

## Open Floor Hearing 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Sizewell C and D Notes

My name is Susan Morrice, I am speaking on behalf of myself and my family but am aware that my concerns are echoed by others in the community and other people who have spoken this morning.

I live in Theberton and my home is directly on the B1122, four generations of my husband's family have lived in this property and I inherited it from him in 2005. It is my hope that my son and his family will eventually make it their home.

I know that you will hear from many experts during the coming months and while I can't claim to be an expert I believe my views and those of other local people are important as the development of Sizewell C and D will directly impact our lives for many years.

Since the inception of this project I and others have attended countless meetings, read numerous reports and submitted written responses. Yet many of us still have no clear understanding of how the project will be delivered. For example

- Who will fund it, will it be on time, on budget and safe.

EDF's current track record in these areas does not inspire confidence.

From the outset EDF have failed to engage in any meaningful dialog with local people, their failure to furnish interested parties with clear accessible information and to share the results of impact studies and evaluations in a timely manner has only served to increase opposition to the project. By failing to be clear about what they are going to do and how they are going to do it they limit the ability of people to ask questions and challenge what they say.

IF EDF have clear plans that limit the impact of the development on communities, the environment and wildlife they need to allow these to be scrutinized. Their lack of transparency has led the planning inspectorate to raise a record number of questions in relation to the development. I believe the number is 2229 in comparison with 17 raised during the Hinkley point DCO process.

I recognise that as projects are developed and consultations take place plans change. However, with a project of this magnitude it would surely have been prudent to have clear strategies in place before applying for a development consent order. It is disappointing that EDF has not done this. I would like my concerns in relation to

- Funding
- Transport
- Community impacts
- Legacy

to be taken into account when the Planning inspectorate consider the suitability viability and sustainability of the Sizewell C and D project.

EDF are currently facing financial difficulties and have no clear funding strategy in place. Without a clear guaranteed funding model there is a risk that construction could start only to be abandoned if costs spiral, as happened with the Hitachi project in Wales. Such a scenario would leave communities with all of the negative impacts and disruption without any of the supposed benefits.

After several changes to the original proposals EDF now hope to transport the vast volumes of construction materials by rail, sea and road. One of the reasons Suffolk has remained remote, unspoilt and secluded is because of its lack of transport connectivity. It is unclear if the proposed upgrading of the railway and the building of a beach landing facility are financially viable or if they could sustain the increased volume of freight in the coming 12 years. The nearest motorways are the M25, M11 and A1. The two other major roads are the A14 the A12 both a mix of single and dual carriageway while the B1122 the only roads to and from the site is a single winding rural road.

People living here choose to because of the rural way of life, we know that to access services such as education and health care we need to travel further than in urban areas. Children and young people travel between ten minutes to an hour to school or college without stopping to pick up or drop off.

Our nearest A and E department is 45 mins away, orthopaedic services an hour away and coronary and neurological services an hour and 45 mins away.

This is with current volumes of traffic on clear roads in favourable weather conditions. Increased volumes of traffic will inevitably lead to congestion delays and road closures; this will do nothing to enhance the lifestyle of people in the area and increase delays in accessing treatment in emergencies.

While I welcome the proposals to bypass Theberton the local people and council have always preferred the D2 route as this would leave a legacy of improved road access to Leiston and Saxmundham rather than the proposed "ROAD TO NOWHERE" which EDF want.

In Conclusion I believe the development of twin Nuclear reactors at Sizewell will adversely impact on thousands of people in the area depriving them of their way of life, destroying established businesses and long term employment opportunities. It will split communities and Parishes and some people may lose their homes. Any economic development will be short lived and the Suffolk coastline will never recover.

If this project is approved we will leave future generations with a degraded environment and nuclear waste to manage long after those of us making these decisions are dead and the facility decommissioned. I for one do not wish to leave such a legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your time.

## **Written Representation in respect of the proposed development at Sizewell C**

**01.06.2021**

I am a resident of Theberton and my property sits directly on the B1122. Four generations of my late husband's family have lived in the property. The house is around 200 years old and sits in a row of other properties of a similar age some of which are grade two listed. My house like all of those opposite [REDACTED] does not have foundations so is likely to be damaged by vibration from the increase in HGV traffic on the B1122 should you approve the building of Sizewell C and D.

Theberton is a close knit community, the majority of residents are permanent, many of them elderly with family connections going back generations. My neighbour a widow in her 80s was born in the house where she lives; she has never lived anywhere else and raised her children in the property. In recent years she has needed support from family, care services and neighbours to live independently. She was hoping that her final years would be spent peacefully in her home, as the construction of Sizewell B was completed and the disruption that came with the build finished. Now in her final years she is faced with the prospect of huge numbers of HGVs rolling past her home day and night, delays in accessing emergency care or social care and increased risk of breathing difficulties because of pollution.

Residents of Theberton have always supported each other but the past year has been particularly difficult for those who needed to shield. At the start of the pandemic many of my neighbours were unable to get delivery slots from the major supermarkets so a group of us set up a network we contacted local suppliers from smaller shops who were willing to take food orders. Some of these businesses did door step deliveries and when this was not possible we picked up the orders and delivered it. There was a network of people willing to shop for neighbours when they visited the supermarket we collected prescriptions and drove people to medical appointments. Those who were shielding formed a telephone group contacting each other for a chat and checking how people were managing. The informal support at the start of the pandemic has since been formalised into a good neighbour's scheme and we recently received an award from the High Sheriff of Suffolk for our work.

As people took their daily exercise around the pretty lanes and footpaths we noticed that there was a problem with litter so started litter picking groups. We love our village and are proud of it we care for each other our wildlife and environment we choose to live here because we love our way of life.

**EDF state in their Relevant representation report page 44**

**“ SZC Co has produced a Community impact Report (doc ref 5.13 APP-156) that was submitted as part of the Application documents, which summarises at a local level the effect of Sizewell C project on local communities. SZC Co also recognises that there will**

**be multiple residual, intangible effects on communities which may result in the perception of a reduction in the quality of life. As such SZC Co proposes a community fund that will be used to fund measures, projects and programmes in local communities which seek to improve the quality of life for those most affected.**

Like all of their strategies when you start to look and ask questions you find there is no clear plan.

### **Community Fund**

- How much will the community fund be?
- Who will be responsible for it and how will it be administered?
- What type of projects and programmes will it fund?
- Who can apply?

Difficult questions for anyone to answer especially as EDF recognises that there will be multiple residual, intangible effects on communities and a perceived perception that your quality of life has changed.

EDF are so out of touch with local communities that when they did the Community impact study they put Theberton and Eastbridge with the town of Saxmundham and evaluated the community impacts on a small market town while totally neglecting the two villages which will be impacted more significantly by the huge construction site on their doorstep.

To be clear this is how the building of Sizewell C and D will negatively impact my life and others in my community these are real impacts and not perceived or intangible.

### **Increased volumes of traffic during the early years before the bypass is built,**

- Increased noise, vibration and pollution this will likely cause structural damage to my property and neighbouring houses as most of the houses are over 200 years old and do not have foundations. This will incur increased maintenance costs on the property and a reduction in its sale value.
- Congestion on roads increased journey times to access health care and schools.
- Increased risk from road traffic accidents when exiting or entering my property from the B1122 as I have a concealed driveway.
- Increased risk of road accidents when crossing the B1122 especially for elderly people or children EDF has made no provision for a safe crossing.
- Increased noise from traffic both day and night will impact on my mental health and that of my neighbours.

- Increased risks from pollution from PM2.5 particulate matter will put people at increased risk of dementia according to recent studies for example

**Dementia Science Air Pollution and dementia risk Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 Prof. Michael Hornberger Professor of applied Dementia Research at the Norwich Medical school.**

- Increased risk to health including coronary heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, lung cancer and Asthma. **Public Health England 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

#### **Noise Vibration and Light pollution during on site construction.**

- Pile driving will cause vibration and noise increasing the stress levels of local residents. The site will be working 24 hrs a day seven days a week. Continuous noise in what is currently a quiet rural community where our background sounds are usually bird song will interrupt sleep, work and relaxation. We know this because many of us lived here through the build of Sizewell B. Sizewell C and D is a much bigger project than B was so the disruption noise and vibration cannot be said to be perceivably greater it will be greater and for a 10 to 12 year build period.
- Theberton currently has no street lighting, the church is flood lit from dusk until around 23 hrs then we currently enjoy dark sky and the beauty of the stars. The lighting at the construction site, campus and on the proposed new roundabout will subject us to light pollution. Again this is a fact and not a perceived outcome from the build.

#### **Closure of roads and footpaths.**

- It is intended to close several roads and footpaths either temporarily or permanently during the construction period. This will inhibit people from moving easily between villages to visit families and friends and access local clubs, groups and places of worship. Where people would either walk or cycle they will be forced to make car journeys even for short trips quite lanes will become rat runs placing people at increased risk of road traffic accidents. **Department of transport and Robert Goodwill MP 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014** 60% of fatalities occur on country roads, 3 people die each day on average on rural roads, the number of people killed on country roads is nearly 11 times higher than on motorways a quarter of drivers have had a near miss and 1 in 20 has had a collision on a country road. These are Government statistics not perceptions.

I could go on there is absolutely nothing about the building of twin nuclear reactors on a fragile AONB that will enhance my lifestyle the lifestyle of my neighbours family or friends.

EDF's assertion that building Sizewell C and D will bring increased employment opportunities to the area is nothing more than smoke and mirrors, there are not large numbers of unemployment people in this area. Many businesses in hospitality and the care sector are currently struggling to fill vacancies. If the construction jobs are going to be filled by local people why is there a need for a huge residential campus, caravan park, as well as park and ride services. EDF have already said that it is hoped to utilize their existing work force and supply chain by using the workforce and suppliers from Hinkley Point to service Sizewell C and D. The likely hood that they would be willing to spend money and time training a new local work force and new suppliers is laughable when they already have a workforce trained and ready to move as soon as Hinkley Point is completed.

There are currently 8 energy projects under consideration for the area it is very unlikely that if Sizewell C and D were not approved it would have a detrimental effect on unemployment in the area.

Approval of the project would however have a detrimental effect on our current tourism industry. Thousands of people would lose their businesses and income as visitors come here for the quiet, rural landscapes, wildlife and beauty of the area. Not to visit the biggest building site in Europe or sit in stationary traffic.

Yesterday 31<sup>st</sup> May a bank holiday I walked from Sizewell beach towards RSPB Minsmere and back through Eastbridge to Theberton. I spoke to at least 30 groups of visitors and asked if they would still visit the area if EDF plans to construct twin nuclear reactors near to Sizewell and on the boundary of RSPB Minsmere were approved. All were appalled that the area was even being considered for development. Those with young families were anxious that future generations would be left with nuclear waste to manage. All said they would no longer want to visit the area. One couple regular visitors described a long hold up on the A12 that morning when a car caught fire and the emergency services had difficulty attending because of traffic grid lock. These are not perceived impacts of the development.

In conclusion I support endorse the written representations of

- Stop Sizewell C
- TASC
- RSPB
- Suffolk Coastal FOE and others who have raised concerns about the project.

Please do not be persuaded by EDFs glossy brochures and empty promises that this project is needed to ensure a secure affordable reliable energy supply. That they are going to build sensitively and consider communities. This is all smoke and mirrors their plans are built on

sand with little if any real substance. I beg that for our communities and future generations that you reject this application.

Susan Morrice



Theberton

Leiston

