

It's interesting, having just read the EADT article, revealing the most deprived areas and wealthiest areas in Suffolk that Leiston is listed at number 4 where deprivation is ranked from 1 to wealthiest at 10. For the length of time that I have lived in Suffolk (40 years), I have never known Leiston as a prosperous thriving town. Whilst there are other contributing factors to this, I believe it fair to say that none of the nuclear power stations, during their construction to being active have assisted in improving the lives of those that live there. Therefore, the comments by EDF that SZC will provide an economic boost after the pandemic does not fill me with hope.

Economic gain usually comes at a cost and in this case the cost will be the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that is the Suffolk Coast. An area that attracts visitors from around the world to view its cultural heritage, its biological diversity and its countryside. All of these require management and so in turn require labour, the majority of which is sourced locally.

Not so the case for the workforce of SZC. It seems to be following the same pattern as Sizewell A, with much of the labour being brought in from outside. I include a quote from the pamphlet It's a new world - Building Sizewell A Nuclear Power Station, 'There weren't many local people at the time, welding up to that point. There was some from the shipyards locally, but of course, some of them wanted to stay on the shipyards here. So most of them were travelling men. Most of the site workers were travelling men. Now, I wouldn't like to say how many were employed locally. I wouldn't hazard a guess... into [four] figures, but most of them were travelling, what they would call travelling men, site workers.'

At a time when we need to be focussing on supporting local infrastructure and communities, we are abandoning them to outside investment for an economic gain that will only benefit the few and certainly not those that live anywhere in the vicinity of the main site and the park and ride sites.

As I recall, EDF's key argument for building Sizewell C is to cut down on carbon emissions thus enabling humanity to get control of climate change. Looking at it logically, what is really happening is exploiting the demand for energy that is created by consumerism that will only encourage more consumerism that is unsustainable and in turn will add to climate change through the constant destruction of the natural environment.

If the government is really serious about its declaration of a climate emergency, it needs to be educating the consumer and investing in local community energy initiatives, such as solar panels on roofs, better farming practices and better education in schools.