

The B1122 Action Group

Please reply to: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED]

22nd October 2018

Dear

The receipt by several residents in Middleton, Theberton and Yoxford (and possibly elsewhere) of ominous “Land Referencing Letters” from EDF has caused considerable speculation and, in some cases, real distress.

Raising unsettling concerns of potential compulsory purchase for possible road alterations, this has taken to ‘overload proportions’ the blight already imposed on the lives and livelihoods of people reliant upon the A12 and B1122 roads. They are now seriously threatened by not only the construction of the Sizewell C twin nuclear power station, but the concurrent traffic generated by the building of the onshore facilities for Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) East Anglia TWO and ONE North windfarms.

To compound the above, the building of a new direct access route to Sizewell from the A12, first mooted back at the time of Sizewell B, which would at a stroke alleviate all their concerns, could be scotched by a proposed housing scheme in its projected path. Is this called planning? It is essential that any decision on this scheme is postponed until considerations of the need for a new road are concluded .

A joint communiqué sent in May 2018 by SCC and SCDC to the Secretaries of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Housing, Communities and Local Government, highlighted the apparent mismatch in the regulations governing each of the above projects and clearly hinted at the disturbance that would be caused, to the local communities and each other. Since then, there has been no evidence made public of any recognition of, or action to mitigate, this by either of the power companies, or central or local government.

Our supposed watchdog is J-LAG, a secretive body comprising SCC and SCDC, whose meetings are held in camera and which discusses these matters that will fundamentally affect the people of Suffolk Coastal. But next to nothing is ever divulged. It is, however, understood that at their most recent meeting, this body discussed the problems identified with the B1122, but that the conclusions reached “would not please everyone [in the area]”.

Coming at the same time as the receipt of the Land Referencing Letters, it is easy to see the alarm now felt. With SPR Consultation Stage 3.5 currently under way, and EDF Consultation Stage 3 due in early January, it is of paramount importance that the people being asked to give their opinions about these massive schemes should be fully aware of *all* the material facts, and the aspects of debate by their elected representatives, in order to appropriately form their responses.

To date, this has not been the case in any of the foregoing Consultations or the secret meetings held by the most important, and one would hope, influential parties representing the people. You can therefore understand the degree of frustration felt.

Was it not Guy McGregor (SCC), speaking at a public forum about Sizewell C prior to EdF’s Consultation Stage 1, who asked: “If Suffolk is to do this for the Nation, what will the Nation do for Suffolk.” Somewhat closer to home, we could now ask: “What are our local Councils doing for the affected local population.”

The time has come – NOW – for those affected by Sizewell C and the SPR programme, be they residents, vital users of the roads, emergency services, the important agricultural interests, small enterprises and those who have invested in, and built up successful businesses in tourism – to be made aware of all relevant discussions and outcomes. How else can meaningful answers be provided to the current and impending consultations?

What factors are being discussed? What influence can we have, as one of two knowledgeable local groups of extremely concerned residents who can foresee the problems, roll-on effects and feasible solutions?

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

CLlr Roy Dowding (Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council)

On behalf of the B1122 Action Group