

By email to:

Nigel Cann, Joint Managing Director, SZC
Julia Pyke, Joint Managing Director, SZC
Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ – Financing, SZC
Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager, SZC

Nicola Beach, CEO, Suffolk County Council

Chris Bally, CEO, East Suffolk Council

East Suffolk Councillors:

Tom Daly, Katie Graham, Sarah Whitelock (Aldeburgh & Leiston Ward)
Julia Ewart (Kelsale & Yoxford Ward)
Paul Ashton (Wrentham, Wangford & Westleton Ward)

Suffolk County Councillor:

Richard Smith (Blything Division)

c/o Julian Cusack
Chair, Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council
Paget House, Back Road, Middleton
Saxmundham, IP17 3NY

12 July 2023

Dear Sirs,

Despite the mitigation measures in the DCO and in the Deed of Obligation, the undersigned Parish Councils all share substantial concerns about the impact on their communities of the Sizewell C project and propose further measures to help alleviate them.

This letter relates to issues arising during the Early Years of the project before the Sizewell Link Road is operational. This is a key risk period when the existing road infrastructure - not just the B1122 - is being asked to take considerably more traffic than it ever has before, bringing significant new safety hazards to residents.

We set out our concerns under the following headings: speed limits, emissions, pedestrian footpaths, highway maintenance and incident management. While examples are given in the Schedules below, this letter is not a substitute for individual Parish Councils' detailed feedback to the proposed Early Years plans.

Speed limits

We call for a significant extension to the routes covered or proposed to be covered by speed limits. Routes for which we request speed limits are set out in Schedule 1.

We also call for a significant commitment to the active enforcement of existing and new speed limits, especially during the Early Years, and covering the 24/7 timings of SZC shift patterns. We call upon EDF to make funds available to the Police Authority for this purpose.

HGV and bus emissions

We call upon EDF to require their HGV and bus contractors to only use vehicles that comply with Euro VI NOx and PM emissions standards, which are those mandated for the London-wide Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and the Clean Air Zones in seven UK other cities.

Pedestrian footways

We support proposals for the provision of additional new footways along stretches of the B1122 and B1125 where these can be accommodated within existing highway boundaries.

In addition, we request that, where Parish Councils are able to secure the agreement of relevant landowners, EDF support with design, administrative resources and funding the establishment of permissive footpaths to provide further safe routes for pedestrians.

We further request that funds be made available for the maintenance of all existing and new footpaths in good condition.

Cycle routes

We call upon EDF and SCC to create safe cycle routes between the A12 and the coast to compensate for loss of safe cycling on the B1122, B1125 and surrounding minor roads due to SZC traffic. These would be additional to those currently planned.

Highways maintenance

We note that there are certain locations on the B1122 and the B1125 which regularly suffer from surface flooding (See Schedule 2).

We request that works be undertaken to permanently improve drainage at these locations.

Incident management

We note that under current operating conditions there are occasions when blockages on the A12 result in traffic diverting along unclassified roads. The roads we believe that are most affected include those set out in Schedule 3.

We are concerned that the frequency and severity of these incidents will increase if and when the Sizewell C project gets underway.

We call upon Suffolk County Council and the Police Authority, funded by EDF, to develop and consult on contingency traffic management plans that can be put in place immediately to limit the likelihood and severity of congestion causing disruption and risks to residents living along these routes, and for these plans to be actively enforced.

By way of illustration of these concerns please see the Case Study set out in Schedule 4.

Community liaison

We invite representatives of EDF and the Councils to attend the next meeting of the Joint Parish Councils named below to discuss the contents of this letter.

We further call upon EDF to reconstitute the Community Forum.

Yours faithfully



Signed by Julian Cusack, Chair Middleton-cum-Fordley on behalf of:

Blythburgh Parish Council
Darsham Parish Council
Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council
Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council
Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council
Walberswick Parish Council
Westleton Parish Council
Yoxford Parish Council

Schedule 1: Requests for speed limits

Parish	Route	Speed limit requested
Yoxford	A1120 High Street and Little Street	20mph
Middleton	B1122 from west of junction with Littlemoor Road to Mill Street	20mph
Middleton	Fordley Road	20mph
Middleton	B1125 from Reckford Bridge to Yew Tree Farm	20mph
Middleton	B1125 from Yew Tree Farm to B1122 junction	30mph
Westleton	B1125 from Westleton to Reckford Bridge	30mph
Westleton	B1125 through the village, Darsham Road and the Hill in the village	20mph
Westleton/Darsham	Darsham Road from Westleton to Brussels Green, Darsham	30mph
Darsham	Wash Lane (from Brussels Green) and The Street (to the Village boundary), The Street, Fox Lane, Low Road & Priory Lane within the village	20mph
Kelsale	All Quiet Lanes in the Parish	20mph
<i>Note:</i>		
<i>Yoxford/ Middleton/ Theberton</i>	<i>B1122 from Yoxford - site</i>	<i>30mph (already under discussion)</i>
<i>Theberton</i>	<i>B1122 through village</i>	<i>20mph (already under discussion)</i>

Schedule 2: Surface flooding locations

B1122	At boundary between Yoxford and Middleton
B1125	At junction with B1122
B1125	Between Ambleside and Yew Tree
B1125	North of Westleton, adjacent to Kiln Lodge
B1125	Between Westleton and Middleton

Schedule 3: Unclassified routes subject to rat-running

Kelsale	Bridge Street, Tiggins Lane, Butchers Road, North Green, Town Farm Lane, Lowes Hill, Curlew Green, East Green, Rosemary Lane
Middleton	Fordley Road, Littlemoor Road, Hawthorn Road
Westleton	Fenstreet Road, Middleton (parish of Westleton).
Darsham / Westleton	The Street/ Wash Lane/Darsham Road
Yoxford	Willow Marsh Lane
Yoxford/ Westleton	Westleton Road/ Yoxford Road

Schedule 4: Case Study

On 16 November 2022 a Road Traffic Accident caused the closure of the A12 between Yoxford and North Green. Fordley Road was blocked solid for 20 Mins or more on a few occasions. The wet grass verges along Fordley Road were wrecked by numerous vehicles attempting to pass each other. Had a fire broken out at one of the properties served by this road, it would more than likely have burnt to ground before a firefighting appliance was able to gain accessible reach.

These photographs taken on 16/11/22 were provided by a resident of Fordley Road.

