

Open Floor Hearing – Revd Canon Christine Redgrave

I live in Darsham having retired 18 months ago from the privilege of being Rector of Yoxmere Benefice which covers the 8 villages of Theberton with Eastbridge , Middleton and Westleton , Darsham, Dunwich, Yoxford, Sibton and Peasenhall. I know the area very well. Although I have spent most of my life living and working elsewhere, I have visited close relatives here for 70+ years and was delighted to be able to spend the last 10 years of my ministry in an area I love and in which I feel deeply rooted. My mother could remember Sizewell before A was built. For me it is a special area of tranquillity, quiet villages, and outstanding landscape with beautiful skies, and wonderful wildlife. I cannot bear the thought of the destruction to the environment that building such a vast project will inevitably cause.

As I live at the top of the hill in Darsham from my house and garden I can see decommissioned Sizewell A and the dome of B and at night the glow of the stations lighting. This is a dark sky village, with no street or unnecessary lighting to cause light pollution. If permission is granted for construction, this will no longer be the case for the site with its cranes will be floodlit (as will the Darsham Park and Ride) and be visible for miles around; this will confuse wildlife, including insects, bats, migrating birds and mammals. When the SE wind blows our air will be polluted by the dust from the spoil heaps on site

For over 50 years I have made many visits to the RSPB's Minsmere Reserve, watching it develop through the painstaking management of wardens, their staff and volunteers to bring back species from near extinction to make it a reserve of international importance. I never forget the thrill of observing so many rare species here for the first time. Along with the heath and coast it is a place which feeds my soul and to me it is priceless in value for our wellbeing and needs to be protected. I urge inspectors to spend a day in this magical place.

The projected level of extra trucks, buses and cars on our roads even at a conservative estimate is cause for alarm. I think it will be very difficult to get onto the A12 from Darsham Street to go either north or south. I use the A 12 or the B 1122 to go to Saxmundham, Halesworth, or Leiston to visit the

supermarket, and other essential shops, to attend the Doctors surgery, dentist, optician, podiatrist, and take my dog to the vet. I am not alone in this; it is the experience of all residents in the villages, we have to travel for essentials and also to attend hospital appointments in either Ipswich or Gorleston both at least 25 miles away. The increase in the volume of traffic will cause long delays to our everyday lives, and lead to great anxiety and stress. It will have a major impact on our emergency services. EDF do not appear to have taken account of the extra traffic generated by the tourist industry especially over bank holidays and during the holiday season which uses the A12 not only to access destinations in Suffolk but also Norfolk.

From my experience of working in an area of huge development in east Berkshire and as a retired Rector and Rural Dean of Saxmundham Deanery which includes the towns and villages accessed from the A12, I am certain this area will be destroyed as it simply does not have the road, rail or housing infrastructure to cope with the size of this enormous project even with all the changes and mitigation EDF proposes at huge cost.

St Peter's Church Theberton is a Grade 1 listed building, and it is lovingly looked after by the parish community. With a rare round tower, and interesting Norman Doorway, standing adjacent to the B1122, it doesn't have any foundations to withstand the volume of Lorries that will pass by in the early stages. The walls will simply crack.

A 10 year+ build is not a short time frame in my remaining years and for many others. I seriously believe that our lives will be shortened by the stress of the continuous 24 hour, 7 days a week around the clock operation. I think this area is the wrong place for such a project.