

DRAFT Meeting Note



Main Development Forum

Meeting Type: Main Development Forum

Meeting held on: Wednesday 2 April 2025

Chair:

Christine Abraham

Sizewell C Attendees:

David Peacop, Site Operations Director
Rick Watler, Site Delivery Lead
Richard Bull, Head of Planning
Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ
Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations
Ceri Bryant, Occupational Health & Wellbeing Manager
Stephen Keighley, SZC Rail Lead
Dr Steve Mannings, Water, Ecology & Land SME
Luke Stevens, Land Management Lead
Rebecca Quigg, Transport Co-ordinator
David Seal, Offsite Delivery Manager

External Attendees:

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Country Council
Cllr Tom Daly, East Suffolk Council
Cllr Maureen Jones, Aldringham-Cum-Thorpe Parish Council
Cllr Charles McDowell, Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council
Cllr Nicky Corbett, Sizewell Parish Council
Cllr Marianne Fellowes, Aldeburgh Town Council
Cllr Stephen Brett, Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council
Pat Hogan, Sizewell Residents Association

East Suffolk Council
Suffolk County Council
Steve Merry SCC Highway

Apologies and Substitutions:

Cllr Tom Daly was present as substitute for Cllr Sarah Whitelock.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Meeting notes and matters arising from Main Development Site Forum (15 January 2025)
3. Report Back from Previous Forums
4. Corporate and Community Relations
5. Main Site Update
6. Rail Update
7. Specialist Update – Landscaping and Ecology
8. Specialist Update – Occupational Health & Wellbeing
9. Traffic and Transport
10. Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representative
11. Date of Next Meeting
12. Close

DRAFT Meeting Note – 02/04/2025

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introduction		
1.01	Christine Abraham opened the meeting at 18.30 and welcomed the attendees. She explained that it was a meeting in public, and not a public meeting, and any questions and comments should come from nominated members.		

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1.02	Christine Abraham presented the agenda. She noted that reporting back from other forums would now be done on an exceptional basis.		
2	Meeting notes and matters arising from Main Development Site Forum (15 January 2025)		
2.01	5.14 – David Peacop had been asked to provide a map to Charles McDowell. This would be provided when available.		
2.02	5.15 – A request had been made for details of the minor roads package. This had been provided at the transport forums.		
2.03	5.16 – A request had been made for an update on glow. The response regarding compliance with the light management plan had been provided to Marianne Fellowes. Marianne Fellowes asked whether it was her responsibility to circulate the answer to other councillors. Richard Knight confirmed that this was her responsibility. She requested that an FAQ document be developed. Actions when met should be included in the meeting minutes with an afternote. Richard Knight would look into the suggestion of an FAQ document.	RK	
2.04	5.16 – A request had been made for information on car sharing to be updated at appropriate transport forums. This was ongoing as data became available.		
2.05	5.19 – A request had been made for further details on vegetation clearance at the southern park and ride. This had been discussed at the Southern Transport Forum and would also be covered in the presentation on the agenda.		
2.06	6.44 – A request had been made for the slides to be shared. This had been completed.		
2.07	9.01 – A request had been made for more detail of the marine works programme. This was currently up to date.		
2.08	9.08 – Dr Stephen Roast had offered to attend a meeting with Aldringham residents on request. This had not yet been taken up.		
2.09	9.12 – A request had been made for further information regarding sewage discharge. Dr Stephen Roast had provided this as an afternote with details.		
2.10	9.13 – Pat Hogan had made a request for information regarding the coastal erosion monitoring zones. Some information had been provided, with more to follow as it became available. Pat Hogan noted that the reply had taken a long time and had been vague. She requested that the monitoring extend to Thorpeness.		
2.11	9.14 – A request had been made for biodiversity net gain to be included on a future agenda. This was included on the current meeting's agenda.		
2.12	Christine Abraham noted the SZC communities team slide highlighting key issues that had arisen in each forum and the responses.		
2.13	The notes and actions of the previous meeting were approved.		
3	Report Back from Previous Forums		



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3.01	Richard Knight presented the report.		
3.02	The community forum on 27 March had been the first of the bi-annual forums for all of East Suffolk parish and town councils to attend. The next bi-annual forum would be on 23 October at the Sizewell Sports & Social Club.		
3.03	Topics covered had included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the project and the timeline of financial investment decisions. The community fund and the impact SZC was having in the community. An archaeological talk on the 'pasty' coin find. An update on construction progress and further work in the year. Landscaping and vegetation clearance. 		
4	Corporate and Community Relations		
4.01	Marjorie Barnes presented the report.		
4.02	The project was continuing at pace with a commitment to employ local people and use local contractors. Most recently, a significant contract had been awarded to Breheny Civil Engineering, which was a local firm. A local recruitment campaign had also been carried out for the next intake of apprentices. Of the current 60 apprentices, 50 were from Suffolk schools and colleges.		
4.03	A walking guide was being produced and would respond to questions around rights of way and diversions. This would be included in the quarterly letter to Leiston residents, as well as being available from the SZC office.		
4.04	Parking was now free at Sizewell beach, and the usual restrictions remained in force in relation to overnight parking. This would be monitored as before.		
5	Main Site Update		
5.01	Rick Watler, David Peacop and David Seal presented the update.		
5.02	The contractor had been secured for the Sizewell link road, and archaeology was well advanced. Enabling works had begun for the main development site road. The final stages of governance had been reached on appointing a contractor to deliver the local roads' works, and work had taken place with local authorities around timing.		
5.03	David Peacop presented an overview of the campus and accommodation. People would be welcomed in a few months to come and see it, with the swimming pool and other facilities to be opened to the public.		
5.04	There would be plenty of notice of road closures, and as the dates approached, they would be well communicated. Average speed cameras would be used on the B1122 and adjacent roads from Q2.		
6	Rail Update		
6.01	Stephen Keighley presented the update.		

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6.02	Activity had increased in relation to devegetation, which was mostly completed. Space had to be cleared alongside the railway for safe construction. There had also been a lot of surveying to inform the detail of the construction plan.		
6.03	Establishment of the site compound had progressed, particularly at Buckleswood Road, as well as finalising approvals for a further compound at Leiston airfield. This would serve as a people hub and reduce impact on residents around Westward Ho.		
6.04	A few weeks previously, Network Rail had delivered track upgrades at Burnt House and Wickham Market. This was to convert existing jointed track to continuous welded rail.		
6.05	A number of derisking opportunities had been identified, meaning that a decision had been made not to proceed with the original plan and to deliver main works at the Saxmundham Junction area in a nine-day blockade in May. This would be rescheduled for early 2026.		
7	Questions Regarding Presentations		
7.01	Tom Daly noted coordination with Scottish Power and asked for more detail. Rick Watler explained there had been a number of meetings with wider ongoing projects including Scottish Power. The aim was to not deliver works that would conflict with other parties and to work together to deliver a better product between them.		
7.02	Pat Hogan queried the timescale until the link road could be used as the main entrance. David Seal said construction would start in summer 2025, which would be a two-year project. The amount of traffic was limited and controlled until that road opened. Pat Hogan added concerns about the buses going back and forth that often had few or no people in. Rebecca Quigg added that the buses were included in the traffic controls.		
7.03	Maureen Jones asked whether the walking guides would only be available online. Marjorie Barnes explained they would be printed and could be circulated in areas by request.		
7.04	Marianne Fellowes asked when the designs for the sea defence would be seen by the public. Richard Bull explained that they would be publicly available once submitted to East Suffolk Council.		
7.05	Marianne Fellowes noted serious concerns about impact on local accommodation and queried where the requirement for 2,200 bed spaces would come from. She queried whether those who had accommodation locally but maintained homes elsewhere were counted in the travel figures. Richard Bull would bring back a full response on this. 2,200 people had registered on the system.	RB	
7.06	Nicky Corbett noted that people in Buller Road and Carr Avenue had been very concerned at the devegetation, with no dialogue beforehand. She asked for noise mitigation to be reconsidered for these roads and Valley Road. She also queried how long the Leiston rail crossing would be closed for. Stephen Keighley acknowledged the points around communication, and this would be taken onboard. The works would take place between August and October 2025, and the current programme was for a road closure of a few days.		
7.07	Charles McDowell queried when the average speed cameras would be installed. Rick Watler explained that the money needed to be approved by the Board at the end of April, and the intent was to install the cameras within Q2. Charles McDowell asked whether the	RW	



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	Mill Lane signal was still on target for Q2. Rick Watler would come back with an answer on this.		
8	Specialist Update – Landscape and Ecology		
8.01	Dr Steve Mannings presented the update.		
8.02	Although there had been a lot of vegetation clearance, only vegetation required to be removed had been removed, and this was strictly controlled under the DCO. Up to the end of 2024, 26,000 trees and shrubs had been planted within and around the estate. The aspiration was for the site to reach net zero in 10 years' time.		
8.03	Luke Stevens explained that purpose of the degree of de-vegetation was to accommodate the design. In the last month, the DCO clearance plans had been revisited to further look at where additional savings of vegetation could be made.		
8.04	Stephen Keighley stated there was a £12 million environment fund under the DCO to fund projects to enhance the natural environment in and around East Suffolk, with a particular focus on the AONB.		
9	Specialist Update – Occupational Health & Wellbeing		
9.01	CP presented the update. The aim of the health and wellbeing service was to ensure that SZC did not negatively impact the local NHS or other local services. A zero-harm culture was being worked towards. At present, the average was around eight first aid incidents per month, which was very low. There were mental health first aiders across the site to provide support where needed.		
10	Traffic and Transport		
10.01	Rebecca Quigg presented the update.		
10.02	Monitoring was carried out of HGVs and LGVs. Prior to the construction of the Sizewell link road and two village bypass, there was a limit of 600 HGV movements per day, and there would be no more than 500 on Saturdays. No SZC HGVs could use the routes north of the A12/A14 junction between 00.00 and 06.00.		
11	Q&A – via Town and Parish Council Representative		
11.01	Pat Hogan had submitted a question asking for a marine works update. This had been covered. Pat Hogan requested that an information board be placed by the car park for visitors to explain what was being done. It was stated that this was being progressed. Pat Hogan had submitted a question on overnight parking. This had been included in Marjorie Barnes's presentation. Pat Hogan asked that monitoring of overnight parking continue.		
11.02	Marianne Fellowes had submitted a question about what vehicle categories and roads made up the DCO monitoring and whether numbers could be shared more frequently. Marjorie Barnes had covered this in her presentation. Marianne Fellowes noted that, in Aldeburgh, there was a big increase in traffic on the A1094 and other roads. Marjorie Barnes asked Marianne Fellowes to provide times, dates and locations for her to look into.		



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	Marianne Fellowes had submitted a question about recording of accidents and near-misses and the installation of roadside cameras. Dr Steve Mannings explained that, where accidents involved injuries, they were recorded. Accident numbers were reviewed annually. As an authority, SCC would not install CCTV due to cost.		
11.03	<p>Nicky Corbett had submitted a question about assistance with monitoring of HMO licenses. Richard Bull stated that the accommodation management system was being reviewed on an ongoing basis and contact had been made with local landlords.</p> <p>Nicky Corbett had submitted a question about ensuring vehicles use public car parks rather than residents' parking spaces. Richard Bull would take this question away to come back with a strategic response.</p>	RB	
11.04	TJ Haworth-Culf had submitted a question about willingness to collaborate with the Estuary Partnership and East Suffolk Water Management Board regarding donation of clean waste soil. David Peacop would take this away to look at.	DP	
11.05	<p>Christine Abraham explained that the remaining questions would be taken away and answers published.</p> <p>Afternote Question from Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf - Maintaining footpath access – We acknowledge that the numerous energy projects in and around the Aldeburgh, surrounding towns and villages pose a challenge/ completely cut off public access to footpaths. Will Sizewell C dedicate some time to work with other project stakeholders to ensure that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy these footpaths. Aiming to find practical solutions that will enable uninterrupted access from one point to another, preserving the enjoyment of our natural landscape. Engagement with High Street Businesses – Once again, recognising the concerns of high street businesses regarding the potential impact of Sizewell C project on tourism accommodation and turnover. If not already initiated, has the criteria gone to all businesses/ high street to ensure or to establish an agreement upon method of recording and addressing impacts. It is noted that Sizewell repeat that they are committed to working closely with local businesses to mitigate any adverse effects and support the local economy. I appreciate input and the dedication of addressing these concerns in a collaborative and transparent manner.</p>	RB/ MB	
12	Date of Next Meeting 2nd July 2025		