



## **SPR EA1N and EA2 PROJECTS**

### **DEADLINE 8 – POST HEARING SUBMISSION (ISH10) HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELLBEING**

**Interested Party:** SASES      **IP Reference Nos.** 20024106 and 20024110

**Date:** 25 March 2021

**Issue:** 1

#### **1 - INTRODUCTION**

This submission comprises the two oral presentations made by SASES at the Issue Specific Hearing 10 on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 relating specifically to health and social wellbeing.

They seek to represent the depth and breadth of concerns within the Suffolk Heritage Coast and not just those of Friston.

There is some repetition of previous submissions but these are matters of public record applicable not just to the Examining Authority, but also to the Applicants, Interested Parties and especially our local authorities who need to fully understand and respond to our concerns.

#### **2 - SUMMARY**

All affected communities within the Suffolk Heritage Coast are full of a sense of loss:

- of their freedom and
- their quality of life, both physical and mental,

leading to a sense of foreboding as to how it is all to be managed by the Applicants, our local authorities and ourselves collectively as communities and individually.

There are substantive issues which remain unresolved or of continuing uncertainty which are subjects of separate consideration. But they are key elements affecting local health and wellbeing:

- Flood risk and drainage: to what extent the developments exacerbate existing flooding issues in Friston.
- Noise: its intrusion on the quietude of our communities and countryside
- Traffic, transport and safety: the despoilation of the countryside and resilience of the highway network; damage to verges. (Those around Bawdsey arising from EA1 have not been restored after three years)
- Air quality: the cumulative effects of vehicle and equipment emissions and dust to which Friston is especially prone.
- Loss of landscape and heritage and consequent loss of amenity.

Uncertainty remains a continuing concern and impacts owing to: (S3)

- Poor consultation at the outset and loss of mutual trust and understanding.
- Uncertain pre-construction and construction works' planning and controls.
- Cumulative impacts, especially Sizewell C, Nautilus and Eurolink Interconnectors and other potential projects under consideration.
- The ability to cope with the succession of public enquiries and resources.
- All this stretching over a period of 10+ years.

The sprawl of the energy projects on top of the increasing industrialisation and urbanisation in East Suffolk diminishes the key attributes of the Suffolk Heritage Coast. (S4)

Undermines the social fabric. (S5)

- Creating additional social strains of inequalities and deprivation.
- Adding to the burden of social care costs.
- The impact of an influx of up to 7,500+ Sizewell C workforce.
- Growing societal concerns for inequality, deprivation and abuse and the tensions arising can find release through access to our land and seascapes, peace and tranquillity.
- The need to address how these conflicts should be recognised and absorbed into a vision for Suffolk.

The socio-economic environment. (S6)

- The rich cultural and social environment should be preserved for all. The attractions and benefits are recognised in the strength of the visitor economy and its interconnectivity with local businesses and entertainment facilities and events supported by a strong network of local organisations and individuals. There is an extreme risk of loss of jobs and income if the Friston developments are consented.

Key issues specific to Friston and its community: (S7)

- The proposed developments intrude on and damage the social and spiritual hub of the village which lies at the physical and emotional heart of the area.
- Some 137 residents (56% of the village population) are over 65 and will become more vulnerable with age and infirmity during the extended periods of construction.
- Losing their freedom of movement is contrary to East Suffolk Local Plan (Suffolk Coastal) Policy SCLP4.10:
- The plan states that "development will encourage people to spend more time, enjoy and participate" and where the plan includes the words 'town centres', we substitute village. It will do this by:
  - a) Supporting opportunities for social interaction;
  - b) Ensuring safe pedestrian access to link up with and enhancing existing pavements, pedestrian spaces, routes and focal points;
  - c) Improving access for cyclists, people with limited mobility and people with other disabilities;
  - d) Enabling physical linkages so that pedestrians can move easily and safely between parts of the village; and
  - e) Providing environmental improvements that make the most of historic environments and heritage features.

- In sum, the people of Friston are angry, feeling let down by local councils; feeling angry at the lack of openness and honesty by the Applicant who claimed strong communication and provision of information would mitigate against their uncertainty; feeling powerless in the face of fighting a multi-million-pound organisation with all its resources.

## **DETAILED REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY SASES AT ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARING 10**

### **3 - UNCERTAINTY**

is the greatest impact of the proposals bearing on our mental health and wellbeing.

And all for connection points better sited elsewhere and which bring social and economic harm to the Suffolk Heritage Coast – Levelling Down might be an apt term.

#### **3-1 Poor Consultation**

The Applicant states:

'The only way to mitigate against uncertainty is through strong communication and provision of information by the Applicant'. (EA1North Environmental Statement 27.6.2.2.3 – 251)

Please remember that we were first alerted to these proposals in the Spring of 2018

Nobody has had any understanding or knowledge of cable corridors and three industrial size substations invading their space and communities. They have been devastated by the scale of the proposals.

The consultation process was lamentable and subject of a critical report submitted by SASES. All it did was exacerbate peoples' fears and uncertainties.

The only further direct communication with the Applicant was with Friston Parish Council in July 2019 when various issues were raised which clearly were not followed through and remain unresolved.

Meanwhile the Applicant's ongoing discussions have been with statutory consultees but these have largely excluded any dialogue with Parish Councils or communities affected. Neither do the Local Authorities seem to have fully acknowledged or understood the widespread and deeply felt concerns expressed during the Examination by the communities they represent

So, here we are towards the end of the Examination.

Reading through 240 pages of Statements of Common Ground, we note many outstanding issues of disagreement many of which to the non-expert might properly have been addressed at the site selection stages.

#### **3 -2 Pre-construction and Construction Works Planning**

One emerging major worry is that given the range, scale and duration of pre-construction works, these should be included as part of the overall Construction Code of Conduct. Alternatively, they should have their own detailed plan prior to consent.

#### **3 -3 Loss of Trust**

Meanwhile, here we are having endured three years of uncertainty, such that we have lost all trust in the Applicant's understanding of the Suffolk Heritage Coast and consequently the ability to deliver the projects in a timely, efficient and sympathetic manner and having to wait

until October 2021 to ascertain our fate. We are not aware that the Applicant has previously undertaken a development of this scale so close to a residential area.

We then face a period of pre-construction works of uncertain scale and duration before the start of the formal construction period.

In effect we will have faced some seven to ten years of uncertainty which is substantial for the many of mature age.

But that is not all:

### **3-4 Cumulative Project Impacts**

The following have come out in just the last weeks:

- Section 6 Letter advising the commencement of the Public Examination of **Sizewell C** on 23 March 2021 – that is even before our own Examination has been completed and when common statutory consultees and community groups have to address the huge issues arising from both Examinations. Not least there are overlapping issues and cumulative impacts.

Once again, we emphasise the overwhelming effect of the Sizewell development on the East Suffolk Coast communities and infrastructure. We question how can it be possible to consider further energy projects here?

- **National Grid Interconnector Holdings** made a presentation to parish councils and community groups on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 about their proposals for developing the **Nautilus Interconnector**. First aired in the early autumn 2019, they are embarking on the public consultations leading to presenting its DCO early 2022 and a project completion date of 2028. They have already had discussion with local authorities of which we were unaware. The latest briefing paper accompanying the presentation and available on the National Grid website is quite specific that the connecting point will be at Friston.

With **Eurolink** to follow and other projects in the pipeline:

- where does all this fit in with the BEIS Review,
- the government's Energy White Paper and
- its desire to streamline the transmission infrastructure?

### **3 – 5 Human Response and Resources**

Leave aside the individual and cumulative questions arising, how on earth are we as human beings expected to respond to these developments and the processes?

The present Examination has been gruelling for all those most affected, and that is not just Friston but extends to communities across the Suffolk Heritage Coast.

We now move into a succession of similar processes demanding huge physical, mental and financial resources beyond reasonable means. We need to be properly engaged with these processes so that we can understand and gauge the impacts on our lives when our cultural heritage, land and seascapes, environment, health and prosperity are at stake.

## **4 - THE SPRAWL OVER THE SUFFOLK HERITAGE COAST**

**4 – 1** The Applicant continues to argue that the size of their development footprint is relatively small but it is not in relation to the limits of the Heritage Coast and extending from Sizewell.

And now we have the clearest evidence that Friston is envisaged as a hub for future energy projects with cabling following similar paths across the same landscape. The interconnectors require their own constructions at landfall and then 70metre wide cable corridors to the connection point

However, our wider concerns do not arise from NIMBYism but from the cumulative impacts elsewhere.

### **4 – 2 Industrialisation and Urbanisation of Suffolk**

That sprawl is being accompanied by increasing ‘industrialisation and urbanisation’ of Suffolk arising from energy linkages elsewhere but most importantly its own economic expansion. In its Deadline 5 submission (ENO 10077-003682-DL5) Friston PCC sought to highlight the scale and range of investment across just the East Suffolk Coast.

Since then, the UK Budget gave approval for the £650m Freeport development at Felixstowe and Harwich.

The A14 corridor is being filled with warehouse and housing developments.

There is a major expansion around Adastral Park at Martlesham which is the epicentre of BT’s research, technology and IT operations and part of its new £3bn investment in the East of England.

Housing developments across East Suffolk for a total in excess of 5,300 homes.

A major development is proposed for nearby Saxmundham.

To the North, the Lake Lothing Bridge will further open up Lowestoft and the use of the A12.

## **5 – SOCIAL FABRIC**

**5 – 1** Whilst this makes the jobs outlook very bright, the increasing urbanisation produces its own social strains arising from the substantial increase in population in the area. – the potential for increasing inequalities and deprivation and estate living with few compensatory amenities.

We have sought to obtain figures which might explain the substantial burden of the social care budget and the numbers in care and the causes and reasons. No doubt care for the elderly is substantial but we are concerned for the other elements. Despite being a well-balanced economy with low unemployment, it has long been a concern that there should be such numbers when we have hitherto lived in such a rewarding environment.

We reiterate the need to consider also the impact of an influx of up to 7,500 workers on Sizewell C over its project life of 7-12 years. Those workers will be a mix of those:

- living one hour’s drive from the site
- caravan accommodation in Leiston
- hostel accommodation at Theberton
- renting or purchasing properties in the area
- residing in holiday accommodation such as hotels, b&bs, self-catering.

Those coming to work at Sizewell will comprise different social groups with their own physical and social needs which might not be fully aligned with those already living here. Many of those residents support the area through voluntary work for its many organisations and events. There is also the added strain on the social and health services. There are potential conflicts of interest and aspiration which may undermine the social fabric.

The area is recognised as a haven or escape however temporary from the demands of work and urbanisation. This is at a time of seemingly severe social strains from apparent concerns for inequality, deprivation and abuse. This area provides an opportunity to find release from those tensions.

### **5 – 2 What is the Vision for Suffolk?**

That need to preserve our environment is now established in government policies and guidelines; and maintain access to 'green' spaces free from the worst of pollution for the relief and appreciation by all as a means of enhancing physical health and wellbeing. That needs to be recognised and absorbed into a vision of how Suffolk should be developed.

And how much that access is valued is reflected in how the cultural life has developed alongside the visitor economy and how much that contributes to wellbeing and jobs.

## **6 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

These energy projects are not in remote parts, but at the heart of a rich cultural and scenic environment to be cherished and protected.

### **6 – 1 Interconnectivity**

It really is sad how the Applicant seeks to undermine the credibility of the Suffolk DMO research (Total number of trips 12.7m and tourism value £671.7m) and completely fails to understand the interconnectivity of all that happens in this stretch of coast. What is important is that these numbers of visitors and more continue to be able to come and enjoy and ensure the future of so much that happens here.

The submission of the Aldeburgh Business Association at Deadline 5 (Ref: ENO 10077-003800-DL5) and accompanying video encapsulates how the local economy and community inter-relate – how the cultural attraction of the area spreads out into a diverse raft of events and festivals making the area almost a year-round destination.

To add substance to that, Britten-Pears Arts has published its Annual Review of the year 2019-2020, a year before the pandemic took hold. Its own budget is £5m and since the majority of that is spent in the area, there will be an economic multiplier benefit.

It is not just a magnet for visitors, but has a substantial outreach programme of activities. Its Community Team works to improve the wellbeing of people across Suffolk and beyond in a variety of settings; its programmes for young musicians are residential in inspiring surroundings with accommodation provided locally; they play a significant role in Creative

Health. The surrounding communities are hugely protective of its industrial and artistic heritage, the latter based around the ethos of its founders, Britten and Pears.

Snape Maltings is located just two and a half miles away from Friston and the proposed developments. It is a ten-minute drive away or 40-minute walk.

## **6 – 2 Loss of jobs and income**

There is no point in arguing semantics; if all these energy projects are to progress then there are bound to be adverse effects on the attractions of the area, its accessibility, the quality of life leading to a falling off in numbers and hence the benefits of income and employment within the service and hospitality sectors.

## **7 – FRISTON VILLAGE: the physical and emotional heart of this area:**

### **7 – 1 Context:**

There are 190 residential properties within the Friston catchment area most affected by the Applicants proposals. The estimated split is:

- 135 village residences
- 21 weekend/holiday homes
- 31 investment/holiday lets
- 3 vacant

Non-residential properties are:

- The Church of St Mary the Virgin – (Grade 2\* Listed)
- The Village Hall
- The Old Chequers Public House
- John Balls Garage
- Friston Baptist Church
- Friston Post mill (Grade 2 Listed)

Outlying properties in the Parish of Friston have been excluded.

The population split is estimated at:

- Over 65                      137 people (56%) – 3 of whom are 90+
- Under 65                    107 people (44%)

Of which

- 30      (12%) live alone and
- 34      (14%) are deemed 'vulnerable' in view of age, limited mobility and/or underlying health problems.

The census due on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 will give us a more accurate picture of the current demographic of the village. But the expectation is that, during the construction period of the EA1N and EA2 projects more residents will move into the vulnerable category.

There are villagers for whom Friston has been their home for most, if not the whole, of their lives. For others, it was a rural escape a place to retire, a reward for years of work. Friston is a desirable location both to live and visit, owing to its central position close to the towns of Aldeburgh, Saxmundham and Leiston, with their independent shops and facilities, the international arts centre at Snape Maltings and the village's accessibility to the many and diverse recreational facilities and unique landscape and wildlife habitats of the East Suffolk Coast. Local Estate Agents describe Friston as a 'tranquil village, lying close to the AONB at Snape Warren'.

The current permanent residents of Friston include families with young children, people of working age and a large number of people of mature age who have retired from work. Friston attracts a regular inward flow of residents as it is more affordable: it doesn't come with the price tag of a coastal town such as Aldeburgh, nor that of a trendy location like Woodbridge. New residents engage in the local community and provide inward investment through refurbishing existing properties and infill building.

### **7 – 2 Facilities:**

Friston has no shops, no leisure centre, no tennis courts, no golf course – it doesn't even own its Village Green, (which would bring the certainty of knowing there was some unspoilt green space for residents); this is leased to the Parish Council by a local landowner. The only pavement in the village runs alongside the village green – so people walk through the village on its narrow lanes. Friston's only facilities are the local pub, the Old Chequers, a garage which can service and repair cars, the Village Hall, which holds a twice weekly exercise class, a ballet and tap dance class for children, hosts village events eg quiz nights and the Annual Christmas Fayre and provides refreshment facilities for community events and services at the Church. St Mary the Virgin, a Grade 2\* Listed medieval church is the spiritual hub of the village and the source of many fund-raising events. Friston Baptist Church provides an additional place of worship. The only outdoor exercise facility in the village is the footpaths, which give access to outlying homes and villages and connects Friston to other villages and parts of the coastal region. The Sandlings Walk, which travels through areas of Lowland Heath (Britain's rarest wildlife habitat) from Southwold to Ipswich passes through Friston and connects to the Suffolk Coastal paths. The vital connection that the footpaths bring to local schools, amenities and villages and beyond to other areas of Suffolk cannot be underestimated.

The village population is cohesive as well as independently minded. This has been most evidenced in the response to Covid 19 which has led to the establishment of a village helpline and a village newsletter, the Swift, delivered by volunteers which has ensured the sustainability of village institutions and provided vital support and communication during a difficult time.

### **7 – 3 Local Plan:**

The East Suffolk Local Plan (Suffolk Coastal), Policy SCLP4.10: Town Centre Environments, is a document which, we believe, is at the heart of what we want for the village of Friston. Faced with the loss of freedom which has existed for over 1,000 years, we respectfully ask that these basics which are acknowledged as necessary for visitors should be preserved for those of us who live here and on which the sustainability of the village relies.

The plan states that “development will encourage people to spend more time, enjoy and participate” and where the plan includes the words ‘town centres’, we substitute village. It will do this by:

- f) Supporting opportunities for social interaction;
- g) Ensuring safe pedestrian access to link up with and enhancing existing pavements, pedestrian spaces, routes and focal points;
- h) Improving access for cyclists, people with limited mobility and people with other disabilities;
- i) Enabling physical linkages so that pedestrians can move easily and safely between parts of the village; and
- j) Providing environmental improvements that make the most of historic environments and heritage features.

Simply put, the villagers of Friston want to be able to live, and even see out their lives, in safety, comfort and dignity, whilst ensuring that the village continues to thrive and develop.

#### **7 – 4 Impact of Proposed projects on Residents:**

SASES Written Representation on Human Health at Deadline 1, listed a range of health and well-being impacts which were considered not to have been given due attention by The Applicant. These included: Fear of the Unknown, Lack of Trust, Air Quality, Flood, Landscape and Paths, Ecology and onshore ornithology, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Noise, Traffic and Transport, Safety, Proximity to the Village, Impact on Village Sustainability. Potential for Mitigation, Preserving Community Life and Cumulative Impacts.

For the past two years the residents of Friston have been living with uncertainty. Uncertainty has an effect on people: being told ‘you might lose your job’, or that ‘you might have a serious illness’ or even something as simple as being told that ‘something is wrong with the plumbing in your house’ results in worry. When worry is combined with a lack of trust – the anxiety only gets worse. Initially, for people in Friston, anxiety was caused by a fear of the unknown, then came mistrust as the Applicant failed to address the concerns of villagers. Now, as details emerge over design etc and experts disagree with each other about impacts of, for example, noise and flooding etc, people are fearful about how they will cope when bombarded with the effects of construction and operation, not to mention the cumulative effects of other proposed projects in the public domain – this is the uncertain future for Friston.

The people of Friston are angry, feeling let down by local councils; feeling angry at the lack of openness and honesty by the Applicant who claimed strong communication and provision of information would mitigate against their uncertainty; feeling powerless in the face of fighting a multi-million-pound organisation with all its resources.

We wish to draw the Examining Authority’s attention to the ongoing causes of uncertainty, stress and anxiety as experienced and communicated by residents. It must be said that this is by no means an exhaustive list:

#### **7 – 5 The Applicant has:**

- To date, shown a complete lack of respect for the residents of Friston with insufficient comprehensive consideration being given to flooding, noise, air quality etc especially during the construction period.
- Sought to defend their position by dismissing the concerns of the communities in this area as one of “perception”. Which in itself demonstrates how poorly they have communicated with the local population. To support this, they have produced vast quantities of documentation, the contents of which, treat every concern as a “negligible impact”.
- Produced documents which acknowledge that ‘in the general existing environment of the proposed works there exists a high proportion of retirement-aged people’. Despite its statement that “People who spend extended periods at home may experience greater noise exposure durations than those who are absent during normal working hours”, the Applicant refuses to restrict working hours at the construction site from 7.00am – 7.00pm weekdays and 7.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. A further worrying development is that the Applicant has recently spoken of 24-hour working periods for HDD drilling at some locations.
- Produced documentation, written by consultants and authors with limited knowledge of the area, or concern for the local environment, contains inconsistencies and errors, eg on Tourism, it noted: “people are attracted to the area because of its sandy beaches” – not a feature of Aldeburgh, Thorpeness or Sizewell! On Noise, one early document produced data suggesting that post construction, the area around the substation site would be quieter than it is currently – where there is only farmland!
- Failed to illustrate a single benefit to the village of Friston or other local communities
- Made on-going changes to plans, even during the course of this Examination, for example, site boundaries are creeping closer to the village (ie Church Road), resulting in confusion and greater anxiety amongst residents
- Has failed to assure villagers that their homes will not be affected by water, from fields covered in concrete - Friston regularly experiences flooding, not only on its narrow lanes, but also on the main road running through the village.
- In response to the taking of footpaths locally, suggested that residents ‘can get into their cars and go elsewhere to walk’; unhelpful and far from a ‘green’ alternative in terms of car emissions and climate change. The nearest alternative walking area to Friston is Snape Warren, three miles away – which has limited parking for approx. 6 cars

## **7 – 6 Ongoing matters affecting health and wellbeing of residents:**

### **7 – 6.1 How long will these works take?**

- Currently villagers face the prospect of 10 years of construction.
- Pre-construction plans, recently revealed, mean that there will be even more years of disruption, as works are brought forward prior to the actual construction start date.
- On 17<sup>th</sup> March notice was received that for the EA1N and EA2 projects ‘Ground Investigation Works’ on the onshore development area would take place between March and August 2021. On following the link to the SPR website where more details were located, villagers were informed that these construction works will take place between the hours of 7.00am and 7.00pm Monday to Friday and 7.00am to 1pm on Saturdays. These hours are unacceptable for residents, visitors and holiday makers to the area. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, people are already struggling with their mental

health and to be told that life will be further disrupted by such working hours is, once again, reflecting the lack of concern that the Applicant has for those people impacted by their projects

#### **7 – 6.2 Who do we believe?**

- There is a lack of trust in the results reached by the Applicants and their experts, when other, independent experts, reach different conclusions on technical matters eg flooding, noise and tonality. Notwithstanding their differing conclusions, people are afraid of how their lives, homes, and mental and physical health are going to be impacted upon

#### **7 – 6.3 Where can we go to exercise?**

- Villagers and visitors rely on the footpath network for exercise. There are known physical and mental health benefits from being in the fresh air in the natural world, this has never been more evident than in the current pandemic crisis, residents now know that this resource will be taken away with the Applicants planned closure of footpaths.
- The village is home to dog owners, indeed high levels of dog ownership is more common with the older people, they rely on footpaths to walk their dogs. The proposed plans which will divert the footpath that currently runs north of the village to Friston Moor, onto Grove Road and will circle the substation site - will not be the safe tranquil walk it is today with its proximity to the pre-construction traffic off Grove Road and construction activities on the fields

#### **7 – 6.4 Will we be safe?**

- The proposed works will bring more traffic to the roads – especially to the lanes around the village where there are no pavements and locals have to walk.
- Cyclists will be affected as more HGVs and LGVs drive on the narrow lanes.
- If residents have to drive in order to exercise, this could result in more accidents on the roads and will add to pollution in the area
- The lanes and roads in the area will be busier due to construction traffic and workers vehicles; older drivers generally drive more slowly; this will be a cause of frustration to delivery drivers on tight deadlines.
- Hand in hand with construction sites comes an increase in crime. Currently Friston does not suffer from litter, rowdy behaviour, theft, indeed the most common offence is speeding on the village road and lanes. Why is there a need for high perimeter fencing, the Applicant is proposing, if not to deter people from trespassing?

#### **7 – 6.5 How will we actually be affected? We do not know!**

- Around the proposed substation site there are listed buildings, including the church, double glazing cannot be installed – are homeowners, just metres away from the substation site, really not going to be affected by noise?
- Will we be able to sit and enjoy our gardens? These have become places of refuge in these Covid times, will they continue to be quiet places to sit, tend, take in fresh air and enjoy local wildlife?
- Friston is blessed with dark skies, will villagers continue to have the pleasure of star gazing at night or will emissions from the substation lighting take this away? Will the sleep patterns of those who live in close proximity to the site be disrupted with its recognised impacts on both physical and mental health?

- What about villagers' financial future? Prospective house sales have fallen through, on discovery of the Applicant's proposed works, villagers desperately in need of selling their homes for health reasons have had to swallow a dramatic fall in sale price in order to sell, and that is even before consent has been granted – what will happen to house prices if construction begins? Recently a home in the village was filmed as part of the programme "Escape to the Country" – however, when the prospective buyers and production crew learnt of the Applicant's plans for the fields to the north of the village, they walked away in disbelief that such a large industrial construction would be placed in such a tranquil area and so close to a quiet village!
- What will happen to the village allotments? On the edge of the Applicant's site boundary, there are allotments, what pleasure will there be from spending hours surrounded by the sights, sounds and fumes from construction?
- What if the other projects we have heard about, that will connect in Friston, are given permission? For the remaining years of their lives some villagers face the threat of living next to a noisy, dangerous polluted construction site. Such a prospect is filling people with horror. Exactly what will be the cumulative impacts of other projects? How will the construction of Sizewell C impact not only the village and its residents but access to local amenities eg. shopping, doctors, the household recycling centre and rubbish tip on Lovers Lane etc

#### **7 – 6.6 What is to become of the village?**

- The tranquil historic setting of the village, it would seem, is to be lost forever. Arable fields, home to birds and wildlife are to be destroyed.
- The existing village is to have its heart ripped out as homeowners ask themselves: "Do we want to continue living here?", "Shall/can we sell and move to a place where we can live out our lives in the manner in which we had planned?" The very existence of the community will be called into question
- Will holiday-makers who currently come to visit not just this village, but the wider local area, want to walk, cycle on unsafe roads around an industrial complex, from where wildlife has been banished?

**7 – 6.7 What is driving this project?** The residents of Friston appreciate that the Applicant, Scottish Power Renewables, is a business, it has shareholders who want rewards for their investment. To be successful businesses need to make a profit. The Applicant is not investing in wind farms and their related onshore infrastructure out of a sense of altruism, they're doing this because they want to take a free, plentiful, renewable resource - wind and use it for profit; so that they can buy and sell energy to the UK government and to Europe. If this wasn't a business venture, if the money involved was no object then we might not be here today – as Friston would not be the location of choice for this substation. During the course of these Hearings, we have heard on numerous occasions that if we do 'X' it would be too expensive, if we were to do 'Y' would be too costly. If real environmental concerns were the driver in this venture and not profit, then the Applicant would locate the onshore infrastructure for EA1N and EA2 elsewhere.

#### **8 – Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Applicant's actions to date have not relieved but merely compounded issues leading to the detriment of the mental health and wellbeing residents of Friston. Therefore, the planning process, the construction period and the ultimate placement of the substation(s) are an infringement on the human rights of the villagers of Friston (Human Rights Act 1998) as they are a real threat to their security and wellbeing (and therefore their lives). We seek

reassurance that, should the Examining Authority be minded to give consent for these projects, that the Applicant will be duly bound to ensure the future safety and wellbeing of the villagers of Friston, not just for the length of the construction period but throughout the operational and de-commissioning stages. Finally, should the Examining Authority see fit to grant consent for the projects we ask that a robust Construction Plan (to include pre-construction work) be agreed amongst all parties, including provisions for monitoring.