

DRAFT Meeting Note



Northern Transport Forum

Meeting Type: Northern Transport Forum

Meeting held on: Wednesday 7 May 2025

Sizewell C Attendees:

Brian Stewart, Chair
Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ
Richard Bull, Head of Planning
Stephen Keighley, Project Manager AD5
Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations
Darren Benford-Brown, Community Safety Officer
Steve Merry, SCC Highways
David Peacop, Site Operations Director
Rebecca Quigg, Transport Co-ordinator
David Seal, Offsite Delivery Manager
David Taylor, Network Rail
Jez Porter, Stakeholder and External Roads Lead

External Attendees:

Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council
Cllr Andrew Turner, Westleton PC
Cllr Barry Rowing, Peasenhall PC
Carolyn Barnes, East Suffolk Council
Cllr Paul Ashton, East Suffolk Council
Cllr Charles Macdowell, Middleton-cum-Fordley PC
Cllr Stuart Walmsley, Darsham PC
Cllr Andrew Candler, Sibton PC

Apologies and Substitutions:

Cllr Stephen Brett, Theberton and Eastbridge PC substituting for Cllr Paul Collins
Apologies from Cllr Josie Bassinette, Walberswick PC
Cllr David Morsley, Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council substituting for Cllr Nicky Corbett
Cllr Edwina Galloway, Kelsale-cum-Carlton PC substituting for Cllr Traci Weaver
Cllr John Walford, Yoxford PC substituting for Cllr Ian Patterson

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (5 February 2025)**
3. **Community Forum Report**
4. **Corporate and Community Relations**
5. **Road and Rail Updates**
6. **Monitoring**
7. **Pre-submitted Questions**
8. **Dates of Future Meetings**
9. **Close**

DRAFT Meeting Notes – 07/05/2025

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introductions		
1.01	Brian Stewart welcomed the attendees.		
2	Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (5 February 2025)		

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2.01	The date on page two of the notes was 6 November 2024, which was incorrect. Cllr Ashton highlighted that in 2.08 his comment had been that the project had been contributing to the budget, rather than the council doing so.		
2.02	<p>The matters arising were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item 2.05 – There had been a request for Parish magazines to be used to update the community, and the minutes included the publications the project would be using to that end. Completed Item 5.13 – There had been a request for more details from Network Rail related to the Darsham level crossing, which would be covered later on the agenda. Completed Item 5.14 – It had been asked whether the B1125 road closure at the Blythburgh water tower could be added to the agenda for regular updates, and it would be included in the presentation. Completed Item 5.15 – There would be an update on Angel Lane. Completed Item 5.16 – There would be an update on temporary traffic restrictions and regulation orders. Completed Item 5.17 – There would be an update on dates and work stages for the Sizewell link road. Completed Item 5.22 – The development consent order parameters worked to was an ongoing issue regularly reported on at all levels. Ongoing Item 5.24 – The footpath map had been shared. Completed Item 5.24.1 – Leiston Town Council was to offer dates for the discussion of options related to footpaths. Ongoing Item 5.26 – The suggestion that ‘Abbey Road’ not be used in correspondence related to B1122 had been taken into consideration, though residents in the area would prefer it to be referred to as ‘Abbey Road’. Completed Item 6.07 – The Sizewell link road accommodated bat commuting and foraging. Completed Item 8.04 – The letter from Suffolk Constabulary had been posted on the website. Completed 		
2.03	Regarding Marsh Lane, Cllr Walmsley asked about the creation of a cycle lane and footway. Richard Knight confirmed that a survey had been conducted, and the present footpath was not fit for purpose. Areas that should be cleared had been highlighted to ensure bicycle accessibility.		
2.04	Regarding 8.08, Cllr Macdowell asked when the traffic warning sign would be in place. Jez Porter confirmed that that should be achieved within eight weeks. The focus had been on installing the average speed cameras.		
3	Community Forum Report		
3.01	Richard Knight reported that the Community Forum had met on 27 March. Julia Pyke had presented on the final investment decision process. Delivery on the deed of obligation had been outlined. A community fund update had been provided. The findings from Cotswold Archaeology had been detailed. Damian Leydon had provided an overview of the project build. Luke Stevens and Steve Mannings outlined the landscaping strategy. There had been questions about communication with the public and work with other critical national infrastructure projects in the area. Draft meeting notes had been published.		



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4	Corporate and Community Relations		
4.01	Marjorie Barnes reported that there was a highly experienced board of directors, an independent non-executive chair and signed agreements with the lead suppliers. 1,100 workers were on site. Progress had been made on the infrastructure projects delivering mitigations. Key local contracts had been awarded for road and infrastructure work. The project had committed to deliver 70% of its construction value to British suppliers. Parish newsletters would continue to be issued. The guide to local paths had been released.		
4.02	The communities team had been expanded. The team was responding to complaints within one work day. The site delivery team reported to the senior leadership team each week.		
4.03	The Sizewell C community fund was embedded and there had been a third phase of the release of funds, with over £500,000 going to local organisations. There were roadshow events for the archaeological finds.		
5	Road and Rail Update		
	Updated Drone Footage		
5.01	David Peacop presented the footage. Regarding the logistics park on the A14, the FMF had been running for three weeks. For the Sizewell link road there were various compounds in readiness of the contract signature. Either side of the main access road would be the project's utilities corridor. For the next meeting there should be overlays of the works that would occur.		
	Road Schemes		
5.02	David Seal reported that a number of road schemes would take place over the summer, mostly consisting of pedestrian footways and crossings, new servicing and safety improvements on the junctions. Yoxford and the B1125 schemes would be in Q4. The project's Blythburgh works broadly covered the 1125, while SCC's covered the 1387.		
5.03	There would be a move to permanent signage. The average speed cameras should be installed in Q2 2025. For the northern park and ride, the roundabout was being worked on first. About 25% of the car park capacity should be functioning by November 2025, and a bus facility should be running. A speed limit system would be installed at Darsham over the summer.		
5.04	The Sizewell link road would take all traffic from the A12 to the site, avoiding towns and villages. A contractor had been selected, and the aim was to start work on the road from summer. That work should last two years.		
	Rail Schemes		
5.05	Stephen Keighley explained that in the current year the various enabling activities had been prioritised. There was extensive de-vegetation activity to allow for a safe railway to be constructed. Mobilisation of two main railway compounds had commenced. One was off Buckleswood Road, where the compound strategy had been downscaled to be purely for logistics, thereby reducing the vehicle movements in the area. Extensive survey work had been undertaken along with archaeology work along the Green Rail Route in preparation for the upcoming earthworks. Remedial work had been carried out on the current tracks.		

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5.06	The last two elements of significant rail upgrades on the East Suffolk line had been completed in March. The first main deliveries of ballast into the ancillary construction area had occurred in the previous month. More materials were scheduled to arrive around early June.		
5.07	The project was being re-sequenced to de-risk the programme. Contract placements were being finalised with Balfour Beatty Rail and Network Rail. In June, the upgrade of the track on the branch line would commence, and would continue for at least six months. In July, the track would start being laid in the ancillary construction area. The Green Rail Route earthworks would progress in the second half of the year, to allow track to begin being laid by year-end.		
5.08	Groups of level crossings would be upgraded from August. Only one highway level crossing would be closed at a time.		
5.09	David Taylor reported, regarding Darsham level crossing, that surveys had commenced and would continue through to September to ensure the design was correct and to minimise disruption. Construction was expected to commence in autumn 2026.		
	Questions and Answers		
5.10	Cllr Turner asked whether the A12 would have to be shut during weekdays for the Darsham level crossing work.		
5.11	David Taylor confirmed that weekends at the right time of year were the preference for the closures of the A12. At worst, it should be closed on Friday and reopened on the Monday. Rebecca Quigg stated that there were ongoing discussions about the logistics in terms of diversions.		
5.12	Cllr Walford emphasised the importance of overlays to understand the scale of the projects. He asked about de-vegetation occurring during bird nesting season.		
5.13	David Seal confirmed that there would be overlays to help with understanding the scale of the projects. Assessments were undertaken to ensure birds were not nesting in trees cut down under the DCO.		
5.14	Cllr Galloway emphasised the concerns around HGVs and asked for slow markers on the roads.		
5.15	Richard Bull confirmed that the workforce would be reminded to use appropriate routes. Rebecca Quigg added that another round of traffic monitoring had been conducted and would be analysed.		
5.16	Cllr Nicoll asked whether people's regular use of the East Suffolk line would have to change.		
5.17	David Taylor confirmed that there would be disruption to the East Suffolk line, and there would be bus replacement services.		
5.18	Cllr Ashton asked whether the work on the B1125 meant the road would be closed at the water tower in Q4.		
5.19	It was confirmed that that was correct.		

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5.20	Cllr Walmsley asked about freight movements and transports on the Sizewell link road, and how much would come from offshore.	DP	
5.21	Rebecca Quigg stated that she would continue providing reports on freight movements and transports on the Sizewell link road. Forecasts were available and work was progressing on offshoring. ACTION: The marine strategy to be shared.		
5.22	Cllr Walmsley asked about the facilities used for the park and ride prior to the roundabout being functional, and whether the closure of the level crossing had been factored in.		
5.23	It was reported that the level crossing closure had been factored in, and the roundabout would be completed in advance of the park and ride opening.		
5.24	Cllr Candler asked whether Willow Marsh Lane would be reopened with the park and ride starting.		
5.25	David Seal replied that the building of the park and ride would be continuing into spring/summer the following year. There was a safety case around the current road closure.		
5.26	Cllr Turner asked for information on whether bus replacement services running through Westleton when the crossings were shut.		
5.27	David Seal replied that the park and ride would be only be open to the public at the end of the appropriate phase development in late spring 2026.		
6	Monitoring		
6.01	Rebecca Quigg reported that the average and maximum daily HGV movements were rising. A higher proportion was coming from the north, which should reduce in March. The April traffic monitoring would be presented at the next MDF. There were 40 traffic monitoring sites. Permit monitoring had been discussed at the TRG and there would be a vote in July. LGV movements remained low.		
6.02	David Peacop stated that, working with police, there was an emergency control procedure for dealing with RTAs.		
6.03	Cllr Nicoll asked for it to be fed back when the additional monitoring sites were put in place. He asked whether the daily caps were realistic. ACTION: An explanation of the caps to be produced.	SM	
6.04	Cllr Walmsley asked how data was correlated across the different organisations. Steve Merry confirmed there was extensive dialogue to ensure coordination. Rebecca Quigg added that there were ongoing coordination meetings with Scottish Power.		
6.05	Cllr Ashton asked about the Benacre works and the cumulative traffic impact. ACTION: Steve Merry to look into the Benacre works impact and report back to a future meeting.	SM	
7	Pre-submitted Questions		

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7.01	Q1. In relation to the government decision to allocate a further "£2.7 billion of funding to continue Sizewell C's development through 2025-26". Can the Forum please provide details of the total funding now allocated for the initial infrastructure road and rail works?		
7.02	Responses to Cllr Walmsley: 1. Marjorie Barnes stated that the government had committed about £6.4 billion to the project. It recognised the importance of keeping the project on schedule.		
7.03	Q1. Residents are concerned that the extensive roadside tree felling is exposing litter which is not being removed. Can you please run litter checks all newly exposed roadsides and instruct contractors that when clearing in the future, removing any litter is a part of the task.		
7.04	Responses to Cllr Turner: 1. Richard Bull confirmed that the message would be taken back to the teams to ensure any litter was removed.		
7.05	A discharge of requirements application at Suffolk District Council for the Main Development Site (DoR 9) states: 3.1.2 Table 1 (schedule of additional clearance) and Table 2 (schedule of additional retention) provide a summary of the proposed amendments to the MDS Plans. In total, the amendments will result in the clearance of an additional 23,956 square meters of existing woodland and retention of 290 linear meters of existing hedgerows compared to the consented DCO plans. It should be noted that given the complexity of comparing different survey data, all measurements are approximate. SZC has said on a number of occasions that it is taking less trees and hedgerows than allowed for in the DCO. Please can SZC provide information on additional or reduced tree and hedgerow loss for the Ancillary Construction Area, Sizewell Link Road, Two Villages Bypass and the both the Northern and Southern Park and Ride Sites?		
7.06	Responses to Cllr Brett: 1. Richard Bull stated that the clearance commissions were set out in the DCO-approved site clearance plans. The footprint of site clearance had been reduced for some schemes, but in other areas more had to be cleared.		
7.07	Q1. There is a marked increase in HGV traffic in recent weeks and we have noticed the lay-bys on the B1122 are being used for vehicles waiting to deliver and those on the return journey. There are no welfare facilities on site for these drivers at present and we are concerned that lay-bys are being used as makeshift lorry parks. Please can you indicate when welfare facilities for drivers might be ready on site? Q2. Businesses in Leiston will suffer if vehicles accessing their premises encounter delays and if customers find alternatives due to the inconvenience. It is becoming increasingly time consuming to even access Eastlands Industrial Estate via Lover's Lane and we can expect extra delays accessing Leiston via Abbey Road when upgrades start on the level crossing. The edge of the road surface on the western side is becoming badly damaged as the road is too narrow for some of the vehicles negotiating the traffic lights (your prescribed route to Buckleswood Road and the only access to Masterlord Industrial Estate). Are the traffic lights at the north end of Abbey Road permanent until the rail route and junction realignment is completed and when might we see the road repaired on the western side?		



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7.08	Responses to Cllr Morsley: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> David Peacop stated that there were welfare facilities available. There would be signage on site. If drivers did not adhere to the driver rules they were removed. David Seal confirmed that there was recognition about the impact at Lover's Lane, but the work in the vicinity was challenging. 		
7.09	Q1. Loud piledriving was widely reported by concerned residents in Middleton and Theberton between 8 - 10 on 1 May. Would it be possible to publish timings of piledriving in advance? Q2. A truck carrying aggregate for SZC overturned on the A12 on 14th April causing considerable congestion, but fortunately no injuries. Can you please report on the investigation into this accident and measures already taken to ensure that this is not repeated?		
7.10	Responses to Cllr Macdowell: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Bull replied that it would not be possible to provide timings in advance for piledriving, given the scale of the project. There were thresholds permitted for noise levels. Environmental health officers required any work breaching such thresholds to be mitigated. No guarantee could be given that such activities would not occur at specific hours, but timings would be covered by the mitigation process. Darren Benford-Brown stated that there was an ongoing police investigation. David Peacop added that an internal investigation had been developed, but the police investigation report was being awaited, so further recommendations could be made. 		
8	Dates of Future Meetings		
8.01	Brian Stewart confirmed that the next meeting would be on 6 August.		
9	Close		
9.01	Brian Stewart closed the meeting.		