

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council (LTC) Written Representation Issue Specific Hearing 12 – Community Matters

Unfortunately, nobody was available to attend this meeting due to health and family issues. Below are the points we would have raised at the hearing. Additional points arising from listening to the recording of the hearing are added in italics.

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council (LTC) have the following points to make on agenda items below:

Agenda Item 2

- (i) **Community Safety** - we have understood that there will be police based locally during construction. We have asked for more CCTV in the town but have been told this is unlikely. Most important is to try to prevent any incidents arising in the first place. This issue can't be separated from the other issues. If either Leiston residents or Sizewell C workers coming into the town are stressed by lack of suitable accommodation, constant noise, disruptive traffic, poor air quality or lack of amenities, then conditions are created for tension to arise between the groups of people. With a prediction of 3500 extra people (at peak of construction) accommodated in or very close to Leiston (existing population of around 6,000) there is a prospect of the kind of problems arising in the town that we experienced with the construction of Sizewell B despite workers code of conduct etc.

We would echo the concerns raised by the police and other parish councillors about governance - another way in which the voice of local communities must be heard.

- (iii) We are looking for progress on assurances of the timely delivery of the caravan park, health and welfare facilities and the campus for the reasons above. It is by no means certain that if the caravan park were not delivered on time that the workers could be absorbed into accommodation locally. What is there was a planned or unplanned outage at SZB at the same time?

Some progress reported by ES Council but concerns remain. We need a stronger commitment than "reasonable endeavours" to delivery of the caravan park, in particular because money won't necessarily alleviate the problems caused by non-delivery.

Agenda Item 3 - Adverse effects on human health and living conditions

- (iii) Has extent of construction period and rural nature of the location been properly assessed? Our concern is that this hasn't been properly assessed. The whole nature of the area will be changed. The cumulative effects over so many years could be massive. However, we do not have the expertise to know how this should be done. *This issue is similar to that in item 5. the emphasis has been on quantitative surveys of noise levels, air quality, traffic numbers. Perhaps in future some qualitative studies could be undertaken such as case studies of projected impacts on particular individuals subjected to all impacts whether they be improved job prospects, traffic noise and disruption, increased journey times, air quality, closing of local footpath etc? There are cumulative effects on particular areas or households – especially if the other proposed energy projects go ahead.*
- (iv) Residential gardens - We welcome attention being paid to this point. People's gardens are very important to them. Many people grow their own vegetables and gardens provide space to relax, enjoy fresh air or socialise with friends. They have been particularly important during lockdown and we do not know if such exceptional circumstances might not arise again. We would also point out that the allotments in Leiston are well used for the same purposes and those in Valley Road are very close to the LEEIE which will be extremely busy in the early years.

4. Public Rights of Way

We support all the concerns expressed on the loss and or change in character of these important amenities.

- (i) Suffolk Coastal Path – path to be moved further down the beach and occasionally diverted inland when beach is closed. How often will beach be closed? Particularly while sea defenses are constructed, tunneling for water intake, beach landing facility, desalination plant? The beach is an important amenity for Leiston residents and is well used by families, dog walkers, swimmers, anglers, Park Run and beach yoga. We remain concerned by the changes to this part of the area. We have been involved in discussion about providing a boardwalk along the beach.
- (ii) **Bridleway 19** - Mostly still open but more of it running beside busy road or alongside of construction site?
- (iii) **B1122 in early years** – important route in and out of Leiston to Yoxford, Westleton, Middleton and onwards to Southwold and Lowestoft. Grave concerns about amount of traffic on rural road and the additional factor of major roadworks (eg Yoxford roundabout) on traffic flow. *LTC would support Peter Wilkinson's comments in relation to the timing of the mitigation. Leiston councillors have consistently asked for infrastructure works to be completed before work on the main site begins.*
- (iv) **Other rights of way** – Closure of roads such as Westward Ho and route along Abbey Lane – might be difficult when Saxmundham Road is closed for road works or through snow or flooding for example. It does not take much in the way of bad weather or road works to cause significant disruption or long diversions even without huge construction projects such as SZC and SPR developments.

5. Cumulative Impacts on Health and Well-being

i) and ii) We have nothing to add on the suitability of the assessment and economic displacement and effect on social care or whether a sufficiently holistic view has been taken. However, these questions precisely address our concerns about the combined and cumulative adverse impacts on people of Leiston and the surrounding area. There are more than the average number of older people in the Suffolk Coastal district who might be particularly badly affected. We have not been convinced that these matters have been given sufficient weight or what mitigation is possible or suitable.

The discussion on 'tranquility' was noted with interest. Although we appreciate that the applicant is committing to millions of pounds in various funds to try to mitigate the significant many and various adverse impacts locally, the applicant did not appear to understand the point that for some impacts, such as loss of tranquility, there is no mitigation that money can offer.