attached the most recent one alongside this letter. It has been sent to all parishes in East Suffolk, not just those that were members of the Forum.

Each part of the planning process comes with its own challenges and following submission, we would encourage all parishes to engage in the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) process. It is open, transparent and operates to clear deadlines. PINS can answer inquiries and we do not want to disrupt or confuse the process of Examination by organising meetings on the same high-level issues that will be considered in the process.

We believe that if Sizewell C goes ahead, the detailed issues of concern to local communities are best addressed through direct meetings with the parishes involved, rather than a large meeting like the Community Forum, which in your letter you note had a number of shortcomings.

Therefore, in tandem with the regular planning briefings, you will be aware that we have established Transport and Traffic Working Groups with Wickham Market and surrounding Parish Councils (including Hacheston, Marlesford and Campsea Ashe) and with Leiston Town Council. As a member of the Wickham Market Group you know we consider issues affecting the community with elected parish councillors along with district and county officers, and we aim to work together to develop solutions that maximise the benefits to local people.

These working groups allow local communities to work with project experts to deal with local concerns in a focused way. As the parish attendees are elected, they are accountable to those communities they represent. We hope that parishes where physical development is proposed will now also meet with us to discuss their relevant representations and we can progress next steps constructively.

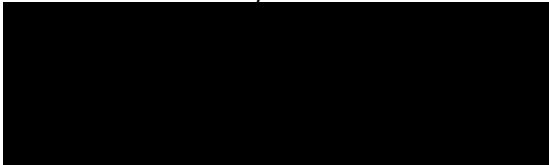
This local approach on specific issues should hopefully address your negative perception that the Community Forum is a 'PR exercise'. As the Sizewell C Project will be investing significant resources to minimise the impact on local communities from construction and maximise the benefits from construction, I'm hopeful you and other parish councillors will agree that detailed work is best taken forward through local and democratically accountable groups on behalf of those communities.

As well as the briefings we issue to town councils, parish councils and other interested parties, up to date information on our proposals is available at [www.sizewellc.co.uk](http://www.sizewellc.co.uk) and on the Planning Inspectorate portal.

Although we all have to work within the restrictions of the Covid crisis, the Sizewell C team have always been available for meetings and presentations with individual councils and groups since 2012.

This approach will continue during the planning process and beyond. If you have a query or would like to organise a meeting for your parish or group, please do not hesitate in emailing the team at [info@sizewellc.co.uk](mailto:info@sizewellc.co.uk) or call the Freephone helpline on 0800 197 6102.

Yours sincerely



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Nuclear Development