

# **SIZEWELL C PROJECT**

## **Representations from Leiston-cum-SizeWell Town Council**

### **Response to Consultation on Change 19 – Water Supply Strategy**

Leiston Town Council (LTC) was surprised that this change is being proposed at this point in the planning process. The issue of potable water has been raised since the Stage 1 consultation and, in view of its importance to the project, either this solution or a better one might have been expected long before now.

If a desalination plant were being proposed independently of the SZC planning process, we would expect detailed assessment of the environmental impact including the energy use and the pollution. It is not, in our view, sufficient to subsume them into the impacts of the whole project and to say that a desalination plant will not make any significant difference to the adverse impacts of the whole project. It is not enough to say that the effects on marine biology will be much less than those of the cooling water system and therefore they are insignificant. Sufficient time must be given for some expert and independent evaluation of these issues.

We are also concerned about the extra HGV movements required before the desalination plant is operational. 40 deliveries per day in the early stages is a further 80 HGV movements each day, that is between three and seven every hour depending on a twelve or twenty four hour day. EDF say that the number will still be within their agreed limits. Nevertheless, it is a significant increase and will inevitably have an impact on the local community – increased traffic, noise and fumes, affecting air quality.

LTC's main priority is to make sure that our residents have sufficient clean and safe drinking water and that this is not put at risk either in the short or long term by the Sizewell C project.

We have a number of questions about the proposals:

- Initially the desalination plant would be powered by diesel generators. How would this affect emissions and the carbon footprint of the project?
- How would the additional HGVs affect the carbon footprint of the project?
- Will this proposal further restrict access to the beach? Sizewell beach is a valued and well used amenity for Leiston residents.
- Will these measures supply the water for the hostel?
- What is the impact on the marine environment of concentrated brine and phosphate discharges? How effective are diffusers?
- Will the dry solid waste contain any hazardous substances? How will it be monitored at the time of disposal?
- What will happen when the plant is out of action for routine maintenance or because it breaks down? Will further HGV movements be required to bring in water?
- Will Sizewell B's water supply be affected?
- Will there be sufficient water for emergency use?
- Will fire hydrants remain useable at all times?

In view of a number of serious concerns we are not happy that this change is subsumed into the whole process. Sufficient time for all these issues to be properly evaluated by all relevant parties must be given.