

Response to Secretary of State's Request for Information, 25th April 2022

Yoxford Parish Council, 23rd May 2022

We thank the Secretary of State for the opportunity to comment on the applicant's responses to the questions he posed. Our comments, observations and questions are focussed on the area that most directly affects Yoxford.

Traffic & Transport – Sizewell Link Road

Yoxford Parish Council have read the joint response provided by Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council, Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council, Stop Sizewell C, Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group and B1122 Action Group. Yoxford Parish Council wholeheartedly supports the points made in section 3 of that response up to the start of section 3.1. Rather than duplicate the points made by these other interested parties, we would like the Secretary of State to note our very strong agreement with the points made and add the following comments and emphasis of our own:

In section 3.1.36 of SZC Co.'s Response to the Secretary of State's Request for Further Information dated 18 March 2022, the applicant refers to "B1122 Communities" as if people living along the B1122 will be the only people affected by "early years traffic" in advance of completion of the Sizewell Link Road. This is not the case. All people living along the A12, south of the B1122 in Yoxford will be directly impacted. In addition, people living along the A1120 in Yoxford will also be affected as the staggered junctions of A1120/A12 and B1122/A12 become congested. Throughout the applicant's consultation and DCO examination Yoxford Parish Council has repeatedly made the point that these two junctions will become congested if development begins in advance of the mitigation being in place. Traffic modelling of this scenario has not properly taken account of the impact of tourist traffic during holiday periods.

It is worth considering how the SZC project will impact Yoxford in the early years. First the mitigations:

1. Construction of the Sizewell Link Road, just south of Yoxford, will begin adding construction traffic to the roads through Yoxford.
2. Construction of the Northern Park and Ride, just north of Yoxford, will begin adding construction traffic to the roads through Yoxford.
3. Construction of the Yoxford Roundabout, A12/B1122 junction in Yoxford, will begin adding construction traffic to the roads through Yoxford and reducing the capacity of the A12 past the B1122 and reducing capacity of the A12/B1122 junction itself.

These mitigations, to avoid the worst impacts of the SZC development proper, will themselves have a significant impact on Yoxford for at least two years (or longer given EDF's track record). Rather than complete the mitigations first, SZC Co. wants the main development to begin in parallel with the construction of the mitigations, so the following will also impact on Yoxford:

1. All main development site HGVs will pass through Yoxford along the A12, cause congestion at the A1120/A12 junction and cause congestion at the under reconstruction A12/B1122 junction.
2. A significant portion of the main site worker traffic will pass through Yoxford on the way to and from work as there will be no park and ride sites and no worker campus at this stage, adding further to the load on the under reconstruction A12/B1122 junction.
3. Even when the southern park and ride is complete, the park and ride buses will still pass through Yoxford on the A12 and B1122 until the Sizewell Link Road is complete.

It is unavoidable that construction of the mitigations will have a negative impact on Yoxford. It is totally avoidable that the impact is compounded by trying to begin the main site development in advance of completion of the mitigations. In fact it is perverse. **The main site development cannot begin until the construction to mitigate against the main site development impacts have been completed.** This isn't just common sense; it is a matter of basic planning principle and planning law.

Having spent eight years consulting on its proposals, SZC Co's new found sense of urgency for new nuclear is no defence against timely mitigation against the impacts of its proposed development.

Paul Ashton (deputy chair) on behalf of Yoxford Parish Council