

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL AND SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**TOWN AND PARISH ENGAGEMENT EVENT**

**11TH MARCH 2015**

**HIGH LODGE, DARSHAM**

The community engagement event held on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 was well attended by 57 delegates and representatives of 27 parish and town councils across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils (this figure includes a number of District and County Councillors but not those leading the event).

Evaluation forms were provided on the day, approximately 25% (14) of those attendees filled in evaluation forms, and the majority of people providing feedback felt that the venue was either excellent or very good. Views on the format for the day again solicited feedback which, for the majority, ranged from excellent - good with four people rating the format fair and one poor.

Views about the workshop presented a more mixed picture with eight people rating the workshop as excellent through to good and six rating the workshop fair to poor. Comments linked to additional comfort breaks or refreshments will be considered for future events as will the visibility of the projection screen.

As part of the event a workshop was held exploring the following questions:

**Part 1.**

**How can we work better together to put Suffolk's case to EDF?**

**What are the key points you'd like us to make to EDF on Suffolk's behalf?**

**Part 2.**

**How might we work better together with you during EDF's Stage 2 Consultation and beyond?**

The tables below summarise the responses collected during the workshop from each of the ten tables – they have been grouped into three themes. The right hand column is an initial proposal from the local authorities on the actions to be taken in response to the comments collated.

**YOU SAID:-**

**WE PROPOSE TO:**

**THEME 1: Working better together**

- The Local Authorities need to provide stronger leadership and fully informed/advised councillors.

- Re-visit Stage 1 issues and responses – lessons learnt.

- Lessons from Hinkley Point C new nuclear build.

- Provide resources / support for parishes.

- Improve correspondence/information release – e.g. email alerts.

- The Joint Local Authority Group (JLAG), recognising the desire for strong leadership in moving towards a community consensus for a single strong case to be energetically promoted collectively to EDF, will work hard, as soon as JLAG is reconstituted following the elections, towards that goal, seeking the best possible viable solutions or options for all of the issues involved.

Post-election the new chair and vice-chair of the Joint Local Authorities Group will implement an ongoing programme of engagement with town and parish councils as well as internal briefings for district and county councillors where appropriate.

- The joint Stage 1 response is available on the [Sizewell pages](#) of Suffolk Coastal's website. What we have been doing since is available in the PowerPoint presentation from the event (attached). Noted – this will be incorporated where appropriate in future meetings.

- The local authority officers have regular contact with their Somerset counterparts. A link to the Hinkley Point C decision is now available on the website.

- A formal request, through the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), for support for towns and parishes through the Stage 2 and Stage 3 consultation has been made to EDF Energy. The support given to the parish and town councils at Stage 1 was positive and we have asked EDF Energy to repeat it or offer something comparable for Stage 2 of the consultation. The supplementing of this by the local authorities will be considered where appropriate.

- This is being looked into – though use of Suffolk Association of Local Council's (SALC) ALERT system, a regular online/emailed newsletter is proposed and where appropriate Twitter updates on the local authorities' twitter feeds will be provided. A dedicated email address has been set up – [sizewellc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sizewellc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) and the website will be updated regularly.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to form stakeholder issue specific groups.</li> <li>• Work with towns and parishes on <u>their</u> key issues.</li> <li>• Be pro-active with communities and EDF Energy.</li> <li>• Greater involvement of the towns and parishes.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop collective arguments, reaching consensus.</li> <li>• Need to capture and report local views – mechanism?</li> <li>• Timings moving forward / programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed – a series of geographically / issue based meetings around the identified concerns will be programmed over the next three – four months. These will be used to help refine key issues and to facilitate working together.</li> <li>• Noted – this will be a suggested outcome moving forward.</li> <li>• Regular feedback through newsletters, website and updates through SALC / ALERT system and meetings.</li> <li>• There will be a range of events and meetings planned in the time leading up to, and during, EDF’s Stage 2 consultation. We will keep towns and parishes informed of these.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>THEME 2: Main issues</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Campus</li> <li>- Permanent housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Transport – roads and rail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Road - A12</li> <li>- Road - 4VBP</li> <li>- Road - Relief road for Middleton/Theberton/Yoxford/B1122 impacts</li> <li>- Road - Impact on roads to east and west of A12</li> <li>- Rail – impact on existing services</li> <li>- Rail – rail capacity</li> <li>- Rail – passenger service to Leiston</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tourism.</li> <li>• Community infrastructure pressures e.g. healthcare.</li> <li>• Socio-economic – benefits e.g. education, up skilling, training, new businesses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key issues arising from the workshops have been noted here. The aim of the forthcoming meetings and events will be to clearly gather and define your key issues and work together to develop collective arguments and reach a consensus.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental impacts.</li> <li>• Community benefits – list of asks.</li> <li>• Potential legacy.</li> <li>• SPLG needs to ensure every parish is involved.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>THEME 3: MESSAGES TO EDF Energy</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towns / parishes need to understand EDF Energy timeline.</li> <li>• Improved contact from EDF Energy at Stage 2 with town and parishes.</li> <li>• Need single point of contact within EDF Energy in addition to Communications team.</li> <li>• EDF Energy has interacted but do not give much away – PR exercise.</li> <li>• Lack of information from EDF Energy.</li> <li>• Better transparency from EDF Energy.</li> <li>• Lack of sufficient consultation time proposed by EDF Energy – needs to be 12 weeks not 8 weeks.</li> <li>• Parishes / towns need professional help/advice during Stage 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This has been raised at a senior level meeting by officers with EDF Energy and is ongoing.</li> <li>• JLAG has already written to EDF Energy on this specific matter.</li> <li>• JLAG has already written to EDF Energy on this specific matter.</li> </ul>