

DRAFT Meeting Note



Northern Transport Forum

Meeting Type: Northern Transport Forum

Meeting held on: Wednesday 5 November 2025

Sizewell C Attendees:

Brian Stewart, Chair
Richard Bull, Head of Planning
Stephen Keighley, Project Manager AD5
Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations
Steve Merry, SCC Highways
Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ
Zoe Botten, Community Relations Manager
Rebecca Quigg, Transport Co-ordinator
David Seal, Offsite Delivery Manager
David Taylor, Network Rail
Darren Bedford-Brown, Community Safety Officer
Spencer Bowdler, Site Operations – Site Lead
Steve Deville, Communications Lead – Network Rail

External Attendees:

Cllr Alexander Nicoll, Suffolk County Council
Cllr Paul Ashton, East Suffolk Council
Cllr Charles Macdowell, Middleton cum Fordley PC
Cllr Debbie Hughes, Bramfield and Thorington PC
Cllr Paul Collins, Theberton and Eastbridge PC
Cllr Edwina Galloway, Kelsale cum Carlton PC
Cllr Andrew Candler, Sibton PC
Cllr Nicky Corbett, Leiston cum Sizewell PC
Cllr Stuart Walmsley, Darsham PC
Cllr Matthew Saunders, Blythburgh PC
Cllr John Walford, Yoxford PC
Cllr Ian Webber, Westleton PC

Apologies and Substitutions:

Josie Bassinet
Cllr Andrew Turner, Westleton PC, Cllr Webber substituting
David Peacop
Jez Porter

- 1. Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel**
- 2. Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (6 August 2025)**
- 3. Corporate and Community Relations**
- 4. Road and Rail Updates**
- 5. Traffic and Transport**
- 6. Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives**
- 7. Date of Next Meeting**
- 8. Close**

DRAFT Meeting Notes – 05/11/2025

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introduction of the Chair and Panel		
1.01	Brian Stewart welcomed the attendees. Apologies were noted from Josie Bassinett, David Peacop, Jez Porter and Cllr Turner, for whom Cllr Webber was substituting.		

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	BW gave the safety message.		
2	Meeting Note and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting (6 August 2025)		
2.01	The minutes of 6 August 2025 were approved.		
2.02	<p>The matters arising were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.04 – An update regarding the cycle path along the A12. Richard Knight reported that conversations had been taking place with SCC regarding tidying the path from Yoxford to Darsham, but there had not been progression since the last meeting. Cllr Saunders noted that the path was unusable by bike. Richard Knight clarified that the path was the responsibility of SCC, not SZC. Cllr Walmsley asked what discussions had taken place with SCC and what solutions had been devised. Richard Knight committed to provide an answer before the next forum meeting. 3.08 – A name change of the additional accommodation to be procured at High Lodge. This was in hand. 4.07 – There had been a discussion around Hawthorn Road. There would be further update in the meeting. 4.11 – Options around lighting for temporary works. Brian Stewart noted that Dave Peacop was not present, and the matter had been carried forward. Cllr Walmsley noted that it had been promised that temporary lighting at roadworks would be screened from the main carriageway. David Seal said the lighting was standard within the industry, but there were things which could be done to achieve this. 4.14 – Convoys of HGVs. Rebecca Quigg reported that hauliers had been reminded to stagger HGVs. Breaches should be reported to her. Darren Bedford-Brown said even a partial registration was useful in identifying breaches. 4.17 – Monitoring impact of 30mph speed limit on Leiston. Brian Stewart noted this would be covered in the meeting. 6.06 – A discussion to take place between Cllr Collins, Richard Bull and Stephen Keighley. Brian Stewart understood this had taken place. 6.07 – Checking permanent monitoring arrangements for Leiston. This would be covered in the meeting. 7.04 – Stephen Keighley to speak with contractors about the switching on and off of locomotive engines. Brian Stewart understood this had been looked into but nothing more could be done presently. Cllr Webber noted at 7.08 there would be feedback on variable speed limits and shortening the length of 30mph speed limits. Steve Merry reported that he had not had time to look into this but would respond as soon as he was able. Cllr Macdowell noted at 7.09 it had been said the electronic warning signs on the B1122 would be installed by the end of September, but this had not happened. Richard Knight explained there had been a hold up in the supply chain. The new installation date would be provided to Cllr Macdowell. 	<p>RK</p> <p>RQ</p> <p>SM</p> <p>RK</p>	
3	Corporate and Community Relations		
3.01	Marjorie Barnes presented the report.		
3.02	Financial close had been reached for the project which underlined that SZC was fully financed and was a significant milestone. Major investors included the UK government. Additionally, the sustainability report had been published, and a natural environment improvement fund of £10 million had been launched.		



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3.03	Local concern was acknowledged around cumulative impact. The next community newsletter would focus on how SZC was working with other infrastructure projects in the region.		
3.04	The Community Fund was open and welcomed projects. A drop-in session would be held on 18 November at Leiston Library.		
	Questions and Answers		
3.05	Cllr Saunders noted the risk of losing engagement with parish councils if these updates stopped being given at forum meetings. Marjorie Barnes said she was happy to provide the updates.		
4	Road and Rail Updates		
4.01	Spencer Bowdler presented the updated drone video. The Northern Park and Ride had opened as of 3 November.		
4.02	David Seal presented on the local road schemes. There was coordination with Scottish Power and SCC. In Q4 some important works were taking place on the B1122 and B1078. On the B1187, SZC was letting SCC complete the works in total before starting on the B1125.		
4.03	Progress was being made at the Yoxford roundabout, which was particularly important with the first phase the Northern Park and Ride opening. The project was expected to complete in spring.		
4.04	Work had started on the Sizewell Link Road (SLR) with well over 100 people onsite building the 6.7km road. David Seal presented the progress made so far.		
4.05	Littlemoor Road and Fordley Road would be permanently closed as part of the project. Littlemoor Road would close from the following week, and Fordley Road from early 2026. Pretty Road, Moat Road and Abbey Lane would not all be closed at the same time.		
4.06	Spencer Bowdler presented the location of the variable message signs to be installed. These would be controlled via 5G and could be updated in real time.		
	Questions and Answers		
4.07	Cllr Corbett asked whether there are any plans for matrix signage at the Abbey Road chicane, and whether anything would be done about the 90-degree angle. Spencer Bowdler reported that the project management team were working on this.		
4.08	Cllr Walmsley noted that no formal notification had been made of A12 road closures. Steve Merry explained there was only formal notification for closures, but other works were publicised via One Network.		
4.09	Cllr Collins noted that Pretty Road had gone from six to eight months closure to 21 months closure, without consultation. David Seal said there was time still to talk about this. Cllr Collins said the letter had gone out but there had been no consultation. David Seal said there would still be time for consultation.		

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4.10	Cllr Walford asked when use of the park and ride would become mandatory for SZC staff, and why the onus was on the public to complain about traffic. Rebecca Quigg said there were a large number of lorries, and it was helpful to know if something had 'slipped through the net'. Often things that were reported to Rebecca Quigg had already been raised with hauliers. David Seal noted that the completion of the Yoxford roundabout would improve matters. Richard Bull said ultimately no SZC worker should be able to drive past the park and travel to the main site.		
4.11	Cllr Candler noted that by the time the lorries were on the road it was too late, so prevention was needed. Rebecca Quigg agreed and noted that the haulier would be reminded that there were consequences of noncompliance with the rules. Cllr Candler queried the consequences of there being too many lorries on the road. Richard Bull said the hauliers and more specifically drivers would face consequences, including being banned from the site. Cllr Saunders noted there was a lack of proactive monitoring.		
4.12	Cllr Hughes noted there was no notification on the A144. This was a major route into the A12. The same was true of Beccles Road. There was concern around the impact on the A144 once workers started using it.		
4.13	Cllr Galloway noted first responders had said they could not get to incidents fast enough, due to traffic and road closures.		
4.14	Cllr Collins queried whether HGVs from the north went through the DMS. Rebecca Quigg confirmed they did.		
4.15	Cllr Ashton said emergency lane closure in Yoxford the previous day had caused significant disruption. More proactivity was needed to manage such issues.		
	Rail		
4.16	Stephen Keighley presented the report.		
4.17	New track had been installed across half the length of the branch line. The new track construction machine was assisting with this. Installation had started on the sidings in the ancillary construction area.		
4.18	On the green rail route, rail constructions could not yet begin, but preparatory work had started for delivery.	SK please review and amend	
4.19	A road closure for Buckleswood Road from 17 November to the end of January. This was for the construction of the level crossing and would mean access would be heavily constrained. Access to Westward Ho would be maintained from the Abbey Road end.		
4.20	David Taylor presented a finalised design for Darsham. The challenge was now to implement with minimal disruption., which was being looked into.		
4.21	Steve Deville provided an update on the recent closure of the East Suffolk line, in the Melton/Woodbridge areas. The old, jointed track had been replaced with continuously welded rail. There had also been bridge strengthening works of two bridges over the rivers Deben and Alde, to be able to accommodate expected loads and allow more frequent train service. Follow up work was required over upcoming weekends, with closures.		

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	Questions and Answers		
4.22	Cllr Nicholl noted that those near the bridges or the Melton level crossing had endured 'hell on wheels', and the communications had left a lot to be desired. Closing Melton level crossing meant a minimum detour of 28 miles from Shingle Street to Woodbridge. David Taylor acknowledged the challenges around this. It had been made clear within Network Rail that it needed to do better.		
4.23	Cllr Ashton felt the project needed a residents' champion within the SZC Organisation to comment on all the plans and proactively look to minimise impact.		
5	Traffic and Transport		
5.01	Rebecca Quigg presented the report.		
5.02	HGV numbers were rising, but the cap had not been broken in the quarter. The directional split had shown an additional proportion of HGVs travelling from the north. The TRG had received a report from SZC looking at the impact of a higher split, and it was within the environmental assessment undertaken. LGV numbers remained low.		
5.03	There were meetings in place with relevant parishes with traffic monitoring spots set for 21 November to talk them through.		
5.04	Key decisions from the TRG included speed indicator device funding, with Yoxford being included on the list. Permanent monitoring had been confirmed, and statistics had been reviewed.		
	Questions and Answers		
5.05	Cllr Walmsley queried whether the capping was correct at 300. Rebecca Quigg confirmed this. Cllr Walmsley noted that it had already nearly been reached, yet the main construction had not been started. There had been a lot of stacking vehicles at laybys. He asked how the incoming volume would be managed. Rebecca Quigg said there would not be greater volume. Cllr Nicholl asked what happened if the cap was broken. Steve Merry explained that the cap was secured through the Construction Traffic Management Plan, which was secured through the Deed of Obligation between SCC, ESC and SZC. If there was a breach, SCC would have to undertake a process to take action.		
5.06	Cllr Hughes noted that on Monday every layby had had lorries parked waiting for their booked time to go into SZC. Rebecca Quigg said this was not allowed although noted that not all of the lorries would be SZC.		
5.07	Cllr Saunders noted a speeding issue in Blythburgh and asked SZC to engage with the Suffolk Safety Camera Partnership.	JP	
6	Q&A via Town and Parish Council Representatives		
6.01	Darsham Parish Council Q1. As part of the ongoing discussions regarding the Northern Park and Ride, can the Forum please clarify the proposed phasing of its opening in relation to the completion of the roundabout. Can the Forum explain whether any alternative access arrangements that maintain the existing A12 and local roads capacity - and also mitigate any potential congestion or safety risks - have been made? Darsham Parish Council is concerned that, if so, any temporary traffic management, including temporary traffic signals near to the		

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	<p>Willow Marsh Lane and The Street that effects traffic flow on the A12 is avoided. It is crucial that any measures put in place do not displace traffic to the surrounding rural lanes.</p> <p>Q2. Can the Forum please confirm how it intends to collaborate and coordinate the major energy onshore works proposed by National Grid Sea Link and the emerging NG Lion Link. What will be done to mitigate the cumulative impacts on the local transport network - rural lanes - and the local community? The heavy imposition the works are now placing on local villages and communities is Increasing daily.</p> <p>Cllr Walmsley expressed that he was pleased to hear about Willow Marsh Lane. There was uncertainty and fear around the village about what was being proposed. Marjorie Barnes noted that SZC was facing into the cumulative impact and wanted to do more around that.</p>		
6.02	<p>Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council</p> <p>Q1. There has been a considerable amount of discussion between SZC and various parties about whether or not the B1125 should be extended from the existing "T" junction with the B1122 junction to the Sizewell Link Road and to stagger the B1122 crossing of the extended B1125. Whilst we share the concerns about the felling of the mature oak trees on the B1125 and would applaud any alterations to the plans to avoid any such felling please can SZC confirm that the junction of the B1125 with the SLR, as approved in the DCO, will go ahead along with the attendant alterations to its junction with the B1122?</p> <p>Q2. On 29 September we were informed by letter that Pretty Road would be closed from for over 20 months from 27th October 2025. Previous verbal communications and assurances had suggested the closure would be for 6-8 months. The B1122 Early Years Working Group met on 18th September but this proposal was not discussed at that meeting despite SZC stating on 6th August, at the Northern Transport Forum (see notes 4.04 and 4.16),</p> <p><i>"..... that the intention was to stagger works across Q3 and Q4 to limit the impact of road closures. Rebecca Quigg noted that the contractors would attend relevant working groups to discuss local roads projects"</i></p> <p>This did not happen or at least no mention was made regarding the proposed extended closure.</p> <p>Can SZC confirm whether this extended closure of Pretty Road will be properly discussed with both Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council and Suffolk County Council Highways as we shocked at the surprise imposition of this lengthy closure, without any consultation, especially when considering that every other road that the SLR crosses between the A12 and its junction with the B1122 just before the SZC main site entrance on the B1122 is going to be closed.</p> <p>Cllr Collins noted that question two had been covered but expressed a desire for consultation around Pretty Road and other diversion routes. Cllr Collins asked for confirmation that the B1125 would be connected to the SLR. Richard Bull said a lot of engagement was ongoing. Only one scheme had Secretary of State approval. There was a concern from local community that the link being in place would encourage more traffic to use that route. SZC has an action to circulate the traffic modelling undertaken in order to provide this reassurance.</p>		

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6.03	Peasenhall Parish Council – Spencer Bowdler noted that the identification of SZC HGVs had been mentioned a number of times, and it was felt the best option was a window sticker.		
6.04	<p>Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council</p> <p>Q1. Please can you report progress and concrete action dates for the following, which have been promised at previous Forums and meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review of B1122/ B1125/ SLR junction including modelling of post-SLR traffic including alternatives - creation of an SLR Forum or Action Group <p>Q2. As requested but not adequately answered at the recent Main Site Forum, what is being done to prevent speeding on the B1125 through Middleton both in terms of policing and traffic calming measures?</p> <p>Cllr Macdowell noted that there was a habit of things taken away from the forum slipping. The modelling was really crucial. It was crucial to get a date. Richard Bull said the level of concern was understood, but he did not want to give a date at the present time.</p> <p>Cllr Macdowell noted there had been talk of an SLR forum or action group. Richard Bull agreed the information had to be provided in a clear form to residents, either in the Northern Transport Forum or through the normal routes of engagement.</p> <p>Cllr Macdowell asked what could be done to prevent speeding on the B1125 through Middleton. Cllr Macdowell and Steve Merry had talked about this, but he welcomed anything further. Rebecca Quigg noted the latest round of traffic surveys. Cllr Macdowell wanted to see if SZC could fund some fixed traffic cameras.</p>		
6.05	<p>Blythburgh Parish Council</p> <p>Q1. Why do the “Sizewell Police” now resident at the Darsham Garage café refuse to do other roads policing (eg speeding on A12) when not monitoring wide loads ?</p> <p>Q2. What plans are there to maintain the A12 to an adequate level given heavy additional loads due to Sizewell eg resurfacing at Yoxford two years ago failed but has never been remedied; relevant stretch of the road is now rutted and breaking up).</p> <p>Cllr Ashton noted on behalf of Cllr Saunders that there were police congregating at Darsham petrol station. Darren Bedford-Brown explained that the Sizewell police were an additional resource. They based themselves at Darsham to pick up AILs on the A12.</p> <p>Cllr Ashton noted on behalf of Cllr Saunders the road surface of the A12, and queried plans to improve it. Steve Merry said the A12 was inspected monthly, and defects treated in accordance with the highways plan. There had been issues with the Yoxford site. It was unlikely anything would be done before the SLR west roundabout.</p>		
6.07	<p>Westleton Parish Council</p> <p>Q1. The traffic calming works within Westleton were due to be undertaken in November/December 2025. Is this still the planned schedule? If not, when will the works be undertaken?</p> <p>Q2. Is the Northern Park and Ride operational? If so, is SZC now requiring all workers living in accommodation west of the A12 and North of Blythburgh to use the NPR - because they are not being allowed to park at site? How is SZC checking workers' accommodation addresses to determine who can/cannot park at site?</p>		



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	Rebecca Quigg explained that traffic calming works in Westleton were slated for the beginning of 2026, after work at Blythburgh.		
6.08	<p>Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council</p> <p>At a previous forum, LTC questioned whether traffic monitoring might be undertaken in Leiston town centre and residential roads impacted by SZC. It would still make sense for surveys to be done in order to find out whether the steps being taken to alleviate traffic locally are effective (i.e. the early opening of P&R sites and some staff working at the ACA to be relocated to Orwell Crossing). We were given assurance at the meeting that this would be taken to the transport review group for consideration. Therefore,</p> <p>Q1. Please can you confirm whether traffic monitoring in Leiston will be taking place and if so, where and when?</p> <p>Q2. Can you also confirm whether air quality monitoring in the town centre and on the residential roads currently affected has been agreed? Note: This is a concern being raised by residents.</p> <p>Cllr Corbett was satisfied her questions had been adequately addressed prior to the Forum,</p>		
7	Date of Next Meeting		
7.01	Brian Stewart confirmed that the next meeting would be on 4 February 2026.		
8	Close		
8.01	Brian Stewart closed the meeting.		