

Open floor hearing 18th May 2021 - Sea Poppies Holiday Let Submission.

Thank you. My name is Bill Parker and I'm co-owner of Sea Poppies holiday let which we set up 10 years ago in the heart of Thorpeness.

We know our visitors come here for the tranquillity, easy access (especially from London), and fantastic unspoilt coastline and wildlife. They love the great local food, the family friendly atmosphere and the big Suffolk skies and sea air. They say it's relaxing and restorative, like stepping back in time. A recent visitor described the calm quiet atmosphere as a world away from 'daily life' and as a haven for his family. Another says: [It's] lovely and quiet, connecting with nature and an escape from the hurly burly of the modern world: just proper unspoilt English countryside and beaches.

We believe Sizewell C will blight this area permanently, but especially during construction, making our business unviable. The loss of what our visitors value, cannot be mitigated for: we are appalled at the wilful destruction of such a tranquil, unique and fragile place. The character of this special landscape and settlements will be irrevocably transformed by road construction, traffic congestion, loss of coastal access, and destruction of tourism businesses (already under huge pressure due to covid). Our iconic views north from Aldeburgh of Thorpeness and House-in-the-Clouds will be blighted by soviet-style monstrosities. These proposals will deliver wholesale industrialisation of our precious coast.

A really popular pleasure of Thorpeness is swimming in the sea. We are really concerned this too will be threatened with increased turbidity and water pollution resulting from the marine works and shipping. We also fear that the increased water temperatures will exacerbate jellyfish blooms which are increasingly occurring due to the unusually warm water in this location. We fear that the operation of additional cooling plants, together with climate change impacts, will lead to significantly increased risk in these waters - for visitors and residents.

Moreover, Thorpeness will be a particular victim of the cumulative impacts of this and the SPR windfarm proposals and will suffer an onslaught of 24-hour noise, light and air pollution.

Additionally, the relaxed family-friendly character of Thorpeness will be changed irrevocably with the likely emergence of multiple occupancy housing, or worse still brothels, as we are told happened during the construction of Sizewell B.

We believe that the unique attraction of Thorpeness and the Suffolk coastal area as a tourism destination will be destroyed.

This matters because, like other holiday lets, we support a wide range of local businesses, sourcing everything we can locally. We reinvest more than half our annual revenue directly back into the local economy.

And of course, our visitors also support local pubs, cafes & restaurants, shops and visitor attractions not just in Thorpeness but in towns and villages all along the Suffolk coast.

Employment in this region is high. We anticipate that our supply chain will therefore be severely disrupted due to short-term demand by EDF for workers. Local businesses and residents will be badly affected by shortages of people to provide the services we support and rely on.

It is our opinion that the impact on the tourist economy (predicted by the applicant to be 29%) will be much worse in Thorpeness. Several of our loyal visitors have said they will be much less likely to return if this development goes ahead. This loss will directly impact the local economy, stripping the Suffolk coast of the unique character that our tourism businesses help to create, and reducing the quality of life for all who live here, who benefit from tourism revenue and enjoy all that this helps to support. We do not want a different type of tourism that revolves around an industrialised coast and two megalithic nuclear power stations.

But why should anyone care about just one rental property?

We say that the Examining Authority should consider Sea Poppies as a bellwether in the tourism ecosystem. There will be many others in the same position, small businesses who you won't hear from but which also have to reconsider their future. We predict a collapse in the holiday let market, as people realise that visiting here will mean witnessing the heart-breaking destruction of the special qualities that drew them here in the first place.

We market our house as 'a great place for chilling out in this delightful, quirky but quiet seaside village, ...- and a perfect base for exploring the beach and coast'.

We work really hard to do everything we can to offer a holiday experience to our visitors that lives up to these expectations. But we cannot hand on heart continue to offer our house in this way if this development goes ahead and what we promise becomes just a shattered dream as all that we love about this area is destroyed.

Thank you.