

Oral Representation by Edwina Galloway on behalf of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council

“Time and again, the weighting in favour of applicants because of the unsustainable costs of representation by objectors is mentioned in connection with Sizewell. Objection, dissent and inquiry are rationed by the purse, on this most crucial issue of the development of nuclear power.” [Mr. John Garrett \(MP Norwich, South\)](#) in respect of SZB.

We are apparently some of the ‘small people out there’ and we do want to object to the plans.

This is because what has been put forward, is so ‘highly, unusually large and complex’ that it will have material, significant and detrimental impacts on our local community, for an unspecified length of time, well in excess of a decade in construction and well in excess of a century all in.

Like so many others, we have a lack of financial assistance, and if the purpose of the change from Public Inquiry to the Planning Inspectorate was to clip the wings of highly paid planning lawyers,.... matters could be improved.

Nevertheless, we do have a Parish to represent and are doing this to the best of our ability, however unequal this feels, so please bear with us.

In 2019 despite Parish Council objections, Planning Permission was given for what is viewed to others, as a small development in our Parish.

There was a Construction Plan, approved by East Suffolk Council, this listed working hours starting at 7.30am, removing mud on the carriageway immediately and so on. I am sure you will all be familiar with this. The developer sounded very considerate on paper, with arrangements apparently in place to ensure least possible disturbance with works being closely monitored. Neighbours would be communicated with, complaints dealt with professionally, and they would endeavour to avoid re-occurrences of any problems.

The development started recently, and according to one resident ‘The first problem I had with the construction site was continuous ‘reverse’ beeping from the machinery being used. It got so bad that I telephoned the developer and asked if they had purposely employed someone to drive in reverse around the site all day!’

One Friday morning at 6.45 in the morning residents woke to noise they describe as damaging to health and a Nuisance. And this we are told is not a one off. In addition, residents' report to the Parish Council the vibration from the works are shaking the foundations of nearby property.

The Parish is also enduring large lorries parking on the brow of a hill causing obstruction and obscuring the view, forcing oncoming traffic in the opposite lane. When this was referred back to the District Council who gave approval, we were informed that our only recourse was via the Police. Still the issue was temporarily resolved when work on a gas pipe caused Main Road to be completely closed on an Emergency basis, with traffic self-routing everywhere, including the Conservation Area and our proposed Quiet lanes.

Another example of a complaint is as follows: "there is debris of mud and large stones on the road. I'm sick of it already. Not only are they taking our beautiful countryside, but also the peace, tranquillity and wildlife that goes with it."

So, to recap this is a small development, not a highly unusually large and complex project. Construction will probably last a year or so, not 12 (ish), but many of the issues we have flagged in respect of Sizewell C are evidenced here, noise (and other) pollution, vibration, impact on wildlife, loss of tranquillity, self-routing throughout the Parish including the Conservation Area* and what will be Quiet Lanes. Oh, and proposing to site the SLR near to the brow of a hill on a single carriageway.

You may or may not be aware that whilst most of Kelsale-cum-Carlton is farmland there still remain habitats such as ancient woodland, hedgerows, flower-rich meadows and ponds.

These are often the last refuge for plants, animals, birds etc that were once much more widespread in the countryside.

We are fortunate in still having populations of animals, birds, plants and fungi that are rare, both nationally and internationally. For example, the Turtle Dove is critically endangered but a small population breeds locally.

One of the largest Green-winged Orchid colonies in Suffolk occurs in the Parish. The Sandy Stiltball is an endangered and protected species of fungus that occurs right in the centre of our village.

In a similar vein we also have significant heritage assets including buildings created by nationally significant architects.

Our Written Representation will (amongst other issues relating to local impacts to our Parish), outline the Heritage and Ecological assets which are at risk of harm from the proposed SZC project and in particular the SLR should it be given planning consent.

Our comments must be put in the context that, fifteen years after closure, Sizewell 'A' still stares out across the North Sea, like the head of a Dr Who 'cyberman' who, I was surprised to learn, might not completely disappear until 2098!

Should Sizewell B achieve an extended '60' year lifespan' then using the same timescales, it might not disappear from the Suffolk Coast until 2147. And I cannot easily find the plan for decommissioning of the site and safe removal of Sizewell C in the paperwork.

These two examples bring into sharp focus how the ExA's decisions in 2021 will potentially impact the people of Coastal Suffolk (and those beyond), in addition to the AONB, for more than 100 years, and perhaps into the fourth quarter of the twenty second century.

In addition to issues of heritage and ecology, there are also impacts on our residents, some of whom have already been suffering from the impact of the proposals.

If approval is given, it will be impossible to access other parts of the County easily. As a community we are either an island cut off from other places, or swamped with all varieties of Sizewell related traffic (or displaced drivers trying to avoid Sizewell related traffic) causing untold damage. Let alone the impact of night trains on the other side of the Parish.

Since the last Community Forum in December 2019, our Parish has had one online meeting with EDF on 16th March 2021. We are still waiting for them to come back with the information they agreed to provide.

We therefore await important detail, but what we are clear about, is that residents impacted by the proposals for the Sizewell Link Road, and other residents in our Parish, still feel that if approval is granted, the location means there is no legacy, no value, and so despite the disruption, they would like it removed. Can there be anything more damning?

As a Parish Council we have engaged with the process since the initial proposals were put forward, we have invested a huge amount of time and energy in responding to Consultations. To give you an example, the main body of our response to Consultation 3 was 187 pages, added to which was an Executive Summary, Appendices, Department of Transport Guidance and the results of a Parish Questionnaire this supplied in different formats including heatmaps and graphics.....and yet the proposals are as damaging as ever, if not more so.

Residents are being asked to swap listening to birdsong in their gardens, to asking for ear-defenders.

Would we be paying for our own destruction?

Hearts and minds are not being changed, and it's all about the relationship between the citizen and the state. Please listen to us, because this is the wrong highly unusually large complex project in the wrong outstandingly natural beautiful place.

Thank you

- Map of Kelsale Conservation Area Attached

