

Meeting Note

Northern Transport Forum

Forum:	Northern Transport Forum	Meeting held:	Wednesday 5 th February 2025
Chair:	Brian Stewart, Chair	Council Representatives:	Cllr Debbie Hughes, Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council Cllr Andrew Turner, Westleton Parish Council Cllr Matthew Saunders, Blythburgh Parish Council Cllr Laura Gwynne, Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council Cllr Stuart Walmsley, Darsham Parish Council Cllr Nicky Corbett, Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council Cllr Charles Macdowell, Middleton-cum-Fordley Steve Merry, Suffolk County Council, Highways Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council Cllr Paul Ashton, East Suffolk Council Cllr Ian Patterson, Yoxford Parish Council Cllr Andrew Candler, Sibton Parish Council Cllr Geraldine Barker, Saxmundham Parish Council Cllr Barry Rowing, Peasenhall Parish Council Cllr Stephen Brett, Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council Cllr Peter Watson, Walberswick Parish Council
Sizewell C Attendees:	David Peacop, Site Operations Director David Seal, Offsite Delivery Manager Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ Team Richard Bull, DCO Lead Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations Manager Stephen Keighley, Senior Project Manager – Rail Rebecca Quigg, Transport Co-Ordinator Dr Stephen Mannings, Water, Ecology and Land SME Luke Stevens, Land Management Lead Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager Jez Porter, Stakeholder and External Roads Lead Darren Benford Brown, Community Safety Officer	Apologies and substitutions:	Cllr Paul Collins (Cllr Stephen Brett substituting) Traci Weaver (Cllr Laura Gwynne substituting) Cllr Josie Bassinette (Cllr Peter Watson substituting)
External Attendees:	Sgt Rebecca O'Neill - Suffolk Constabulary Drew Aspinwall, SEC Newgate		

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Meeting note and matters arising from Northern Transport Forum (6th November 2024)
3. Report back from: Community Forum, Main Development Site Forum and Southern Transport Forum
4. Corporate and Community Relations
5. Road and Rail Updates
6. Landscaping / Ecology
7. Traffic and Transport
8. Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representative
9. Date of Next Meeting



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DRAFT Meeting Note – 06/11/2024

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introductions – (Chair)		
1.01	<p>Brian Stewart, 'The Chair', opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to new forum member representing Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council, Cllr Debbie Hughes. Apologies from Cllr Paul Collin, Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council with Cllr Stephen Brett substituting Apologies from Traci Weaver, Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council with Cllr Laura Gwynne substituting Apologies from Cllr Josie Bassinette, Walberswick Parish Council with Cllr Peter Watson substituting <p>The Chair also welcomed David Seal from the Sizewell C Team, who will be regularly attending going forward, and also guest presenters Stephen Mannings and Luke Stevens (Item 6).</p>		
1.02	The Chair introduced the Sizewell C team presenting at the Forum and ran through the meeting agenda.		
2	Meeting note and matters arising from Northern Transport Forum (6th November 2024) – Chair		
2.01	<p>The Chair moved the Draft Meeting Note from the previous Northern Transport Forum (6th November 2024) for their correctness. Cllr Matthew Saunders seconded this.</p> <p>The Chair asked for any points of clarification or corrections from Forum Members.</p>		
2.02	<p>Item 9.01 – Cllr Nicky Corbett clarified that there was not an error in the question as stated in the draft meeting note. Following double-checking, the approved route does go through residential roads, route being the B1122, Waterloo Avenue and up to the level crossing and Cllr Corbett requested that this clarification was made in the final meeting note. This will be recorded as an afternote in the final version of the meeting note.</p> <p>A slide was shown highlighting actions that have taken place following the last meeting.</p>		
2.03	<p>Item 6.04 -</p> <p>Request for notice boards.</p> <p>The team are working to identify locations and content for information noticeboards</p>		
2.04	<p>Request for details regarding archaeology finds.</p> <p>Oxford Cotswold Archaeology developing a programme of exhibition to showcase some of the finds. On the 22- 23 February 2025 there is an "Archaeology of SZC Development Site" Open Day at the Waterloo Centre in Leiston.</p> <p>Other dates will be shared in due course.</p>		

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2.05	<p>Item 6.05 - Request for Parish Magazines to be used to update the community. It was confirmed that both the Yoxmere Fisherman and the Tide Collection magazines will be publishing community updates.</p> <p>AFTERNOTE: Current full list of regular publications is Southwold Organ; Saxmundham News; Aldeburgh Times; Leiston Observer; Woodbridge Talk; Halesworth Hoot; Yoxmere Fisherman - Monthly edition; Kelsale-cum-Carlton Community News - Quarterly edition.</p>	AFTERNOTE	
2.06	<p>Item 6.07 – Request for an update from the groups working on ecology, suggesting they attend one of the meetings in future. Actioned. Item 6 on the agenda for 5 February 2025.</p>		
2.07	<p>Item: 6.11 – Request further information on Eastbridge Road closure. Further detail will be provided as part of Item 5 of the agenda</p>		
2.08	<p>Item 8.04 - Request for Suffolk Constabulary to become a member of the forum. Actioned: Independent chair wrote to the Chief Constable and received a response to be shared at the forum.</p> <p>The Chair said he was happy to make the letter and the response available to fora members; he summarised the key points from the response, which were:</p> <p><i>“At this stage we feel there is adequate representation at the forum in terms of policing and I’m sure you appreciate the senior team have extremely busy diaries and we need to ensure this time is used most appropriately. Our presence at these meeting will continue at a local officer level, who are available to speak to before and after the meeting to his attending.”</i></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that there were two local officers attending the meeting. The officers were available ahead of the meeting and would be afterwards also.</p> <p>The Chair said that it was not the response that the forum was expecting or hoping for; he added that it would have been quite helpful if the area commander covering Sizewell would attend at one of each of the fora throughout the year. The Chair referenced Cllr Paul Ashton who highlighted that the constabulary had received considerable additional resources from the project.</p> <p>Cllr Ashton thanked the Chair for writing the letter and added that the project were contributing to the constabularies’ budget too and would like to see more senior police presence at the forums.</p>		
2.09	<p>Cllr Alexander Nicoll said that this was a disappointment and that many attending the forum also have very busy lives and were also quite senior; he would still like to see an officer from a strategic level attend the forums to take part in what is often, he said, a strategic conversation.</p>		
2.09	<p>Cllr Ashton asked for clarification that the information on noticeboards would not be split across north and south. It was confirmed that there would not be a split, and the same information would be displayed on both.</p>		
2.10	<p>The meeting note was then signed off.</p>		



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3	Report back from: Community Forum, Main Development Site Forum and Southern Transport Forum – (Richard Knight)		
3.01	Richard Knight (RK) gave an update on both the most recent Main Development Site Forum (15 January 2025) and Southern Transport Forum (13 November 2024).		
3.02	<p>Main Development Site Forum (15 January 2025)</p> <p>This was the first Sizewell C forum of 2025. The meeting note from 15th October 2024 was agreed.</p> <p>Marjorie Barnes gave an overview of the project and noted that it has been one year since the triggering of the DCO and outlined progress of the project across a number of areas. Including the manufacturing of components, contracts agreed and outline of community relations outreach, employment stats and an outline of the staff feedback survey.</p> <p>Rick Watler and David Peacop gave an update on the main site development starting with an updated drone footage. Further updates were given on the road improvements and rail infrastructure in and around Leiston. An outline and update on the transport for workers was also given regarding new buses that are being piloted.</p> <p>Dr Stephen Roast gave the forum an update on marine works and upcoming activities, including seabed searches for Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) stemming from WW2 in early summer this year. Stephen also gave an update on marine preparations for the desalination plant that will begin also in summer 2025.</p> <p>Finally, there was an update on the rail work improvements on the Leiston branch, including ongoing vegetation clearance; compounds being established on Buckleswood road and Abbey Lane in order to start preparation for the construction of the Green Rail Route with archaeology starting soon.</p> <p>Traffic and transport was outlined for the area and traffic counts that have been introduced to the areas in and around Leiston.</p> <p>Q&A included questions on sea defences; Abbey Lane closure and traffic management; economic improvements for Leiston and what further road closures may happen.</p>		
3.03	<p>Southern Transport Forum 13 November 2024</p> <p>The November STF was the last forum of 2024. Little Bealings Parish Council was welcomed as a new member, as the parish runs along the East Suffolk Branch Rail line. A presentation was given to the forum by East Suffolk Council relating to the housing improvements grant fund, with follow up Q&A.</p> <p>Following the showing of the drone footage, there was an update on the Two Village Bypass works, which had started archaeological works and timelines. The Southern Park and Ride works continue at pace, again with timelines outlined.</p>		



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	<p>On the Orwell Logistics Park, outlined the construction of three warehouses. All vehicles will go in there from January to be checked and a pass put in the window for notified and non-notified HGVs.</p> <p>An update on the A12 improvements works which include new and enhanced pedestrian footways and crossings, new road surfacing, village gateways, safety improvements and side road visibility, and reduced speed limits.</p> <p>The rail update included plans for improvements on the East Suffolk Branch lines including level crossings at Melton and Saxmundham and construction phases and timelines.</p>		
3.04	The agendas and presentations can be found on the Sizewell C website and the meeting notes are located on the East Suffolk Council website.		
4	Corporate and Community Relations – (Marjorie Barnes)		
4.01	<p>Marjorie Barnes (MB) noted that Sizewell C is now a year into construction. In the last year the project has awarded over £100m in local contracts and have made significant headway in early manufacturing of key components for the power station.</p> <p>As a project Sizewell C has signed multiple contracts with businesses across Suffolk, covering everything from construction and aggregates to building supplies and energy systems.</p> <p>Today (05/02/25) SZC announced further regional contracts including a £19m contract for Ipswich-based business, Jackson Civil Engineering, who will deliver some of the local road schemes, including the main development site road works on Lovers Lane and Abbey Road.</p> <p>In addition, new contracts with local third sector partners have been signed including agreements with Royal British Legion Industries and a two-year licence to run the Sizewell C site coffee shop for Combat2Coffee, a community interest company which invests profits to benefit veterans, ex-uniformed personnel, their families and communities.</p>		
4.02	<p>MB reported that there are now around 1,000 people on site driving this project forward both on the main development site and throughout the off-site infrastructure, and they'll be around 2,000 people by the end of the year.</p> <p>There will be double the number of apprenticeships across this year. There are currently 61 apprentices, with 52 from local high schools.</p> <p>The early years recruitment drive is now underway and there are almost 100 new roles on offer cover a range of areas. There is also an apprenticeship open evening in Leiston next week.</p> <p>The project has delivered the key milestones for the year, keeping the project on schedule and budget.</p>		



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4.03	<p>MB reminded the forum of the £23m Sizewell C Community Fund with £2m available to local organisations each year for ten years. The fund has now awarded a total of £1.4 million in grants for local organisations.</p> <p>The second round of funding has just been concluded; awards include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Advice East had been awarded £153,000; • Saxmundham Music & Art Festival was awarded £105,000 for the Sax Community Fest; • Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council was awarded a grant for installing water and power outlets at the village green, which will be used for community events. <p>The Suffolk Community Foundation have a good partnership and local charities and not-for-profit groups; MB said it was good to see a diverse range of applications coming into the fund.</p>		
4.04	<p>As per the Deed of Obligation SZC undertake a Workforce Survey, the objectives of which are to evaluate accommodation and transport arrangements, assess workforce satisfaction and understand the impact of the project on the local community.</p> <p>The results of the first one have now been released, which was completed by over 300 people / 43% response rate. A slide of which was presented. A key observation was that there is active engagement with local colleges and the DWP and also the third sector.</p>		
4.05	<p>Sizewell C Fora Survey.</p> <p>MB displayed a graph from the results of the SZC Fora Survey results from the Autumn.</p> <p>The feedback received has been good and explained the key feedback received including improving audio and visual, and the quality of presentation content.</p> <p>MB said she appreciated that there is a lot of information to cover in these meetings and asked forum members to keep feeding back, so the meetings can continually improve.</p>		
4.06	<p>Between the 22- 23 February 2025 there is an "Archaeology of SZC Development Site" Open Day at the Waterloo Centre in Leiston.</p> <p>Oxford Cotswold Archaeology are developing a programme of exhibitions to showcase some of the finds, and more information will be shared with communities as to where and when these will take place.</p>		
4.07	<p>MB returned to parish newsletters, covered earlier in the meeting and asked the parishes to feedback and keep suggesting communications channels that they feel will be effective.</p>		



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5	Road and Rail Updates – (David Peacop, David Seal and Stephen Keighley)		
5.01	<p>David Peacop (DP) showed the current drone flythrough film and gave a spoken commentary of what the attendees were looking at. Some of the items included in the footage was offsite work, the park and rides, two village bypass, Sizewell Link Road, Yoxford Roundabout, the ancillary construction area, green rail route, concrete batching plant, Bridleway 19, the temporary construction area and the main access route to site.</p> <p>The video is available to view at the SZC Information Office in Leiston High Street.</p>		
5.02	<p>DP then showed the latest slide of the Site Delivery Lookahead – no major changes to report to the timeline, still on programme.</p> <p>Countywide Directional signage locations – permission now in place to install semi-permanent signage, will be put up Q1 / Q2 this year.</p> <p>Average speed cameras: Average Speed Camera Enforcement: B1122 from Yoxford to Eastbridge Road / Sizewell C main site access; B1125 through Westleton.</p> <p>Next Steps: Installation is targeted for Q1; There will be communications in advance to let people know and explain how the cameras will work; Data from the cameras will be collected by the police, and will be reported via their channels.</p>		
5.03	<p>DP introduced David Seal (DS), who joins Sizewell C from Hinkley Point C where he performed the same role.</p> <p>DS talked about the Northern Park and Ride (NPR) Early Works Q1 + Q2 25: Vegetation clearance on Willow March Lane) now almost complete (started in Q4 2024)</p> <p>Q1-25: Temporary site Access from Willow March Lane, started Jan 25 (Completed). Archaeology (ca. 3-months) is starting in March 25. Vegetation Clearance (along A12 - roundabout tie-in points).</p> <p>DP added that the project is planning on undertaking some additional cleaning up work on the diversion route, which he referred to as 'cleansing' work, which contributes to making wayfinding and access clearer for users such as cyclists.</p> <p>Yoxford Roundabout Early Works Q1 + Q2 2025: Pre-Construction Activities at Yoxford Roundabout. Vegetation Management and Archaeology Mitigation Completed Jan 25. Site Security & Fencing was completed in November 24. Ramping up now for utility works planned Q1 2025.</p>		
5.04	<p>Sizewell Link Road Q1+Q2 2025: Pre-Construction Activities at Sizewell Link Road underway.</p> <p>DS ran through the activities on the Middleton Moor Spur which includes: Vegetation Management (Phase 1 complete in Dec 24, Phase 2 to start Feb 25). Archaeology Mitigation. Site Security & Fencing (Complete to support Archaeology).</p>		



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	<p>Pre-Construction Activities at Trust Farm also include Vegetation Management, Archaeology Mitigation, Site Security & Fencing.</p> <p>DS explained that the link road is a complex project, which will take around two and half years to complete, partly due to the engineering required for drainage. It is not a case of working from one end to the other, the road will be built in sections, which will be connected later; SZC are working with the contractor on the exact sequencing, main works will commence in Q2 2025.</p> <p>DS said that this was just an overview, and he will share more information at future meetings as the project detail is confirmed.</p>		
5.05	Main Development Site Roads Early Works Q1 + Q2 2025 – project is also gearing up for these works and shared a plan. DS said that the first activity is the Main Plaza Roundabout and followed by the Abbey Road Level Crossing.		
5.06	<p>Lover's Lane Utilities Diversion (Night Works) which enables Essex and Suffolk Water Diversion as well as UKPN and Openreach. Between 6 January – 28 February 2025: there will be night-time closures Monday - Friday 20:00 - 05:00 with day-time traffic signals.</p> <p>There are non-Sizewell C works taking place on Abbey Road for Utilities Works (Day Works) between 17– 28 February Day Works 10:00 - 15:00 with Day-time traffic signals – these are being undertaken by CityFibre, these works are not being delivered as part of Sizewell C project.</p> <p>DS said that we are working with the utilities and third-party businesses undertaking this work and are co-ordinating with them, with a view to minimising disruption where it is possible and also working to ensure the communication is co-ordinated.</p>		
5.07	<p>DS said that the Abbey Lane Green Rail Route (Road Closure) is SZC related and is to enable Green Rail Route and Main Development Site Roads Construction.</p> <p>The full road closure is from 27th January 2025 to 13th January 2027.</p> <p>DS explained that the project listened to concerns and changed the originally diversion route as a result and showed a slide of the revised diversion route.</p>		
5.08	Abbey Road – B1122 Utilities Diversion (Night Works), to enable Essex and Suffolk Water diversionary works. 3 March – 9 May 2025 Night-time Closure Monday - Friday 20:00 - 05:00.		
5.09	<p>Eastbridge Road Utilities Diversion (Night Works) to enable UK Power Networks (UKPN) undergrounding of Overhead HV cabling: Night-time closure 20:00 - 05:00 UKPN are expected to undertake these works: 17 February to 14 March 2025.</p> <p>DS then showed a plan of the proposed design for the Eastbridge Road Utilities Diversion (Proposed Design) – the project have suggested a one-way system for larger vehicles due to narrow nature of some of the roads.</p>		
5.10	DP then talked about the Orwell Logistics Park - Freight Management Facility (FMF) for Q1+Q2 2025. There are four warehouses and an FMF on this site: totalling 1m		

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	square feet. This project is slightly delayed, awaiting handover and completion of the temperature-controlled building. The project started installing racking in Q4 and will update when we take full possession.		
5.11	<p>DP said that a hydrogen bus discrete trial is underway, the technology is proven but it is the fuelling that is being closely looked at. Single deck lower floor buses have 45 seats and the double decker, 66 seats.</p> <p>DP then showed a diagrammatic of the passenger service routes for the buses. Looking at 6 locations (services from Martlesham P&R; Pakefield; Orwell Logistics Park; Ipswich Train Station; Northern park and ride (Darsham); Southern Park and Ride (Wickham Market). The project is looking at the development of others, which is dependent on workforce location.</p> <p>DP said there is a gap in the day when the buses are not utilised, so is speaking to the council and the community as to how these could be used for wider community benefit.</p>		
5.12	<p>Rail Delivery, Branchline Rail Drops (January 2025) - Stephen Keighley (SK) said that during January there were three engineering trains, delivering a total of 14km of rail dropped, which is enough for the branchline upgrade.</p> <p>SK made it very clear that in 2025 that there is an increase in train activity on the branch line, he reminded the forum that is an operational railway and asked the local community to not walk down the track. It is not a safe space to be – please cross safely and quickly.</p> <p>Rail Delivery – Branchline Enabling Works have been underway (January 2025) this has included vegetation clearance (only removing what is entirely necessary); trial pits are being dug to confirm the final design; good progress on establishing the site compounds; also, good progress on the archaeology, with work within the main compound area, now almost complete.</p> <p>SK showed the Rail Delivery Plan, noting the sequence has slightly changed following a review of the programme. The primary change is that there is no 9-day blockade in May 2025, but this has been moved to February 2026. This allows the project to safeguard the objective of running 4 trains per day. Track construction and installation will take place in parallel with the works meeting at Abbey Road, which will still be the last section of section of track to be installed.</p> <p>There will be a single signal commissioning in February next year at the same time that we install the track. In parallel to this programme, we are undertaking level crossing upgrades to the Suffolk Line in the second half of this year and will provide an update at the next forum.</p> <p>Delivery of Melton and Darsham Level Crossings will take place throughout next year. On the branch line we are undertaking the work in 4 phases to minimise disruption; level crossing work will be from August to December 2025.</p> <p>Any road closures related to the level-crossings are being co-ordinated with SZC's others works and those external utilities works, mentioned earlier.</p>		

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5.13	<p>Cllr Alexander Nicoll asked if there was information on the Darsham level crossing work following the detailed presentation Network Rail gave at a previous forum; specifically, regarding minimising efforts to reduce disruption whilst the work is undertaken.</p> <p>SK said that last few months we have spent a lot of time designing the programme of works and developing the design, and the implementation strategy. There was no specific update today, but SK said he will request that Network Rail return to the next NTF to provide an update.</p>	ACTION	SK
5.14	<p>Cllr Paul Ashton said that he welcomed a good solution to Willow March Lane closure for cycling and walking.</p> <p>He asked if the B1125 road closure, at the water tower on the outskirts of Blythburgh, could be made part of the regular updates and requested some clarity on what is going to happen and when?</p> <p>The SZC team agreed to take that away and report back.</p>	ACTION	DS / DP
5.15	<p>Cllr Matthew Saunders asked a question about the closure of Angel Lane.</p> <p>Rebecca Quigg (RQ) said that the B1125 will be an item on the working group. In summary, the project is working through the design, and the process of appointing a contractor to undertake the work. RQ added that, as with many of the local road schemes, as soon as a contractor is on board we will get them to come and engage on the detail.</p> <p>Cllr Saunders said he felt there had not been any progress made. RQ reiterated the points she had already made.</p> <p>The request was made that Angel Lane also be part of regular update at the Northern Transport Forum.</p>	ACTION	DS / DP
5.16	<p>Cllr Andrew Candler asked why is Willow March Lane closed now, how long will it be closed for, and have the emergency services been informed?</p> <p>DP said he would take an action to giving an overview of the process of how Temporary Traffic Restrictions (TTR) and Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO) work at a future meeting.</p> <p>DS said the logistics of the process is very complex, it is not a case of closing the road one day and starting works the next. It is fundamentally a safety issue.</p> <p>Cllr Candler suggested that the road closure was not required as works had not yet started, and as access had been made for the archaeological works, could the project not just use that entrance and leave the road open?</p> <p>DP added that the road closure was also required to make a safe entrance for a working site, which requires a licence. The fencing came in from the inside; the safe entrance work from the roadside.</p>	ACTION	DP

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5.16.1	Cllr Saunders made the point that Google maps does not reflect the road closure. He requested that the project inform real-time mapping providers of the road closures. DP said this was a fair point.		
5.17	Cllr Geraldine Barker asked for an approximate date for Stage 5 of the Link Road. DS said that that project is over 2 years long and Phase 5 is at the end of the period. DS said he will bring that information to the next NTF.	ACTION	DS
5.18	Cllr Stephen Brett asked for clarification that the Eastbridge Road closure was at night. DS confirmed it was a nighttime closure from 20:00 – 05:00.		
5.19	Cllr Andrew Turner asked are Darsham level crossing works related road closures nighttime only? SK said the simple answer was that we do not know at the moment; and expected that at least a weekend closure of the A12 at some point. More details will be shared going forward. Cllr Turner asked for confirmation that there would be no other SZC HGC traffic during that weekend closure. Cllr Saunders added that the A12 is busier at the weekends, unlike other major roads.		
5.20	Cllr Saunders made the point that there was at least a dozen reference to road closures in the meeting so far. He said when the A12 is shut, diversions for HGVs can be 40 miles, so the drivers ignore them. As there are no turning places; he said Suffolk Highways deny responsibility, and the police have to deal with the incidents of HGV try to turn and get into difficulty when forced to turn round. Cllr Saunders asked, in this context, the question is really for the police not SZC to answer, which is what additional police resource is there to deal with issue and are the police going to do anything differently? The Chair suggested that Cllr Saunders speak to the police who were in attendance at the meeting. Cllr Saunders requested that it be recorded in the meeting note that there was nobody from the Police to be able to answer in the public forum on this issue.		
5.21	Cllr Laura Gwynne said she had been informed by the project that the police would not be helping regarding the A12 closures.		
5.22	Cllr Stuart Walmsley said he felt the programme is confusing and he would like to look at the combined messaging for the community. Is it possible to identify a collective view, including Network Rail? Cllr Walmsley said that he was worried about the proposed dates for the Sizewell Link Road (SLR), as the increase in freight will have happened before the SLR is complete. So how will the volume be managed?		

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	DP said he will come back with more information on this but in summary, the FMF regulates flow, aggregates will be delivered using the railhead. The DCO clearly lays out the caps and parameters that we have to work to.	ACTION	DP
5.23	<p>Cllr Walmsley said he had received a report of light spreading from the archaeological works, visible from the local villages.</p> <p>DP asked to be sent the details so it can be logged and looked into:</p> <p>The email is info@sizewellc.com / 0800 197 6102 or use the short form at www.sizewellc.com/contact-us</p>		
5.24	<p>Cllr Nicky Corbett asked if the town council could receive the footpath map and if there were any plans to tidy up the footpaths following works?</p> <p>MB said she will be in contact regarding the map and to check it is all correct before publication.</p>	ACTION	MB
5.24.1	<p>DS said they would like to assist and work with Leiston Town Council to target which locations need attention and if the plans are suitable, so would welcome the conversation before starting any vegetation works.</p>	ACTION	DS
5.25	<p>Cllr Corbett asked SK if any works were taking place overnight at Leiston level crossing?</p> <p>SK said there will be some form of disruption, but we are trying to minimise this as much as is possible. There are surveys ongoing at the moment and co-ordination with other schemes.</p>		
5.26	<p>Cllr Charles Macdowell asked that the B1122 and Abbey Road are one of the same – please stop using the terminology Abbey Road in the slide and replace with the B1122.</p> <p>This was agreed.</p>	ACTION	ALL SZC
5.27	<p>Steve Merry (SM) from Suffolk County Council returned to Cllr Andrew Candler's question about Willow March Lane closure. SM said that emergency services are always notified and unless there is physical obstruction in the road, they should be able to get through.</p> <p>SM suggested that, like other projects, it is useful to have a person from the contractor side who can be notified to cascade information to others on closures.</p> <p>Cllr Saunders suggested that this method was either not in place or did not work when the A12 was last closed.</p>		
6	Landscaping/ Ecology (Dr Stephen Mannings and Luke Stevens)		
6.01	<p>Luke Stevens (LS) presented a slide with a visual of what the whole site, including the habitats creation will look like after construction is complete. LS felt it was important to keep this picture in mind when viewing the subsequent slides, which also helps with orientation.</p>		

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	LS talked about advanced works and habitats creation, some of this work started 10 years ago. There has been advanced planting on the boundaries to make sure they are reinforced and provide screening. Wild Studio is a large area of former intensive agricultural land which is now maturing into heathland; Wild Aldhurst has now matured to the extent that they are of the same quality as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The Marsh Harrier area provides a valuable site for Marsh Harriers and a range of other species.		
6.02	<p>LS talked about the Main Development Site (MDS) schemes, and the work undertaken. Lovers Lane works includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree and hedgerow removal unavoidable due to road/junction realignment; Vegetation removal in accordance with approved site clearance plans; Hedgerow planting to replicate the existing character of the road; Detailed design/landscape scheme subject to technical approval/discharge of DCO Requirement 9. Planting in 2026/27 season. <p>LS said it can look very stark when the vegetation is removed but there is an approved planting scheme which comes in behind it.</p>		
6.03	<p>Off Site Infrastructure.</p> <p>LS explained it was the same approach applied at Yoxford Roundabout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some tree and hedgerow removal unavoidable due to junction realignment; Retain existing woodland strip along boundary with Satis House; Landscape design includes replacement hedgerow planting along the new road; Incorporates sandlings mosaic in microcosm; Design protects and enhances habitat for rare Sandy Stiltball fungus on roadside verge; The team are considering further planting along eastern side. <p>The finished scheme image showed the final planting, pond and other features in place.</p> <p>At the Sizewell Link Road there is a net gain in additional hedgerows and woodland by retaining more than in the original proposals.</p> <p>LS said we work with our contractors to ensure the planting schemes are delivered as specified, replacing any dead trees to ensure the landscaping establishes itself successfully.</p>		
6.04	<p>Additional planting:</p> <p>Plants of local provenance should be used where these are available.</p> <p>Species mixes should replicate as far as practicable the makeup and pattern of planting typologies found within equivalent areas of the Estate and immediate hinterland.</p> <p>Species which maximise biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife should be included within mixes (guided by local requirements and objectives – e.g. local BAP / AONB management plan etc).</p>		

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	<p>Species should be resilient to climate change impacts and disease / pests as far as is practicable and foreseeable.</p> <p>Smaller tree sizes (at initial planting) will typically be used in favour of mature stock as they are likely to establish more quickly and have a lower demand on irrigation.</p> <p>LS concluded by saying that when he worked at Hinkley Point C all the landscape schemes were delivered as per the specification. If one compared the planting plans to Google Earth now, you can see this is the case. The elements designed for bats and badgers for example are also all working as they should.</p>		
6.05	<p>Cllr Charles Macdowell asked what was meant by 'tree replacement' and was this replacing each felled tree with a new one in its place?</p> <p>LS said that 'tree replacement' was undertaking the work, clearing vegetation and then planting new trees as per the plan. Then for 5 years, any trees that die are then replaced like for like to ensure the scheme is not lacking in any way.</p> <p>LS referenced the pre-submitted question submitted by Middleton-cum-Forley Parish Council as to how many trees have been felled so far. The answer is 21,675.</p> <p>LS added that in context this includes a majority of post-war intensive tree planting not indigenous mixed woodland. The post-war forestry is being replaced with high-quality habitats including heathland, sandlings landscape and woodland planting.</p>		
6.05.1	<p>Cllr Macdowell said that 'quality' was subjective and asked if all those trees will be replaced.</p> <p>Dr Stephen Mannings (SM) said that the number of trees will not be replaced in exact numbers but with the focus on the quality and diverse habitats which delivers much higher biodiversity than what was there before.</p>		
6.05.2	<p>Cllr Macdowell wanted to know who makes those decisions not to plant like for like? SM said that at Wild Aldhurst we have not planted a single tree and what has grown there is entirely natural, we have helped that along by imported seeds from local woodland. In the last 10 years we have established 3 nature reserves of quality equal to SSSIs, which is very rare, and this is even before the main construction has started.</p>		
6.06	<p>Cllr Stuart Walmsley said that this information is very useful for us to share with residents, that it does look bleak now but won't in the future.</p> <p>He then asked, what does 19% Net-Gain mean when it comes to biodiversity?</p> <p>SM said that in practice it means that the environment is better for wildlife afterwards than it was before the work. SM said he can bring further information to future meetings. He added, if you calculate all the losses and then track all the things we have already created (Wild Aldhurst etc) and factor in what is planned, then we have already off-set 50% of what is has been removed. When we get to the final stage and start planting trees where there was once a construction site, we will be at net-zero in terms of biodiversity and then building from there.</p>		

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6.07	<p>Cllr Laura Gwynne asked about pathways for the animals on the SLR and the timeline for the completion of all the landscaping / planting?</p> <p>LS said the final restoration is at the end of construction, once everything is demobilised and moved, that is when the final landscaping can start. It's a long-term vision.</p> <p>LS said that SLR does wind to avoid areas of ancient woodland.</p> <p>AFTERNOTE: The SLR design features a number "bat hop-overs" to maintain commuting and foraging routes for bats.</p>	AFTERNOTE	LS
6.08	<p>Cllr Matthew Saunders said he thought the whole conversation was 'classic boosterism' downplaying the tremendous damage being done to the local environment.</p> <p>SM said he completely disagreed with Cllr Saunders and invited him to come and look around any / all of the landscaping / habitat schemes for himself, SM said he would be happy to show him around.</p>		
6.09	<p>Cllr Andrew Turner asked where is the March Harrier site?</p> <p>SM said it was north of the construction site and next to RSPB Minsmere site.</p>		
7	Traffic and Transport – (Rebecca Quigg and Steve Merry)		
7.01	<p>Rebecca Quigg (RQ) introduced herself and outlined her role and responsibilities as Transport Coordinator.</p> <p>Transport Monitoring Reporting Q4 2024 RQ updated on the average and maximum daily HGV movements, average HGV movements and compliance breaches for Q4 2024 and average and maximum LGV movements. All well within the daily HGV Cap and the forecast for LGV movements. All data is available on East Suffolk Council's website.</p> <p>Directional Split of HGV Movements for Q4: Latest figures now show that 13% coming from the North and that 86% coming from the South.</p> <p>Wider Traffic Monitoring RQ gave an update on wider traffic monitoring and traffic count sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic Monitoring Surveys are mentioned in the Deed of Obligation as a potential measure to respond to traffic issues In consultation with Parish Councils, traffic counts implemented proactively First round of monitoring completed in October 24, and presented to Parish Councils in December Report sent to ESC for upload to the website 		
7.02	<p>There are a set of extra transport monitoring points at:</p> <p>Kelsale-cum-Carlton - One traffic counter on Clayhills Road</p>		

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	<p>There will be a movement of monitor at Westleton to better represent speeds through the village. Either one counter on The Street, alongside the village green OR one counter on Blythburgh Road near the adventure playground. Location to be confirmed, but alteration agreed.</p> <p>Knodishall B1069 - One traffic counter agreed on B1069</p> <p>4 Traffic counters agreed in Leiston on: Abbey Road; Cross St (near Sylvester Road); Seaward Avenue; Aldeburgh Road</p> <p>Note that the B1069 traffic is already monitored by agreed Knodishall point.</p>		
7.03	<p>Transport Working Groups Update</p> <p>Leiston: Designs with Suffolk County Council for review Public exhibition of scheme elements Q1 2025 Next meeting: 27 February 2025</p> <p>B1122: Meeting held on 30 January. Designs progressing Next meeting: 22 May 2025</p> <p>B1125: Designs progressing Positioning of Westleton average speed camera confirmed B1387 discussion ongoing Next meeting: 13 February 2025</p> <p>Marlesford & Little Glemham: Designs progressing Next meeting: 27 March 2025</p> <p>Wickham Market: Meeting held on 23 January. Designs progressing Next meeting: 15 May 2025</p> <p>Yoxford: Designs for pedestrian crossing progressing Next meeting: 13 March 2025</p>		
7.04	<p>Steve Merry said that when looking at East Suffolk's website for information on the TRG, he wanted to draw forum members attention to Technical Note 5 - which lists the access routes which are not part of the B1122 or A12 such as compounds, it is a live document that currently features mostly the works related to archaeological activities.</p> <p>SM wanted to reassure the forum that non-compliances are being picked up on. There was an example recently when we picked up on a non-compliance at King George Avenue outside the ACA building, where a number of HGVs did not follow the approved route. It was reported on the night it occurred and resolved then and there.</p>		

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7.04.1	SM said that he is no longer the Chair of the TRG, his manager is now taking that role, this frees SM up to ask questions.		
7.05	<p>Cllr Paul Ashton asked about anticipated increase in traffic and if we can look at all the parishes that are interested in 20mph speed limits. Can we consult with them?</p> <p>SM said there is a process, a pdf of which is available here: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/traffic-management-and-road-safety/speed-limits</p> <p>SM said ultimately it comes down to funding. From a TRG approach, where it is identified as result of SZC traffic, this can be escalated to the TRG for review and then potentially funded via the SZC contingency funding. Alternatively, the parishes themselves could look at funding 20mph areas.</p>		
7.06	<p>Cllr Stuart Walmsley asked if traffic monitoring is looking at peak patterns or just general flow and where is traffic going, and what do you know about displacement?</p> <p>SM said that Construction Management Plan (CMP) looks at peak hours 8-9am / 5-6pm and also the 'shoulder hours' each side of those times. Going forward flows could be picked up via a combination of the monitoring and the data from the FMF.</p> <p>SM said yes, we (SCC) do monitor for strategic planning purposes covering the A and B roads but not the smaller lanes.</p>		
7.07	<p>Cllr Matthew Saunders returned to the topic of the A12. He said the road has no enhanced funding as are result of SZC. Unless there is some way of giving additional money to the Highway Authority, then SZC traffic will be degrading the road, and the Council will have no money to fix it.</p> <p>Richard Bull (RB) said it was a really important point; there is a maintenance area within the Deed of Obligation for specific parts of the route.</p> <p>Please report any specific area of concern, such as white lines and cat's eyes, so the team can look at potential solutions.</p>		
7.07.1	Cllr Alexander Nicoll said he felt that SZC should pick up the cost.		
8	Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives – (Chair)		
8.01	<p>Submitted by Darsham Parish Council</p> <p>Q.1 . At the 7th August Northern Transport Forum Darsham Parish Council asked for a review of the speed limit along the A12 between the Park and Ride entry onto the A12 and the Street at Darsham. Can you please confirm what steps have been taken to review this point?</p> <p>Q.2 With the likely increase in traffic volumes over the coming years as a direct result of the Sizewell construction works, it is inevitable that traffic will displace onto the rural road network and in particular through villages adjacent or near to the A12. Darsham Parish Council is therefore requesting that SZC give due consideration to this concern and as a deterrent support the implementation of a 20mph speed limit through Darsham Village.</p>		

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	<p>Cllr Stuart Walmsley said the 20mph point had been covered. He said that monitoring figures that have come out show speed limit below the 30mph. A12 and The Street is an ongoing concern; the volume of traffic is only going to increase. The speed at 40mph there is too fast.</p> <p>Answer: SM said that he asked colleagues to look at the speed data we have. He said there is no speed monitoring data around The Street at Darsham so will be taking this to the TRG.</p> <p>South of the service station the speed limit is mostly being met; compliance is good there and warned that by changing these to 30mph may see less compliance; also long stretches of 30mph usually sees less compliance or people looking for alternative routes.</p> <p>Re the collisions mentioned, SM is looking at the signage there, as currently sign is only on one side; SM said he had noted the lack of white lines issue.</p> <p>SM will be asking SZC if they will fund a study on the 20mph areas.</p> <p>Cllr Walmsley suggested that average speed cameras in Darsham would be a solution.</p>		
8.02	<p>Submitted by Saxmundham Town Council</p> <p>Q1. Greater Anglia car park, Saxmundham Station and Network Rail contractors parking:</p> <p>Balfour has its compound to the rear and now railway contractors working on the Sizewell C line upgrades are also using the station car park. This leaves scant space for rail users resulting in various implications for Saxmundham and its residents.</p> <p>The paucity of parking affects vulnerable passengers with limited mobility and people returning on late trains who fear walking in the dark to reach their cars.</p> <p>The lack of space is likely to deter passengers using Saxmundham station and reduce passengers supporting the town businesses by purchasing refreshments and newspapers prior to their journeys.</p> <p>Without available parking, drivers will resort to parking in narrow side streets, private car parks and even the Council Office car park.</p> <p>Can a solution for this problem be found that works for all parties?</p> <p>Answer: SK said:</p> <p>SZC recognises the impact on car parking availability at Saxmundham Station caused by our contractor's facilities taking up several spaces. What was initially put forward as a short-term measure to allow survey work to be safely completed has become extended because of delays in setting up other compound space elsewhere in the</p>		

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8.02.1	<p>area. We are currently finalising plans for these other sites and aim to move to them as they are established, in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Cllr Paul Ashton added that East Suffolk Council are also looking at the ability to do multi-day tickets in their car parks also.</p>		
8.03	<p>Submitted by Yoxford Parish Council</p> <p>Q1. Please explain the reasons why Willow Marsh Lane needs to be closed for two years or more, rather than the six months mentioned last term we heard about it.</p> <p>Q2. What compensation will be offered to those affected by the closure?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Q1 had already been answered.</p> <p>Richard Bull added that the maximum closure duration was applied for, but we should not assume that the closure will be for the full two years, and the team are looking at that.</p> <p>Q2: RB said that regarding compensation we need to understand what the local impact is first and then look at mitigation. We need to look at solutions rather than compensation for individuals.</p>		
8.04	<p>Submitted by Blythburgh Parish Council</p> <p>What attempts have been made to get Suffolk Constabulary to engage with this forum and what are they (apparently) proving unsuccessful. The reason for the question (based on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting) is that the police will be crucial to enforcement of many of the traffic mitigation measures but do not seem to want to engage with this exercise, at least at a senior leadership level.</p> <p>Answer: The Chair addressed this question under matters arising Item 2.07</p> <p>Cllr Saunders did say that he felt the project is acting in good faith but felt that the letter received back from the Chief Constable was not in good faith and not acceptable.</p> <p>He asked the Chair to publish the letter and share the information with Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chair agreed to consider that.</p> <p>AFTERNOTE: It was noted that Cllr Saunders left the meeting before the end of the proceedings and therefore was not able to take the opportunity to engage with the police who were present that evening.</p>	<p>ACTION</p> <p>AFTERNOTE</p>	CHAIR
8.05	<p>Submitted by Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council</p> <p>Construction of the Sizewell Link Road (SLR) is scheduled to start at the end of Q2 2025 and open end of Q2 2027 based on information provided by Sizewell C.</p>		

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	<p>The current plans being developed and proposed are piecemeal and have no overall strategy to ensure that residents and workers in the area will be able to travel easily cross country (not on the A12 or B1119 from the Saxmundham area towards Eastbridge, Theberton, Sizewell, Middleton or Westleton or vice versa.</p> <p>The development timeframes for the SLR overlaps with the 1–2-year proposed closure of Abbey Lane</p> <p>Presently all roads south from the B1122 between the A12, at Yoxford, and Lovers Lane are due to be closed to traffic either permanently, or in one case possibly temporarily (Pretty Road), at some point during construction</p> <p>It is good that George Lane is now seen as not suitable for Abbey Lane diversions coming from Saxmundham direction but overall the extensive closures that are inevitable as a result of B1122 works and SLR construction need a carefully planned set of diversions and constraints that are placed upon any contractors assigned to these projects to ensure that reasonable access between to and from the B1122 and Saxmundham is maintained.</p> <p>Q1. “Will SZC share their integrated plans for these road developments, closures and diversions and ensure that their contractors hold to those plans ensuring at least one cross country route is available at all times during the construction/alteration period whilst the SLR is put in place and opened.”</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Yes. Integrated road space arrangements including traffic light shuttles, full closures and respective diversion routes are developed with and permitted by Suffolk County Council, and National Highways where appropriate. This involves coordination with Sizewell C supply chain and external stakeholders including Scottish Power Renewables and Statutory undertakers. Overall plans are considered to mitigate cumulative impact.</p> <p>These arrangements are shared with other road users on several platforms including, as appropriate, advertisements in Local papers, on One Network, community notice letters and advance notifications signs placed on affected Roads.</p> <p>The Sizewell C roads team is looking at options to maintain access across the Sizewell link Road works to Saxmundham. However, this cannot be confirmed at this point. An update will follow in due course by Q2 2025.</p> <p>Cllr Brett added that he wanted reassurance that roads would be reopened as soon as possible, and a route would be kept open to allow people to travel to Theberton village hall or the cemetery for example.</p> <p>DP said yes and he wanted to keep one route open at all times.</p>		
8.06	<p>Submitted by Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council</p> <p>Q1. “With the volume of traffic (80%) passing on A12 through Kelsale-cum-Carlton what mitigation measures are available to residents with properties in Curlew and North Greens and those alongside A12.</p>		

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	<p>Has extra glazing or any kind of noise insulation been offered as an example.”</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Richard Bull said he has had similar discussion with others.</p> <p>The properties that are eligible to apply for the Noise Mitigation Scheme are identified via noise assessments. These assessments take into account many factors including distance from the source, facades of the property closest to the source, the number of days/weeks/times of the works creating noise taking place. These assessments are then approved by East Suffolk Council and/or Suffolk County Council where road noise is involved.</p> <p>The properties identified in these assessments have received information packs inviting them to take part in the scheme, which involves a surveyor attending to identify the most suitable noise mitigation measures, with the potential to include secondary glazing and ventilation.</p> <p>Based on these assessments, properties in Kelsale are not eligible for this scheme.</p> <p>If you have any residents with direct concerns, please don't hesitate to signpost them to us at the information office for assistance.</p> <p>Cllr Gwynne then asked about the SLR and properties that find themselves closer to new road. RB said the project will keep an open mind, but current forecasts are not enough to trigger further mitigation on noise.</p>		
8.07	<p>Submitted by Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council</p> <p>Q1. “As the project progresses, Leiston is witnessing increasing pressure on the town centre and the surrounding residential roads from domestic vehicles and LGVs. The most recent being the decision to divert traffic from Abbey Lane through the town. If traffic studies show a marked increase, please explain how the project will address what is already an uncomfortable amount of traffic. The situation will rapidly worsen this year and there is no set date for completion of the town centre traffic and transport scheme or the park and ride facilities.”</p> <p>Cllr Corbett thanked the project for the new monitors and recognised that SZC are not the only project in the area.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>RQ said: Traffic monitoring sites are being added around Leiston as shown on the slides; the TRG will be monitoring that data closely to understand what the trends are, and will use that to identify if, and what, extra mitigations might be possible based on what it shows us. The locations of the sites have been chosen to give us as clear a picture as possible of the traffic movements.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to get the traffic and transport scheme delivered as soon as we can, within the confines of the design and delivery process; we look forward to bringing more updates to the Transport Working Group on 27th February. We will be bringing</p>		

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	<p>our contractor with us to the Transport Working Group as soon as we have one onboard, so we can start discussing the details of programme with LTC.</p> <p>Q2. "Please can you confirm if traffic monitoring through the town centre has been agreed by the Transport Review Group as it wasn't included in the original plan."</p> <p>Answer: Q2. Covered in the slides</p>		
8.08	<p>Submitted by Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council</p> <p>Q1. Please state when the planned electronic traffic warning sign at the junction of the B1122 and Mill Street, Middleton will be active. At the Northern Transport Forum on 7 August, it was stated that it could be erected at the same time as the permanent 30 limit signs during Q4 2024.</p> <p>Answer: RQ: Design for the speed limit and warning signage is approaching completion with procurement being expedited. Is intended that the respective works will be implemented by mid Q2 2025.</p>		
8.09	<p>Submitted by Cllr Graham Lacey, Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council</p> <p>Q2. Please state approximately how many trees have been felled so far across all sites.</p> <p>Answer: 21,675 (up to end of December 2024).</p>		
10	Dates of Future Meetings – (Chair)		
10.01	It was confirmed that the next Northern Transport Forum would take place on: Wednesday 7 May 2025 18:30 at Darsham Village Hall.		
11	<p>Project contact information:</p> <p>To contact the project, make an enquiry or to report any issue, please use:</p> <p>info@sizewellc.com / 0800 197 6102</p> <p>Or use the short form at www.sizewellc.com/contact-us</p>		